

Lesson 1

Time and Dates

[Sovereignty of God](#) [Dating Time](#) [Jewish Year](#) [Christ's Birth](#) [Age of Earth](#) [Calendars](#) [Time](#) [Conclusion](#)

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD AND TIME

"And [he] swore by him that lives for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer." - **Revelation 10:6**

God created all things by his word. He upholds all things by the word of his power. **(Colossians 1:16-17)** God did not create the universe and then leave it to its own evolutions. He is not an absentee God, but a God who sovereignly, and wisely purposes and causes all things to happen. **(Daniel 4:35 & Amos 3:6)** He alone sets up kings and dethrones them. Nothing happens outside of his sovereign will. **(Job 1:6-8)** He is almighty over all. **(Genesis 17:1)** If he were anything less he would not be in control. We would be in control, nature would be in control, Satan would be in control, chaos, luck, or chance would be God. **(Proverbs 16:33)** Friends, God is in control! That is the theme of the Bible. That is the essence of **Romans 8:28-29** and **Romans 9:15-21**. God chooses, God elects, God foreknows. That is why he calls himself the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the Ending, and the Author and the Finisher. **(Hebrews 12:2)** God is in charge!

God doesn't just interrupt history from time to time, and then withdraw himself to see how things will go. He does not abandon his world to chaos only to return later to find a mess and quickly invent some scheme for righting the world gone wrong. His purposes will stand. He makes no mid-course adjustments. He makes no mistakes. He forgets nothing. He does not sleep. **(Psalm 121:3-4)** He is never caught by surprise. He never says, "Oops, I didn't see that coming."

God controls all things: seasons, winds, seas, animals, calendars, and life spans. That is how he can prophesy events thousands of years into the future and be exact every time. He is not just seeing the future, or perceiving how things will turn out, he is the future. He knows the end from the beginning. **(Isaiah 55:8)** He is the beginning and ending. **(Revelation 1:8)** *"Our times are in thy hand"* **(Psalm 31:15)** He knows the number of our days, they are written in his book. **(Job 14:5, Psalm 39:4)** He alone knows the day and the hour of Christ's return. **(Matthew 24:36, Mark 13:32)** No man can thwart his plans. **(Daniel 4:35)** He will accomplish all his purpose.

He guides the stars and planets in their courses. He controls storms, wind, lightning, fire, hail, volcanoes, diseases, meteors, and the waves of the sea. All creation does his bidding. He controls all the forces of nature. None are out of control. The forces of nature are not doing their own will. They do his bidding. They do his will.

He controls time and space. God can and has caused the sun to stand still. **(Joshua 10:12)** He stops time at his word. He has caused the sun to go back ten degrees, at least once. **(2 Kings 20:9-10 & Isaiah 38:8)** He made time go backwards. He has a time for everything. **(Eccl. 3:1)** Night and day are alike to him. **(Psalm 139:12)** He not only knows the day and the hour of any event, he controls it, he ordains it. Time is in his hands. He knew the hour you would be conceived. **(Psalm 139:16)** He controlled your formation in your mother's womb. He knows right now the hour, day, month, and year of your death. It has been ordained. He is God and God alone. When God says begin, it begins. When he says end, it ends. When God says it is over, it is over, and not until! No Einstein theory of relativity will change that moment. Time and space belong to him. When God commands the angel to stand and declare that *"time is no longer,"* then time will cease. Time is at his command.

Having this truth of the sovereignty of God in mind we approach the events of the Intertestamental Period. If a thousand years are as one day to the Lord, then how many days were in the Intertestamental Period? This period is called the 400 Years of Silence because from Malachi to John the Baptist no prophet spoke, wrote, or saw a vision. God was silent. Yet, God was not absent, nor was he inactive. It was the calm before the storm. God was getting all things ready. Much was happening at the Lord's command to prepare for the coming of his Son into the world. Paul said in **Galatians 4:4**, "*When the fullness of time was come, God sent forth his son...*" When the time was ready. When all things were in place. When the set and props were on stage then the Messiah came.

It is important for us to get a handle on time in order to understand the times and seasons that the Lord himself has in his hands. We need to understand time, dates, and calendars or we will be lost in the desert of history. So let's get started.

