



Concept - Considering the Evidence FOR The Theology of Origins

“How did (or could have) Moses Write the Book of Genesis ?”
(w/ Key Points of Biblical Creation Theology)

By

Rich Cloud, Chair PPCF & Director CSM





“How did Moses Write the Book of Genesis?”

What does this Question *assume & say*?

What does this Question *ask*?



“How did Moses Write the Book of Genesis?”

What does this Question assume & say?

Assumes & Says → Moses wrote Genesis. (presupposition)

What does this Question ask?

Ask → What was the process he used?



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We need to demonstrate the validity & consistency of this statement.

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“How did Moses Write the Book of Genesis?”

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Discuss (1) & Answer (2) the Challenges – Proposed by others regarding the Truthfulness of & TimeLine for Moses Writing the Book of Genesis

What does this Question ask?

Ask → What was the process he used?

We need to demonstrate the reasonableness of the process je may use.



“How did Moses Write the Book of Genesis?” -- Sessions 1, 2 & 3

Issues & Questions Which Challenge the Integrity of the Book of Genesis

Part #1 – *Understanding the **Background & Importance** of Recognizing that Moses did write the Book of Genesis (**Truth** issue) [6-27]*

Part#2 – *Facing The **Proposed Problems of Explaining** How Moses wrote the Book of Genesis (**Time Discrepancy Issue**) [28-45]*

Need to Provide Cogent Responses to These Challenges [Sessions 2 & 3]

Part#3 – *Providing an (internal) Evidentiary Explanation of the Fact that Moses did write the Book of Genesis (**Scriptural Support Issue**) [46-69]*

Part #4 – *Providing a Reasonable Scenario of How Moses obtained the info to write the book of Genesis (**‘Logical Means’ or Reasonableness Issue**) [70-86]*

Part #5 (Brief) – Answering Critics of **Truth (#1)** & **Time Discrepancy (#2)** [87-95]

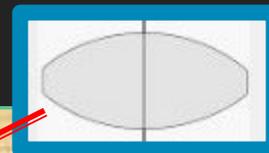
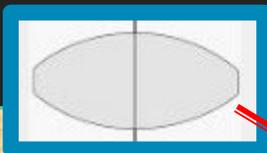
Part #6 (Brief) – Addressing of **Issues raised about Genesis 1 & 2** [97-110]



Considering & Evaluating Evidence (Origins)

Biblical Creation

Naturalism / Evolution



Presuppositions
core beliefs

1

Assumptions
Developed ideas

2

Presuppositions
&
Assumptions

Context
Background, history,
timeline of evidence

4

Evidence (context)

Interpretations
Moses: Yes or No &
if so How?

5

Biblical Creation
Moses – YES
History – YES
1 – Direct Rev.
2 – Oral Accts
3 – Written 1st
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**How Moses did write
(or could have
written) the Book
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Conclusions
BC View #3
Moses used existing
written 1st person
documents (Toledoth)
to author / edit the Book
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Evidence
Is what actually exists

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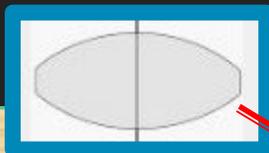
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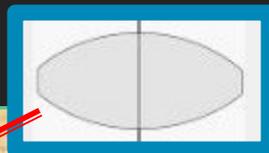
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OEC



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**How Moses did write
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~~Interpretations
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**Biblical
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Moses – NO
JEDP
Enuma Elish &
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Moses – YES
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Moses did not write
document (with)
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“How did Moses Write the Book of Genesis?”

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We need to demonstrate the validity & consistency of this statement.

Answering the Challenges – Proposed by Others regarding the Truthfulness of & TimeLine for Moses Writing the Book of Genesis

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Secular View of Origins

Only 'accepted view' in Academia

Operational 'Science'	(Blind) 'Faith'
Objective Evidence	Subjective View
Repeatable testing	Non-Repeatable, Non-testable
Factual Outcome	Fiction Not Natural/Real



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Faith in this table is treated as a Caricature of Truth



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Biblical Creation View

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'Origins Faith'

Inspired - Truth & Authority of God's Word
 1 Pet. 1:20-21, 2 Tim. 3:16 + Psalm 19:7, Prov. 30:5, Isaiah 40:8, Matthew 5:18, John 17:17

Miraculous Acts / God's Design
 John 1:1-3, Heb. 1:2-3, Col. 1:16-17

Creation Displays God / Recognize His Acts
 Romans 1:18-21

Revealed Truth & Fact of Creation
 Genesis 1-11 (God's Word)

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Aspects of both our faith & our view of Biblical Creation, which we apply to **Moses** being the author of the book of Genesis



Three *Alternate/False* Views of Genesis, specifically Genesis 1-11

JEDP – also known as the “Documentary Hypothesis”

Enuma Elish (Creation) & Gilgamesh Epic (Flood)

Genesis 1-11 is not written as actual history or historical narrative (various viewpoints) –



“How did Moses Write the Book of Genesis?”

There is a Secular View which states the following Perspective

From the Wikipedia Website search on “Book of Genesis” →

“It is divisible into two parts, the primeval history (chapters 1–11) and the ancestral history (chapters 12–50). The primeval history sets out the author's (or authors') concepts of the nature of the deity and of humankind's relationship with its maker:” ...

“**Tradition** credits Moses as the author of Genesis, as well as the books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and most of Deuteronomy, **but modern scholars** increasingly see them as a **product of the 6th and 5th centuries BC.** “

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... **[Mythical view of Origins]**

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What presupposition(s) are held here?
What ‘how’ of writing Genesis is presented here?



“How did Moses Write the Book of Genesis?”

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From the Encyclopedia Britannica Website search on “Book of Genesis” →

Scholars have identified **three literary traditions** in Genesis, as in Deuteronomy, usually identified as the Yahwist, Elohist, and Priestly strains.

The **Yahwist** strain, so called because it used the name Yahweh (**Jehovah**) for God, is a Judaeen rendition of the sacred story, perhaps written as early as **950 BCE**.

The **Elohist** strain, which designates God as Elohim, is traceable to the northern kingdom of Israel and was written **900–700 BCE**.

The **Priestly** strain, so called because of its cultic interests and regulations for priests, is usually dated in the **5th century BCE** and is regarded as the law upon which Ezra and Nehemiah based their reform. Because each of these strains preserves materials much older than the time of their incorporation into a written work, Genesis contains extremely old oral and written traditions. -- (**JEDP-my addition & color highlights**)



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JEDP – also known as the “Documentary Hypothesis” – late 1700 to late 1800s
Critics of God’s Word – schools of theology in Germany

Enuma Elish (Creation) & Gilgamesh Epic (Flood) – ancient middle-eastern accounts,
written pre-Exodus (found mid-1800s)

Primarily - Critics of Gods Word from the science of Archeology

Genesis 1-11 is not written as actual history or historical narrative (various viewpoints) –
Proposed from early 1800s to today

Generally ‘Old Earth Views’ within the Church to provide a compatible view w/ secular science



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‘Higher’ Criticism

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Biblical & Archeological Criticism

Primarily - Critics of Gods Word from the science of Archeology

Genesis 1-11 is not written as actual history or historical narrative (various viewpoints) –

Proposed from early 1800s to today

Old Earth Creation ‘Criticism’

Generally ‘Old Earth Views’ within the Church to provide a compatible view w/ secular science

Acceptance of all three are consistent with –

- 1 - Outcome of the Enlightenment & the progressive movement away from Biblical authority
- 2 - The acceptance of naturalistic science, evolution & related old earth views.



Alternate View #1

JEDP (brief description) – also known as the “Documentary Hypothesis”, developed by critics of the Bible ~250 years ago, and then later popularized in the 19th century primarily by Julius Wellhausen (i.e. “higher criticism” in Germany, schools of Theology).

It asserts that **Genesis was not authored by Moses** at all (nor the rest of Pentateuch → Hebrews were not believe to have the ability to write this early, i.e. 1450 BC).

Instead, Genesis & Pentateuch was **composed hundreds of years later** [~900 BC to late 400's BC] from **4 separate documents & compilations** (assigned designations of JEDP → multiple Individuals / priests---Jahwist (J), Elohist (E), Deuteronomist (D), and Priestly (P)).

Book of Genesis - Later ‘assigned’ to Moses (as author) to provide ‘authenticity’.

(Described in Wikipedia & Encyclopedia Britannica sources)



Alternate View #1

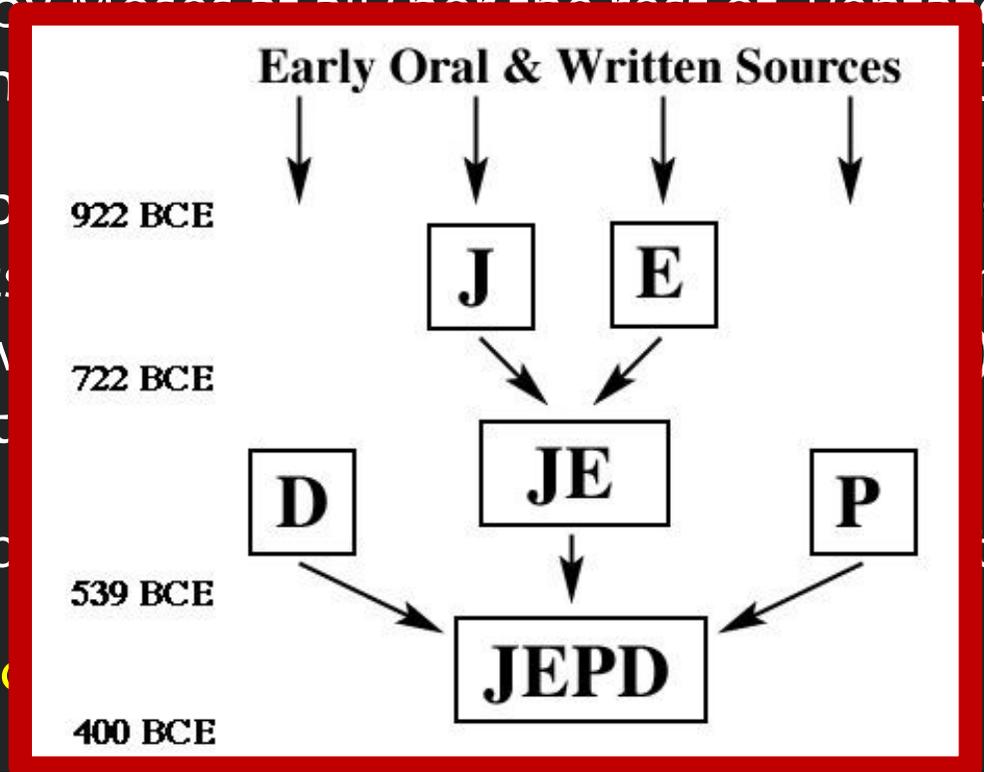
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Instead, Genesis & Pentateuch was completed (late 400’s BC) from 4 separate documents. JEDP → multiple Individuals / priests---Jahwist Priest

Book of Genesis - Later ‘assigned’ to Mo

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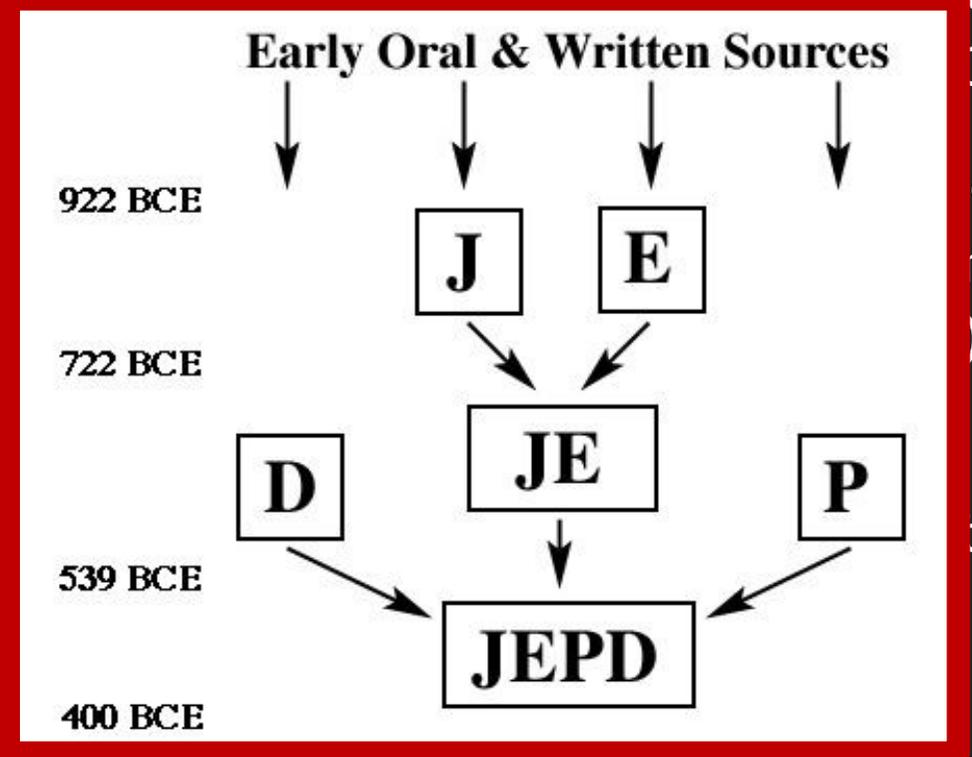


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Truth
Moses & Israel in the Desert
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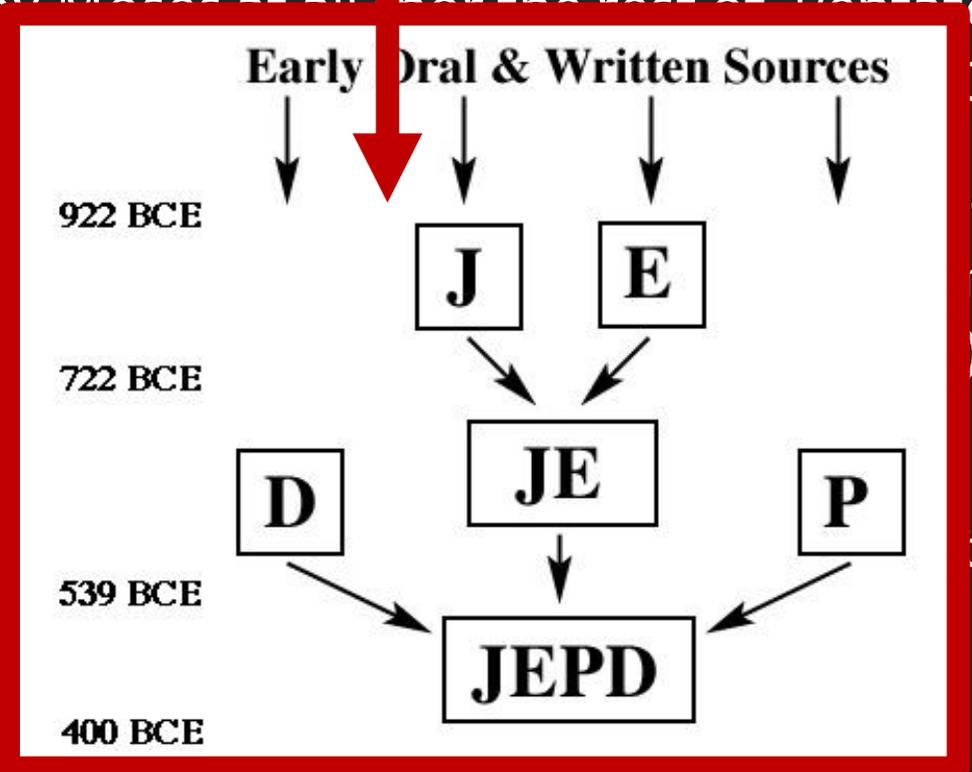
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*My Experience @ a
Christian College - **False***

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Alternate View #2

Enuma Elish (Creation) & Gilgamesh Epic (Flood) Accounts – ancient middle-eastern accounts (written on **tablets discovered in mid-1800s AD**). Written during or before Hammurabi (**late 1700's BC & early as 2000BC**, during 1st Babylonian dynasty?). These accounts are sited as the “**earliest writings**” for these **historical two events**.

Both include acts by the **gods** of these nations/civilizations (Sumerian, etc.), which **display questionable behavior** (corruption plus devious & jealous acts) and outcomes (distorted & inferior factual content) inconsistent with true accounts. **Humanity is treated as inferior** to these gods, at their beck & call, slaves with little value.

These stories/accounts contain many **fantastical & farcical elements**, yet with some broader content **suggestive of the true creation & flood accounts**.

These are supposed to be ‘original’ sources for the accounts recorded in Genesis.



Alternate View #3 to ?????