TIME AND ETERNITY

A child asks the question, "How old is God?" Good question. And "Did God have a beginning and will he have an ending?" Everything with experience has a beginning and ending. Nothing is outside that experience. Everything starts and everything stops. But God does not. He is eternal. He has no beginning and He has no ending. That fact is staggering to us because it does not fit our laws of physics. But God isn't physical, earthly, or time bound. In fact, He exists outside of the universe. He is not a part of it. He is wholly other. He is not bound by time. Time is an earth thing, or at least a universe thing. God stands outside the universe. He is eternal, never beginning and never ending.

It is as if God were holding a fishbowl of swirling water; that's the universe and time. He is outside the globe of water. He can see the beginning and the ending all at one glance. To God time does not exist as we see it. We think of time as linear, one long string of events. But God doesn't see it that way. He invented time for us. We are the only ones limited by time and space. God is not.

God is infinite, not finite. He doesn't get old. He never was young. He didn't ever start and He will never finish. **Hebrews 1:10-12** says,

*"In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands.
¹¹ They will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like a garment.
¹² You will roll them up like a robe;
like a garment they will be changed.
But you remain the same,
and your years will never end."*

Questions to Discuss (or food for thought)

1. If God is in control of everything why is there evil in the world?
2. If God controls all things did He create evil? Why would He create it?
3. If you were God how would you have created the world? Would you allow free will?
4. Why doesn't God just destroy the devil? Is the devil eternal?
5. Will you be eternal when you get to heaven?
6. What would heaven be like without time? Will there be time in heaven?
7. What is eternal damnation? Can hell be forever?
8. Why doesn't God just save everyone?

Scriptures Referring to the Sovereignty of God

Revelation 10:6

"And [he] swore by him that lives for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer."

Colossians 1:16-17

For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Daniel 4:34-35

Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever. His dominion is an eternal dominion; his kingdom endures from generation to generation. All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: "What have you done?"

Amos 3:6

When a trumpet sounds in a city, do not the people tremble? When disaster comes to a city, has not the LORD caused it?

Job 1:6-7

One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them. The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it."

Genesis 17:1

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty

Proverbs 16:33

The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

- 1. There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven:*
- 2. a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot,*
- 3. a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build,*
- 4. a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance,*
- 5. a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain,*
- 6. a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away,*
- 7. a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak,*
- 8. a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.*

Romans 8:28-30

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

Romans 9:15-22

For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy. For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: "I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden. One of

you will say to me: "Then why does God still blame us? For who resists his will?" But who are you, O man, to talk back to God? "Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, "Why did you make me like this?" Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use? What if God, choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath--prepared for destruction?

Revelation 1:8 (Rev. 1:11, 1:17, 2:8, 22:13)

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."

Job 14:5

Man's days are determined; you have decreed the number of his months and have set limits he cannot exceed.

Matthew 24:36

"No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

Mark 13:32

"No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

Joshua 10:12-14

On the day the LORD gave the Amorites over to Israel, Joshua said to the LORD in the presence of Israel: "O sun, stand still over Gibeon, O moon, over the Valley of Aijalon." So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, till the nation avenged itself on its enemies, as it is written in the Book of Jashar. The sun stopped in the middle of the sky and delayed going down about a full day. There has never been a day like it before or since, a day when the LORD listened to a man. Surely the LORD was fighting for Israel!

2 Kings 20:9-11

Isaiah answered, "This is the LORD's sign to you that the LORD will do what he has promised: Shall the shadow go forward ten steps, or shall it go back ten steps?" "It is a simple matter for the shadow to go forward ten steps," said Hezekiah. "Rather, have it go back ten steps." Then the prophet Isaiah called upon the LORD, and the LORD made the shadow go back the ten steps it had gone down on the stairway of Ahaz.

Isaiah 38:7-8

"This is the LORD's sign to you that the LORD will do what he has promised: will make the shadow cast by the sun go back the ten steps it has gone down on the stairway of Ahaz." So the sunlight went back the ten steps it had gone down.

Psalms 31:15

My times are in your hands; deliver me from my enemies and from those who pursue me.

Psalms 39:4

"Show me, O LORD, my life's end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting is my life. You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before you. Each man's life is but a breath.

Psalms 121:3-4

He will not let your foot slip-- he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

Psalm 139:11-12

If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.

Psalms 139:15-16

My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

Isaiah 55:8-9

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Hebrews 12:2

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Galatians 4:4

"When the fullness of time was come, God sent forth his son..."

Hebrews 1:10-12

"In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end."

Revelation 1:11

Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What you see write in a book, and send *it* unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

Revelation 1:17

And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

Revelation 2:8

And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things said the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;

Revelation 22:13

I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

Two Recommended Books on the Sovereignty of God

The Sovereignty of God, Arthur W. Pink

Almighty Over All, R.C. Sproul.

DATING HISTORY

Suppose for a moment there were no dates, only historical events somewhere in the past. And suppose it were up to you to organize life and history into some logical sequence to keep things straight. What would you do? How would you measure time? You might assume that you would use 24 hour days, but would you be right? How would you be sure the clock and calendar would not get out of sync? You probably would not use weeks, since that was a Jewish concept stemming from the seven days of creation. Greeks and Romans had no such weeks.

Where would you start? What would be your fixed starting point for measuring time backwards and forwards? Where would you start time? What would be the first day of the year, and why?

Down through the centuries there have been a lot of well-intentioned efforts to define time. The chronology of time was not always in B.C. and A.D. To name a few, there were: Era of Mohammed (Hegira), Era of Egyptian, The Chinese Era, Era of Olympiads, Era of the Foundation of Rome, Era of Nabonassar (Ptolemy), Era of Alexander, (Seleucus), Era of Tyre, Era of Julius, and Era of Augustus,

Greeks

The Greeks dated time according to the Olympiads, in other words they dated history according to the four year periods marked by the Olympic games, which **began 13 July, 776 B.C.**, and continued to A.D. 396 (Olympiad 293). Even during Roman times and into the early Christian church many still dated time by the Olympics. So according to their form of dating A.D. 1 was the fourth year of the 194th Olympiad.

Romans

The Romans dated time from the foundation of Rome on **21 April, 753 B.C.**, or for them Year 1. Romans also designated years by the names of the consuls then in office, later by the name of the Caesar in power during an era. This system was used universally in the Middle Ages in documents, both civil and ecclesiastical.

Dionysius Exiguus

It wasn't until the year **A.D. 532** that a monk, Dionysius Exiguus (nicknamed Dennis the Short - Exiguus means "the little") started the Christian method of dating events. He made his starting point the year he believed that Jesus was born, or more precisely stated, he calculated time from the conception of Christ, nine months before his birth. That became A.D. 1 The next year is A.D. 2, then A.D. 3 and so on. (Note there is no zero B.C. or zero A.D.) Then to designate time prior to Christ he used the term B.C.

By using this alternate method of dating he attempted to destroy the use of the "Era of Diocletian" as employed by the Romans. He stated that he was unwilling to let the name of an "impious persecutor" be kept in memory. It worked! The new method of dating the Christian Era was born, first in Italy, then Spain, and by the eighth and ninth centuries was being used in all of Christendom.

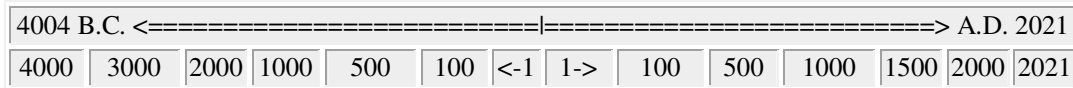
A.D.

Keeping historical dates straight is sometimes confusing to the novice who is not used to seeing dates in other than our own A.D. format. A.D. means "Anno Domini" or "Year of the Lord" in Latin (not "after dead" as some suppose.)

B.C.

B.C. refers to "Before Christ." It's time line is backward counting from one to infinity. B.C. moves the other direction from A.D. 1 to infinity. So from our perspective David's time was about 1000 B.C. and Abraham lived around 2000 B.C. The farther in the past the date goes the higher the B.C. number.

The proper use of the terms B.C. and A.D. is that when referring to before Christ the date precedes the initial B.C. (for instance 1000 B.C.). In A.D. the date follows the initials (i.e. A.D. 1000) You can remember that by using this little visual:



B.C.E. and C.E.