Genesis 1-11 is not written as actual history or as historical narrative
(varying & multiple viewpoints – 7 major views w/ 10+ variations/additions)

Genesis 1-11 passage & Genesis 1:1- 2:4, in particular are viewed as –

- poetry,
- allegory,
- framework/outline,
- myth/story-telling,
- not literal meaning (i.e. day-age),
 - symbolic or
- **general idea of ‘creation’ (non specific as expressing history)**
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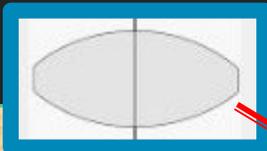
These express modern theological views to allow for current day OEC concepts.
The Flood is usually discounted as being unimportant or negligible (**tranquil /local**)



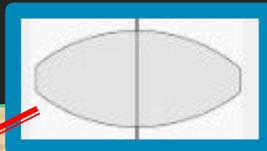
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**How Moses did write
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Interpretations
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Moses used existing
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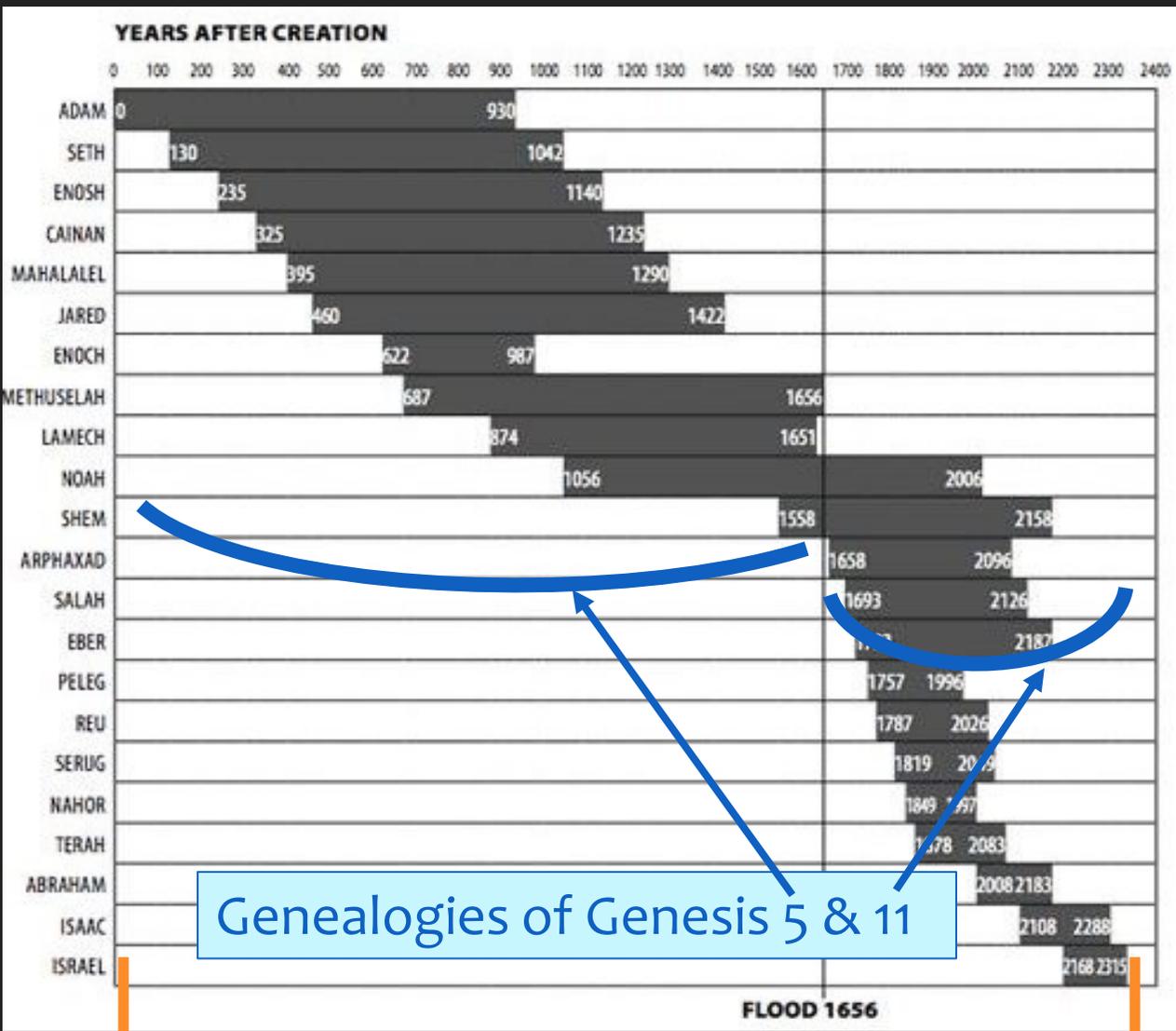
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Graph of Adam to Israel – Timeline Problem for Moses Writing Genesis