Today there is a movement among archaeologists and historians to remove B.C. and A.D. and any reference to Christ. In your readings you may come across dating that is B.C.E. and C.E. which represents the non-Christian perspective of Before the Common Era (B.C.E.), and Common Era (C.E.).

THE JEWISH YEAR

Rosh Hashanah

The Jewish community does not track time by Christ but back to the creation of the world - Adam's birthday. This year, 2006, is 5766 on the **JEWISH CALENDAR**. The Jewish New Year is called Rosh Hashanah. (September and October on the Gregorian calendar - our calendar.) Rosh Hashanah is the only Jewish celebration that lasts for two days, signifying the importance of this date in the calendar. Rosh Hashanah -- the Creation of Adam -- is set to be Day 1 of Year 1. In this system, Year 1 begins in our date September 3760 B.C. or BCE if you are not a Christian. Jewish New Year Begins on Rosh Hashanah at sundown on Monday, Sept. 6, 2021 for the start of the **5782**nd year in the Jewish calendar.

Calculating the Beginning

The creation of Adam was set as a "Zero Point." In other words, the one year anniversary of the creation of Adam occurred in September 3759 BCE. In this sense the Jewish calculation of years is similar to our BC and AD in that there is no "Zero Year." 3760 BCE is year zero, or the beginning of all creation. Such information might appear to be extraneous for the non-Jewish person, but one who studies the bible and prophecy needs to grasp that biblical prophecy is not measured by western time and calendars, but by the Jewish calendar.

OTHER ATTEMPTS TO DATE CREATION

Dr. John Lightfoot

Dr. John Lightfoot, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, and renowned Hebrew scholar, in 1642 stated for the record, that as a result of his exhaustive study of Scriptures, that he believed the **world** was created on Sunday, September 12, 3928 and that **man** was created on Friday, September 17, 3928 BC, at precisely 9:00 a.m..

Archbishop Ussher's Dates

Irish Archbishop James Ussher, (1581-1656) another biblical scholar, in 1650 attempted to follow in Lightfoot's steps and pinpointed the exact date of creation by tracing time using the biblical genealogies which recorded the years of each life span. By this method he came to the conclusion that **Adam would have been created** on Sunday, Oct. 23, 4004 B.C. -- precisely at noon.



"Heaven and earth, centre and circumference, were created all together, in the same instant, and clouds full of water," and that "this work took place and man was created by the Trinity on October 23, 4004 B.C., at nine o'clock in the morning."

Happy birthday Adam! Cute—but no prize. Life and history are not so simple. When you weigh in the various factors that make for the variations in genealogical tables, lunar and solar calendar differences, etc. you would get a completely different picture of the true sense of time since Adam.

Anyone else want to take a stab at it?

DATE OF CHRIST'S BIRTH

However clever the system for dating things back and forward in time, they all have their shortcomings. Unfortunately, finding the precise date of Jesus birth is not as easy as our monk friend imagined. Today we know the date of Christ's birth was not A.D. 1, but was more like 5 or perhaps 6 B.C. How do we know that? We will study that more thoroughly in our next Bible study: The Birth of Christ.

We can discover the date of the death of Herod the Great (who took the lives of the infants in Bethlehem) by tracking multiple historical events. We now know his death occurred in the year 4 B.C. We can also track the emergence of the Star of Bethlehem through independent Chinese records (we will study that later too) so we can arrive at a fairly accurate date for Christ's real birthday. We also know that Jesus was born at least two years before Herod died - that would make Christ's birth somewhere around 5 B.C.

Therefore we conclude, Christ's birth had to have been at least one or two years before Herod's death in 4 B.C., thus **making Jesus' birth date either 5 or 6 B.C.** For the sake of argument let us assume the date for Jesus' birth was 5 B.C. (That is an oxymoron - Christ was born B.C., before Christ.)

The effect of this historical evidence is that we are about 5 years off on the guess of the year of Christ's birth - meaning the year 2000 would actually be the year 1995. Knowing all this would have brought comfort to those who feared the world would come to an end in 2000 A.D. Still, it was not a bad guess for a short monk who lived in the dark ages.

AGE OF THE EARTH (and the universe)

WHEN WAS THE UNIVERSE'S BIRTHDAY?

Scientists, so called, are saying that the age of the earth is somewhere around 4.5 billion years old, and that the age of the universe is 15 billion years. Monks and bishops aren't the only ones to error by guessing the age of creation.

Science is always changing. That which once was incontrovertible evidence is now known to be foolishness. For instance, the 19th Century English geologist, Charles Lyell, the father of modern geology, predicted the Earth to be about 100,000 years old. (See World Book Facts)

STAR LIGHT STAR BRIGHT

Now we are being taught that the furthest stars are 18-20 billion light years away? Pray-tell, how does one see light from the universe's most distant object (a star) which is about 18 billion light years away, when the universe only began 15 billion years ago?

By their own theories that light could only be 15 billion years old since that is their own estimate of the age of the universe since the Big Bang. (*I just thought you would get a "big bang" out of that!*)

THE BIG BANG

Let's examine how the "Big Bang" theory got in place. In 1965 Arno Penzias and Robert Wilson were quietly adjusting their communications antenna trying to eliminate the hissing noise that was disturbing their equipment. They tried everything including removing bird droppings from the antenna to no avail. Finally it dawned on them that the hissing was coming from outer space. Now most reasonable men would figure that their equipment might not be as sophisticated as they had hoped, but not these men. Being proponents of the "Big Bang" theory they surmised that this hissing sound was of course the residual noise of the original "Big Bang." What a discovery! Hissing equipment equals "Big Bang." Voila! Suddenly we have incontrovertible proof of the "Big Bang." They won the Nobel Prize for that accidental discovery.

SCIENTIFIC ASSUMPTIONS:

One way scientists attempt to ascertain the age of the Universe is by using the value of the Hubble Constant, along with a few other assumptions to make the calculation. What is the Hubble Constant? The Hubble Constant is a theory that describes how fast the Universe is expanding, which is allegedly due to the Big Bang. Einstein had theorized in 1916 that the universe was stable, that is, constant. In 1927 Edwin Hubble discovered, or rather observed, that galaxies were flying away from Earth, which to him suggested that the universe was not constant but ever expanding. Note that science is always changing, always coming up with new theories, then those theories are treated as indisputable facts in the classroom. They are treated as untouchable absolutes, until a new discovery comes along, or another theory appears that appears logical.

CREATION AND TIME:

All this is stated here, not to get us into an argument about Creationism versus Evolution, but to demonstrate that even scientist willingly exercise faith in their theories. Their theories are still just theories until proven by indisputable facts. Yet, time and time again age after age, generation after generation, one century to another, indisputable facts disintegrate into absurdities with new discoveries. Einstein's own theory of the "cosmological constant" he later admitted to be his greatest blunder, but in 1998 Adam Riess proved that Einstein was indeed right after all and that there is a anti-gravitational force acting in the universe. So who is right, and will they ever get it right? Now scientists theorize that the universe is flat. Now doesn't that sound like pompous speculation in the light of the boasting of scientist of the Middle Ages that the earth was flat.

Questions to Discuss (or food for thought)

1. If you had to decide a creation date when would you say creation started? How long ago?
2. What is the age of the earth? (Genesis 1:1) "Earth was without form a void"
3. Do you believe in evolution? Theistic evolution? No evolution?
4. How do you answer evolutionist in school? What's your argument?
5. Do you think creation started in 4004 BC, or in 3759 BC? Other start date? Why?
6. How do you explain the long life spans of 900 years in Genesis?
7. Why don't we live 900 years? What changed?

GREGORIAN CALENDAR AND JULIAN CALENDARS

There have been many kinds of calendars over the centuries, each a little different than the others reflecting the culture and preferences of the people for which it was designed. (Such as Babylonian, Egyptian, Hebrew, Greek, Roman, Chinese, Islamic calendars etc.) The Romans borrowed their calendar from the Greeks.

The Julian calendar was introduced by Julius Cæsar.