0 years
↕
Creation Week

~2315
years
after
Creation

Death of
Israel
(Jacob)
Gen.
49:33

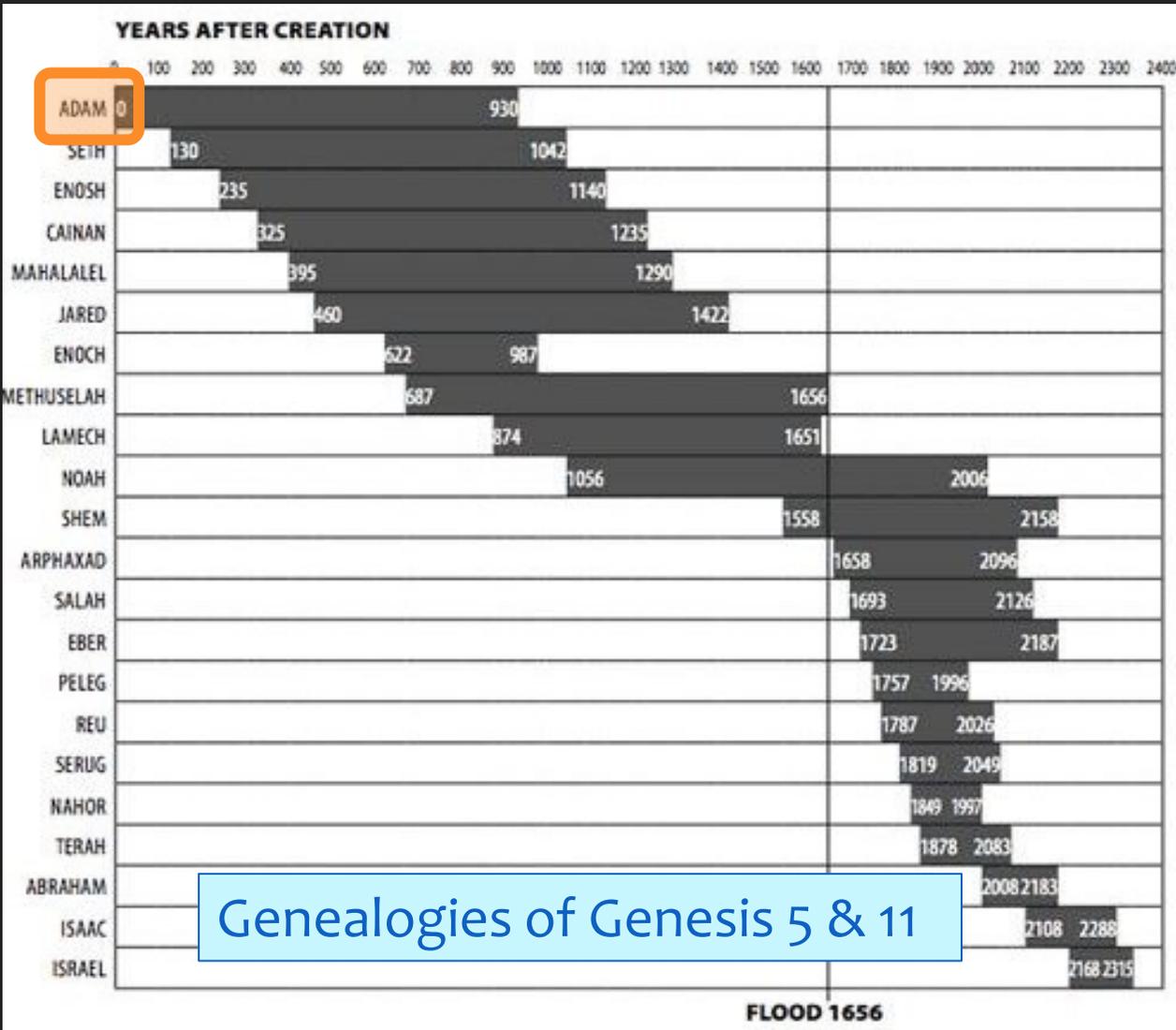
Genealogies of Genesis 5 & 11

FLOOD 1656



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1:1-2:4 &
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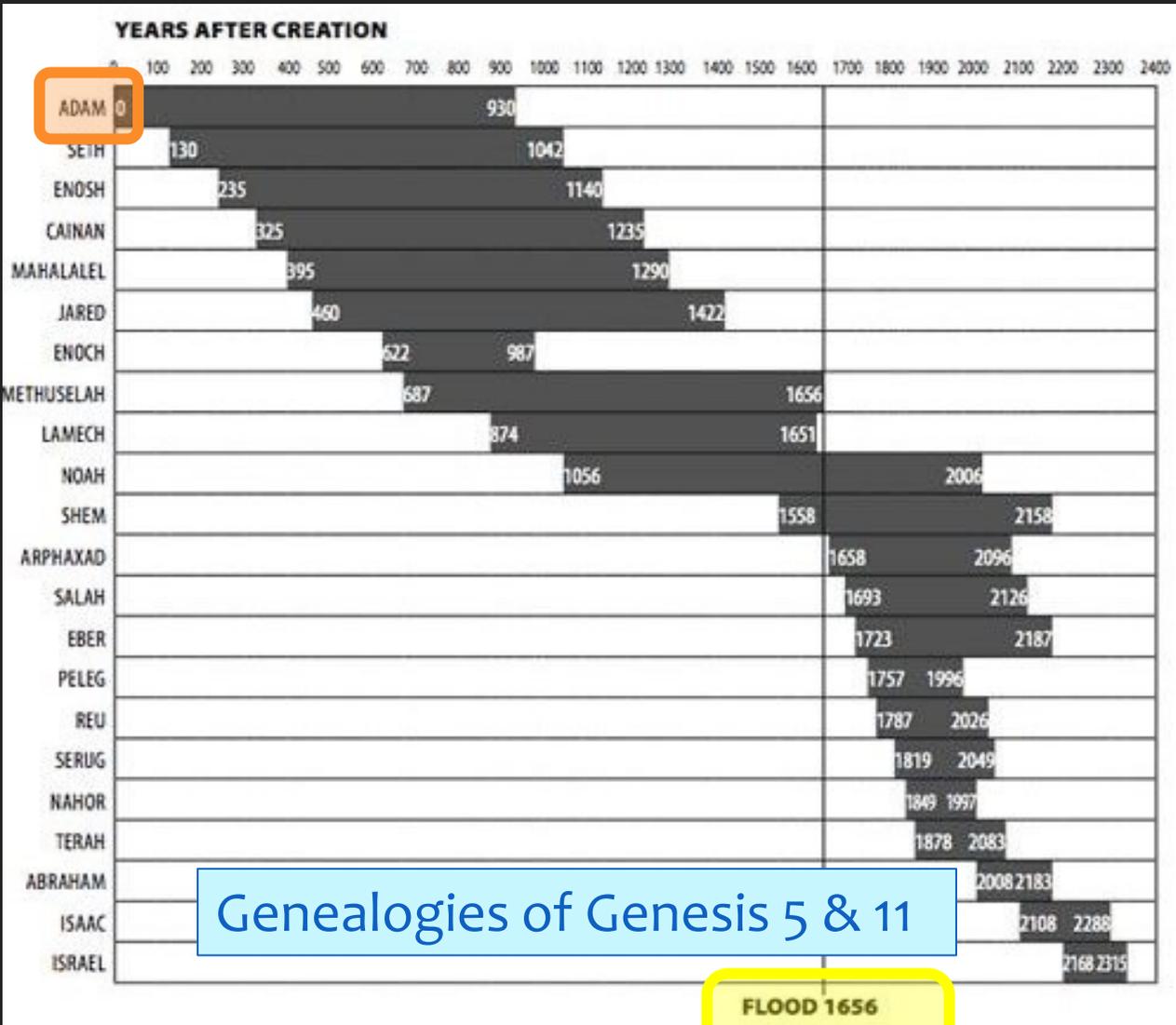


4128 BC – Creation, Day 1 (Ussher 4004 BC)
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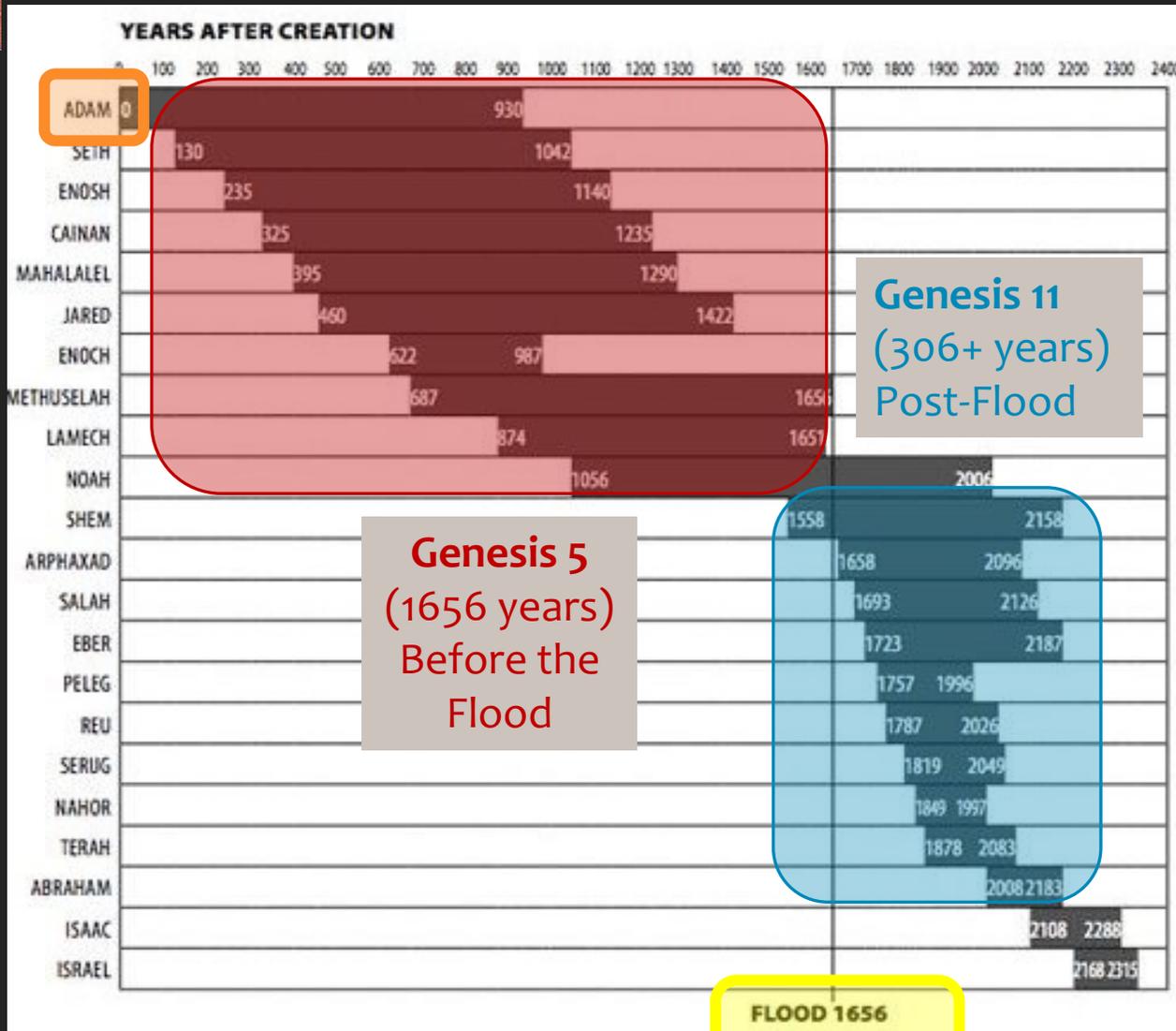
Genesis 6-9

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Graph of Adam to Israel-Moses & Writing of Genesis

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Genesis 11
(306+ years)
Post-Flood

Genesis 5
(1656 years)
Before the
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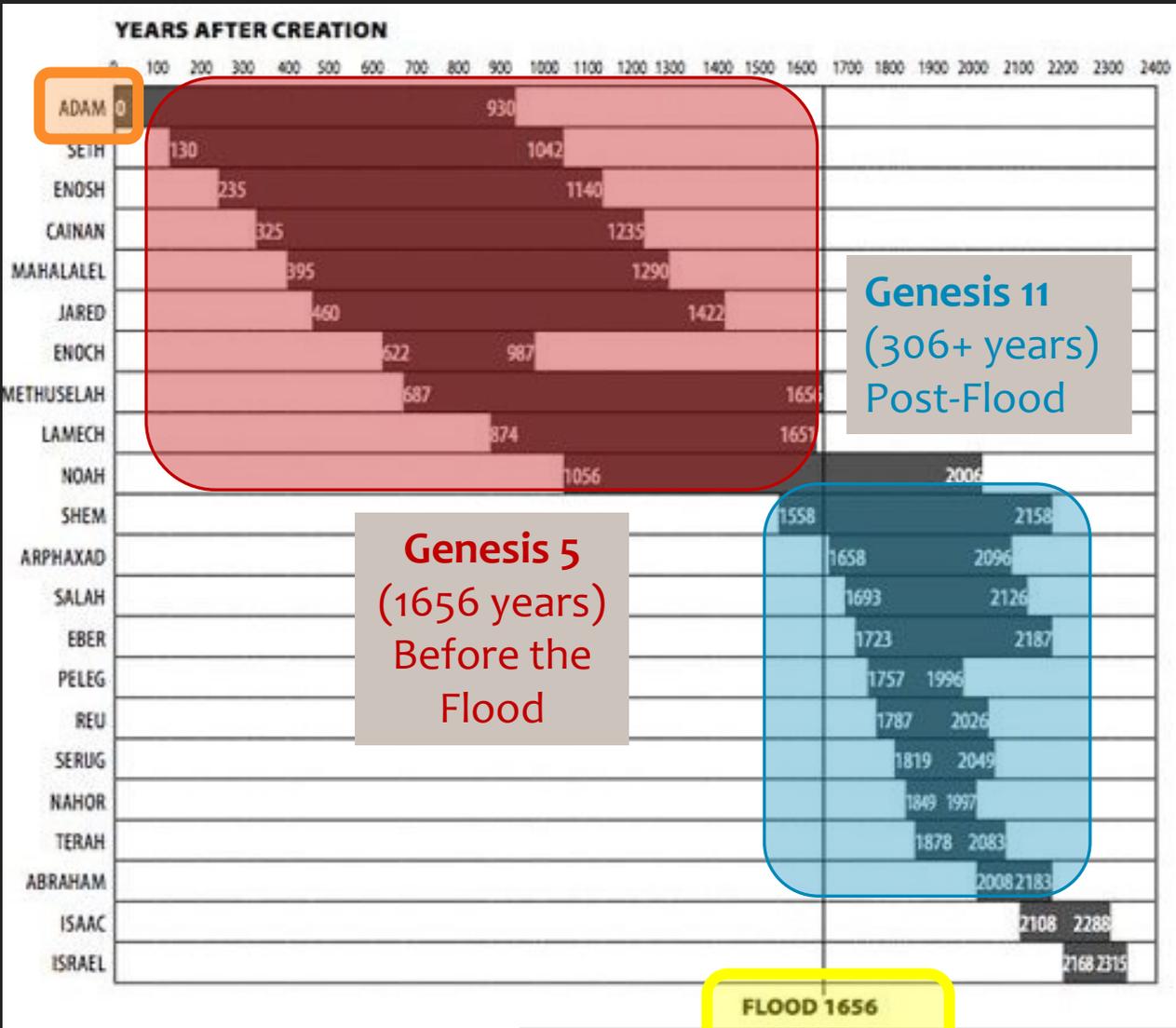
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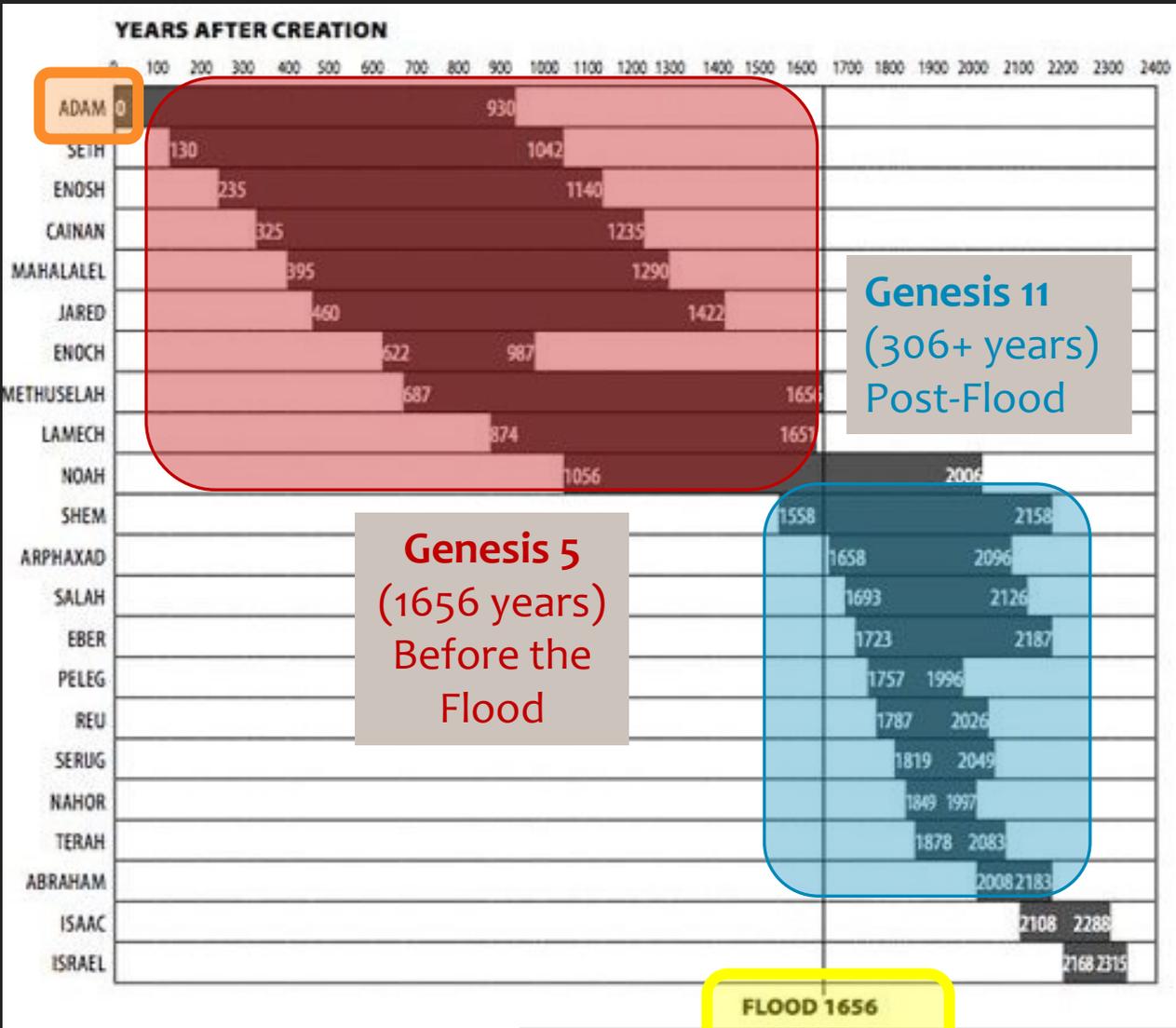
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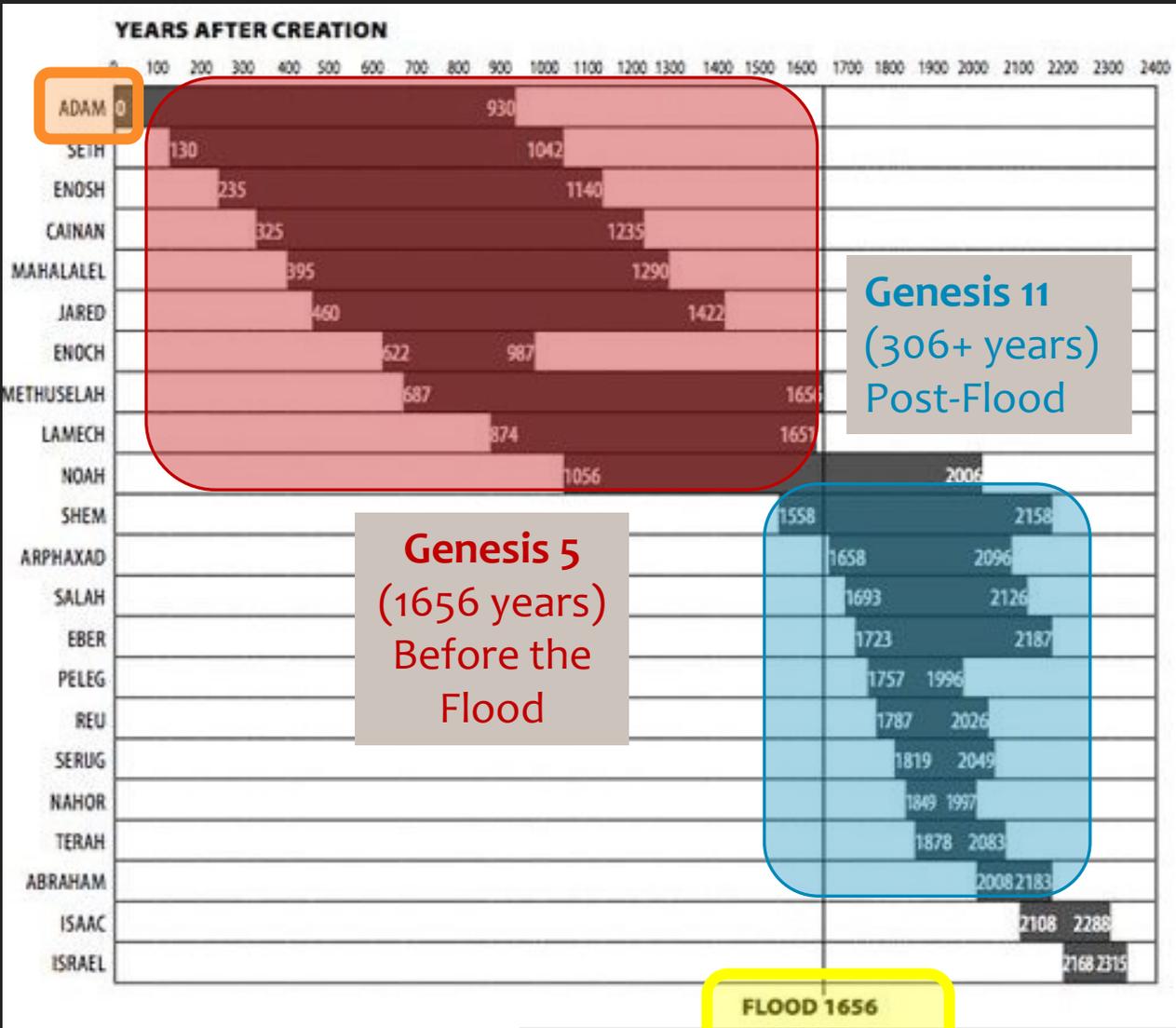