The original Roman calendar had only 304 days per year. As time went on corrections and adaptations were made. The most significant being the **JULIAN CALENDAR** in B.C. 46 when Julius Caesar ordered to ignore the moon in creating the calendar and to go by the sun. Hence the year was divided into 12 months and 30-31 days per month. He fixed 1 January as New Year's Day. The system proved to be an inaccurate, since it made the year slightly too long, There were 364 ¼ days, but in fact was short by 11 minutes and 14 seconds per year, so that by 1580 the spring equinox fell on March 11, instead of March 21, ten days earlier than it should. Thus March 11, had to be corrected and was called March 21. The Julian calendar was used for more than 1500 years.

The **GREGORIAN CALENDAR** was designed in 1582 to correct the flaws of the Julian calendar. Pope Gregory XIII, on advice of his astronomers, ordered the correction of the calendar by adding an extra day to February every fourth year, thus we have LEAP YEAR. So in 1582, Thursday, 4 October, was followed by Friday, 15 October. Catholic countries quickly adopted the new system but Protestant states were slow to change. England refused to adopt the new Gregorian system until 1752. In that year (1752) Wednesday, 2 September, was followed by Thursday, 14 September. The correction resulted in rioting by people who felt cheated and demanded the missing eleven days back. It is a little more complicated than that but you can read more about that elsewhere. We continue to use a Gregorian calendar.

Please understand that people in Bible times used the **JEWISH CALENDAR** which was composed of 360 days. So the length of the biblical "year" of Daniel's time was composed of just 360 days. Therefore all of Daniel's prophecies must be viewed from the biblical 360 day years.

We learn more about this in a later lesson.

TIME AND CLOCKS

Okay, let's start with the beginning. Who invented time? No, really, who came up with hours, minutes, and seconds, and why 60 seconds to a minute, and 60 minutes to an hour?

We know that time is what we use to measure events that happen in our lives. Those events move ever onward never stopping, never pausing, and never reversing. Time marches on. Time waits for no one. That order of events is called chronology. We measure earth time in days, months and years. Earth time is based on one full rotation of the earth on its axis (24 hours) and one full orbit around our sun (365 ¼ days). Our time on earth is limited in duration. The Bible says,

"The days of our years are threescore years and ten (70 years); and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years (80 years), yet is their strength labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away." Psalm 90:10

Okay, back to the original question. Who invented hours, minutes, and seconds? They didn't always exist. The idea of dividing an hour into 60 minutes and of the minute into 60 seconds comes from **the Babylonians** who used a sexagesimal (counting in 60s) system for mathematics and astronomy. They derived their number system from the Sumerians who were using it as early as 3500 BC.

The Greek astronomer Eratosthenes (who lived circa 276 to 194 B.C.) used a sexagesimal system to divide a circle into 60 parts in order to devise an early geographic system of latitude, with the horizontal lines running through well-known places on the earth at the time. A century later, Hipparchus normalized the lines of latitude, making them parallel and obedient to the earth's geometry. He also devised a system of longitude lines that encompassed 360 degrees and that ran north to south, from pole to pole. In his treatise Almagest (circa A.D. 150), Claudius Ptolemy explained and expanded on Hipparchus' work by subdividing each of the 360 degrees of latitude and longitude into smaller segments. Each degree was divided into 60 parts, each of which was again subdivided into 60 smaller parts. The first division, partes minutae primae, or first minute, became known simply as the "minute." The second segmentation, partes minutae secundae, or "second minute," became known as the second.

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/experts-time-division-days-hours-minutes/>

Long ago people used to tell time by the rotation of the sun. High noon was when the sun was directly overhead. The earliest time keepers were water clocks that dripped at regular measurable intervals, or sand timers with the same principle. Later someone invented the sundial, an instrument that cast shadows by degrees depending on the sun's position. Those degrees were marked off as hours. Those instruments were helpful but they weren't very exact. As man developed a busier lifestyle he needed to know more exactly the time at any given moment.

Around 1600 Galileo studied pendulums and noticed that they swung at the same rate regardless of how heavy they were. A few years later Christian Huygens applied this pendulum movement to a clock's escapement. That created pendulum clocks that worked well, but not on boats. So in 1714 the British government offered a reward for anyone who could come up with a clock that

worked on ships at sea. John Harrison won the prize for a pocket watch that ran by spring mechanisms that kept time rather well and lost only about a second per day.

The next revolution in clock mechanics didn't come until the 1960's with the development of quartz clocks. Quartz is a crystal made of silicon dioxide, which when you apply an electric current to it, it moves. It oscillates at 32,000 times per second. Officially a second was 1/32,000,000 (one 32 millionth of a year). But the earth's orbit around the sun varies each year. Although the quartz clock only varied by 15 seconds per month, that still was not good enough for our computer and electronic age of space travel. Along came the atomic clock which changed even the way we measure a second. The atomic clock uses a Cesium atom and passes electromagnetic waves through it that causes it to pulsate at a consistent frequency that is 9,192,631,770 hz per second. That is incredibly precise measurement of a second.

The God of creation in his wisdom has ordained that man can dissect a second down to 9 billion ticks per second, how little we know of God's view of time. God is the God of time. He owns it. He divides it up as He sees fit. God could fit all of creation time into a click of a second if He wished. Time is a tool we invented to measure events as we move forward in creation events. But God does not use our clocks, calendars or measurements of BC and AD. God has an eternal clock by which He orders the world. Only in heaven will we understand God's perfect timing.

Questions to Discuss (or food for thought)

1. What is time? Define it if you can.
2. When Revelation 10:6 says, "*Time will be no longer.*" What does that mean?
3. What time is it on God's watch or calendar?
4. Could time travel ever be possible?
5. Did time ever stand still? Can time stand still? How is that possible?
6. Did the sun go back 10 degrees? How is that possible?
7. When God says "*one day is as 1000 years and 1000 years as one day*", what does that mean to you? Why did God tell us that? How is this helpful?

SOME YOUTUBE LINKS TO HELP EXPLAIN TIME (Just for fun)

What is time?

<https://youtu.be/e5VdQ1JCVHI>

What is Time? Professor Sean Carroll 30 min.

<https://youtu.be/MAScJvxCy2Y>

Does Time Exist? (TedTalk) 5 minutes. Andrew Zimmerman Jones

<https://youtu.be/R3tbVHIsKhs>

Who Decides how Long a Second Is? (TedTalk) - Caesium 8 min

<https://youtu.be/OKms5a0nGO4>

What is Time? Based on energy frequencies (in child's voice)

<https://youtu.be/Nai-gHZL1d4>

A Brief history of Timekeeping

<https://youtu.be/URK9Z2G71j8>

The String Theory of Time.

<https://youtu.be/0T--WC4D1C0>

CONCLUSION:

History is HIS-STORY. *"In the beginning God created the heavens (universe) and the earth..."* And before the beginning He wrote the story. He is the Author. Before the foundation of the world He had a plan. He had a purpose. He had chosen His people. He knew the bad guys from the good guys. He ordered their steps. He wrote the chapters. He created the storyline. He created the characters. He placed the characters on stage as he saw fit and removed them from the scene as He chooses. He doesn't make it up as He goes along. Nothing gets out of control. Nothing catches Him off guard. There are no mistakes. There are no missteps. Nothing catches him by surprise. He wrote it all, every last item came from His mind, every tick of the clock, every movement was calculated. He knows the end from the beginning. He is the God of CREATION. He is the God of TIME. He is the God of history and in the end of it all, it's HIS-STORY.

End of Lesson

SUGGESTED OUTSIDE READING

Not Required

(Links often change. If you find a link that is not working please inform your professor what page it is on and what link it is.)

-
- Monk Dionysius Exiguus - <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/05010b.htm>
 - Bishop Ussher Dates the World - <http://www.lhup.edu/%7Edsimanek/ussher.htm>
 - Christian Era AD - <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/03738a.htm>
 - Jewish New Year - <http://jewishnewyear.com/>
 - Millenium - Zero Point - <http://www.du.edu/~sward/millenium.html>
 - Age of the Universe - <http://www.delusionresistance.org/creation/fargalaxy.html>
 - Age of the Earth - <http://emporium.turnpike.net/C/cs/agetalk/>
 - Lightfoot Footnote - <http://home.houston.rr.com/apologia/sec9p2.htm>

**Here is a Video Link to
Rabbi Jonathan Cahn speaking about God's timing in the prophecies of Daniel,
<https://youtu.be/KtqhYB42w1Y>**

Copyright © 1998-2021 by Parousia Press