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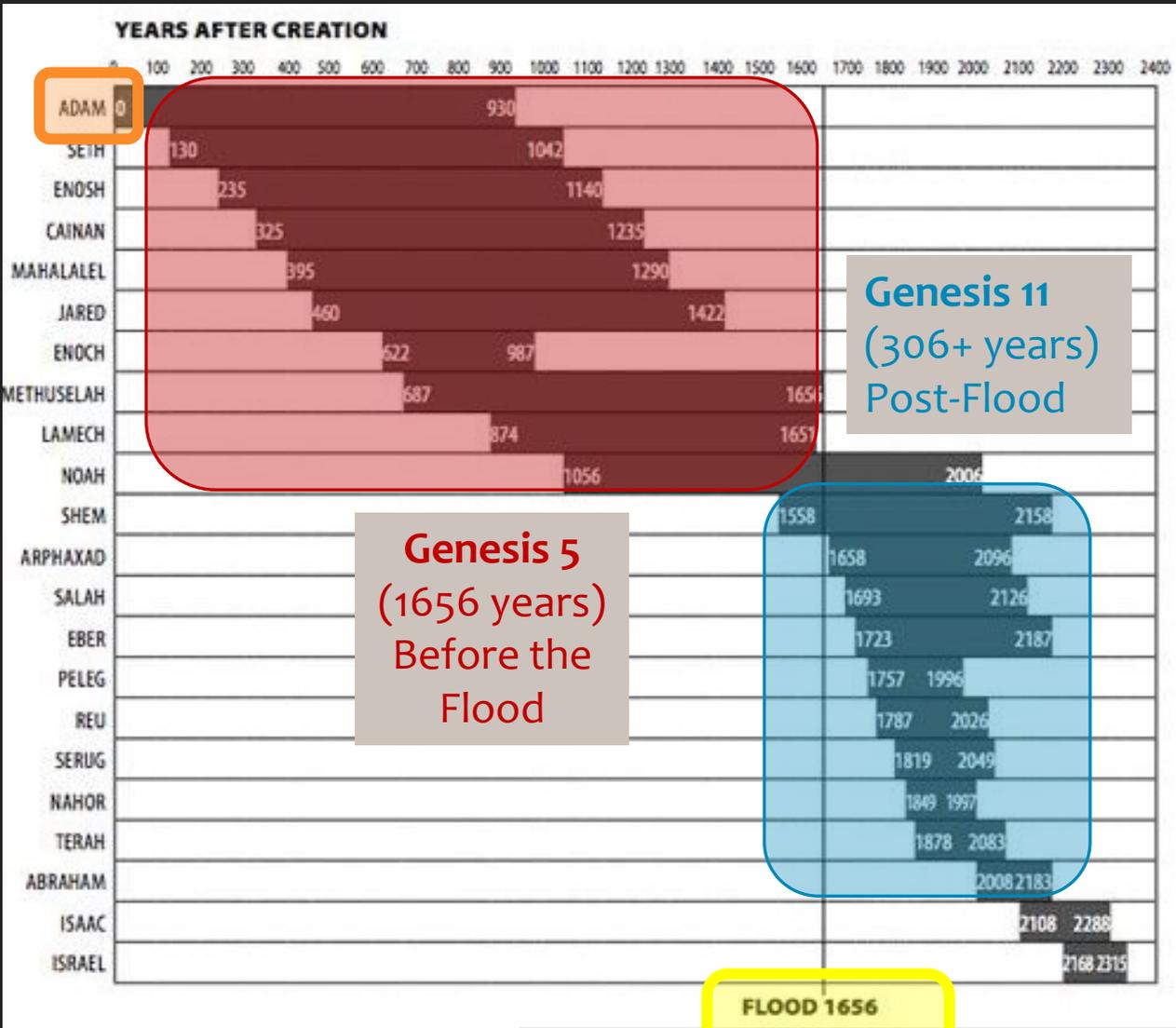
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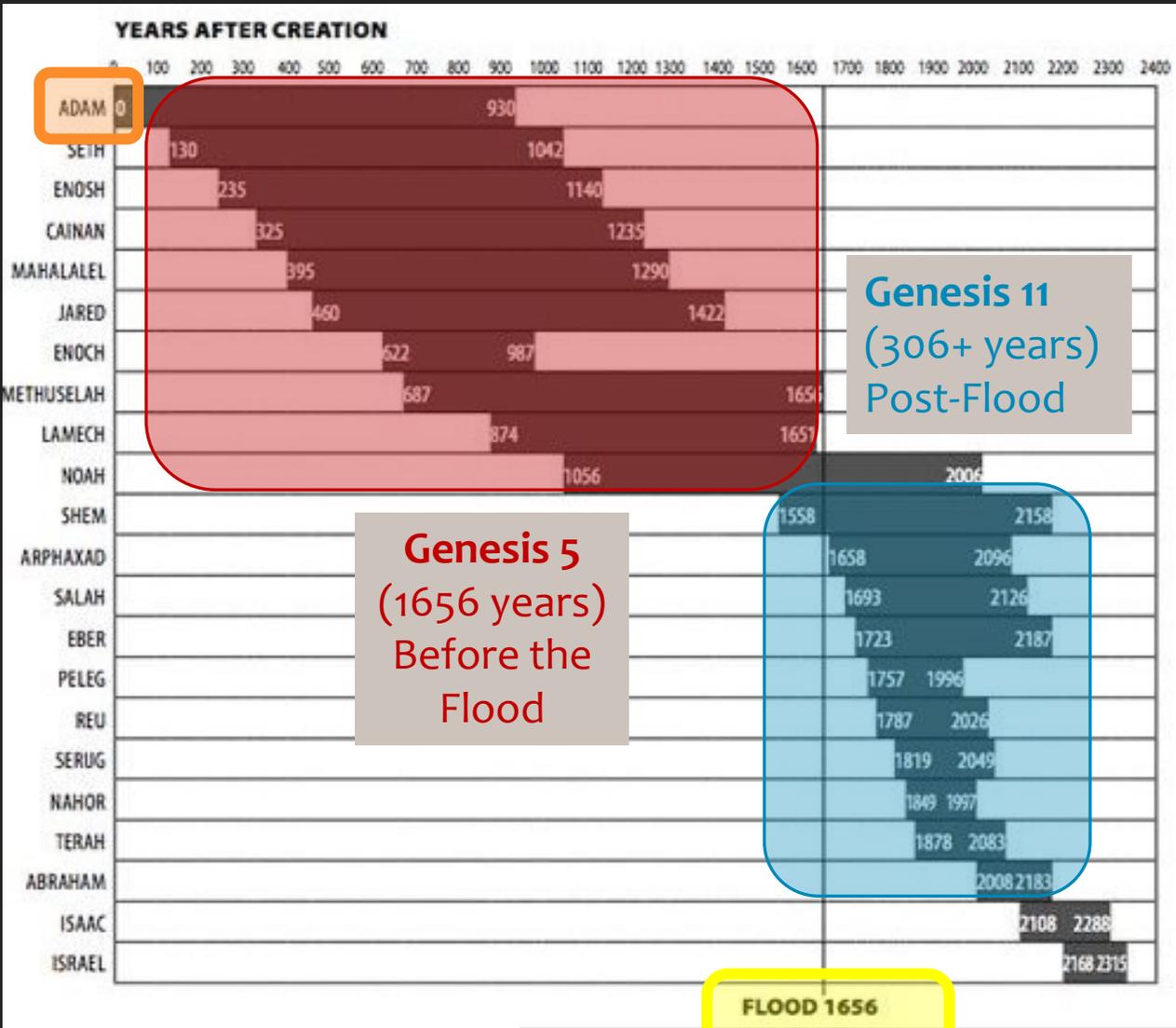
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Writing of Pentateuch by Moses - During Exodus & Wandering of 40 years (1446 to 1406 BC)

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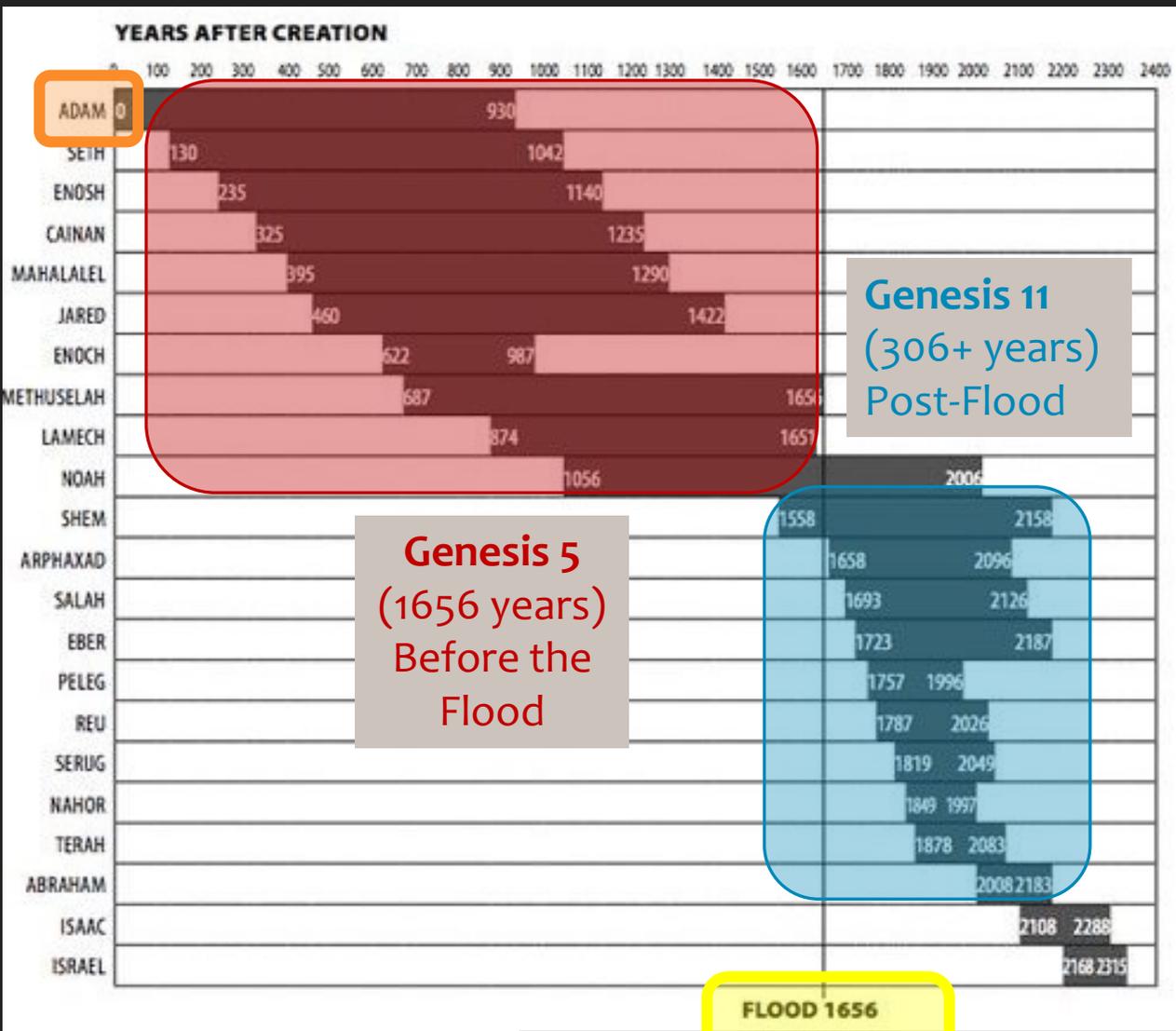
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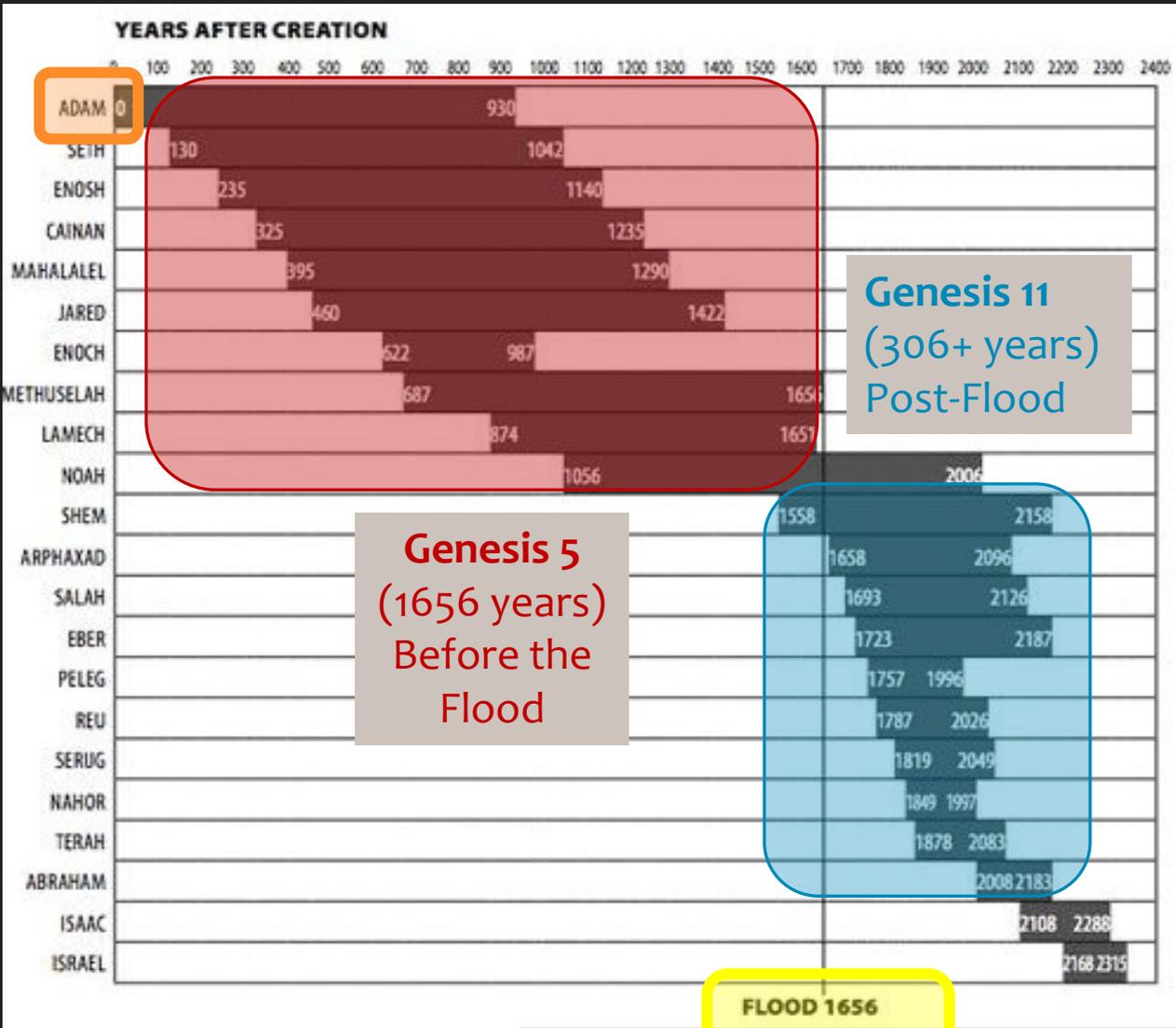
Writing of Pentateuch by Moses - During Exodus & Wandering of 40 years (1446 to 1406 BC)

Book of Genesis covers **historical time line of 2682 to 359 years** before Moses would have **begun to write Genesis** in the desert.



Graph of Adam to Israel – Timeline Problem for Moses Writing Genesis

Genesis
1:1-2:4 &
2:4-25



Genesis 11
(306+ years)
Post-Flood

Genesis 5
(1656 years)
Before the
Flood

FLOOD 1656
(2472 BC)

Joseph (Genesis 50:22)
Moses (Exodus-Deut. 34)

Genesis 6-9

4128 BC – Creation, Day 1 (Ussher 4004 BC)
Genesis 1:1

2166BC – 1991 BC, Abraham’s birth & death

Jacob & family enter Egypt 1876 BC. Exodus starts 1446 BC => 430 years of captivity.

1915BC – 1805 BC, Joseph’s birth & death
1526BC – 1406 BC, Moses’ birth & death

Writing of Pentateuch by Moses - During Exodus & Wandering of 40 years (1446 to 1406 BC)

Book of Genesis covers **historical time line of 2682 to 359 years** before Moses would have begun to write Genesis in the desert.

The Problem



“How did Moses Write the Book of Genesis?”

Based on the Chronology & Time Line of Genesis –

- Genesis records events from **Creation to Joseph’s death** (Genesis 1:1 to 50:22)
- **Genealogy of Genesis 5** – records Patriarchs from **Creation (Adam) to the Flood**
- Records the **Flood occurred 1656 years after** Creation week (Genesis 5, Gen. 6-9)
- **Genealogy of Genesis 11** – records Patriarchs from **Flood to Abraham**
- Records that Abraham was born **306 years after Flood**
- **Joseph** was born ~567 years after Flood, **died ~677 years after flood** (Gen. 50:22)
- **Moses** was Born 946 years after the Flood – **Gap of ~269 years after Joseph’s death**
- **Moses** was then **born 2602 years (1656-PRE + 946-POST) after Creation**
- **Moses** likely wrote Genesis (rest of Pentateuch) during 40 years in desert (**~2682 to 2722 after Creation**) **Session 2 will seek to answer the HOW of this writing.**



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“How did Moses Write the Book of Genesis?”

WHY is this Question Important (about Moses as author)?



“How did Moses Write the Book of Genesis?”

Why is this Question Important (about Moses as author)?

1. For the Book of Genesis (& the entire Bible) to be **INSPIRED** (from God), **Moses must have written Genesis.**
2. For the Book of Genesis (& the entire Bible) to be **TRUTHFUL** (both content & meaning/intent), **Moses must have written Genesis.**
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Logical Argument

If it can be *demonstrated that the Book of Genesis was not written by Moses*, then the entirety of God’s Word (all of Scripture) can be called into question & in effect should be rejected as providing a correct understanding of what is real & factual & true.



Q & A / Thoughts on Session 2

Session 2 – follows
Go to PPCF email for Zoom Meeting
Instructions for Session 2



“How did Moses Write the Book of Genesis?” -- Sessions 1, 2 & 3

Issues & Questions Which Challenge the Integrity of the Book of Genesis

Part #1 – *Understanding the Background & Importance* of Recognizing that Moses did write the Book of Genesis (**Truth** issue) [6-28]

Part#2 – *Facing The Proposed Problems of Explaining How Moses* wrote the Book of Genesis (**Time Discrepancy** Issue) [29-44]

Need to Provide Cogent Responses to These Challenges – in Session 2

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Part #6 (Brief) – Addressing of **Issues raised about Genesis 1 & 2 + Conclusion** [97-110]



Considering the Evidence – The Book of Genesis exists

Non-BC Views

1. JEDP
2. *Enuma Elish* / Gilgamesh Epic
3. Multiple **non-historical views**
(Most -- Moses wrote Genesis –
but....)



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BC View

1. Moses wrote Genesis as **historical narrative** (from creation to the beginning of the nation of Israel)
2. Truthful history & time
3. Real people, places, events



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Which of these two general views provides the **most Reasonable & Consistent** Understanding of the Evidence?



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1. Moses wrote Genesis as historical narrative (from creation to the beginning of the nation of Israel)
2. Truthful history & time
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Which of these two general views provides the **most Reasonable & Consistent** Understanding of the Evidence?

The premise going forward is that the BC View is indeed the correct one.



Considering & Evaluating Evidence (Origins)

Perspective (Bias)

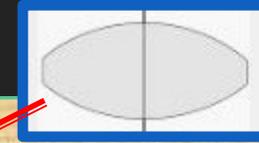
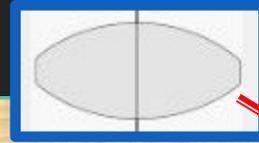
BC Creation

Perspective (Bias)

Naturalism / Evolution

CSM
Creation Apologetics

Presuppositions
core beliefs about evidences
Assumptions
Developed ideas

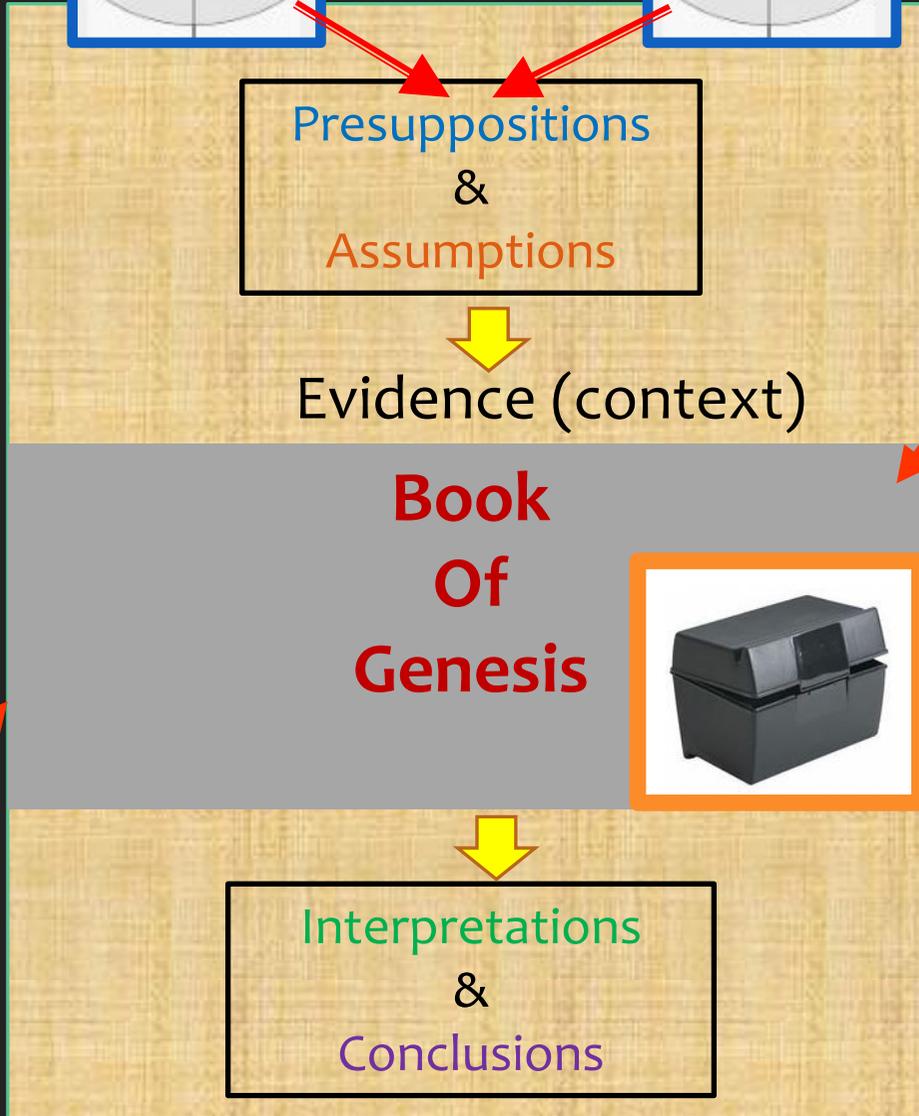


Presuppositions & Assumptions

Context
Background, history, timeline of evidence

OEC Creation

- Internal Evidence**
- Time line – Adam to Joseph
 - Events – Creation, Sin, Flood / Ark, Dispersion
 - **Other writers of Scripture confirming Moses**
 - Type of Literature
- External Evidence**
- Timing of ability to write
 - Archeology



Differing views about both the internal & external evidence and support for the same – HC holding to the internal Truth of Scripture

Interpretation
about factual evidence
Conclusion
Final view reached

Evidence
Is what actually exists



Internal Confirmation from Other Human Writers of Scripture – Who Validate Moses as Author of Genesis (& Pentateuch)

3 Biblical Sources which Confirm Moses – 1) Old Testament, 2) New Testament, 3) Jesus in NT



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3 Biblical Sources which Confirm Moses – 1) Old Testament, 2) New Testament, 3) Jesus in NT

OLD Testament Confirmation (Contextual Evidence)

Direct References (Pentateuch source, none specific to Genesis, Moses writer) –

- **Joshua 8:31** (Exodus 20:24-25)
- **2 Kings 14:6** (Deut. 24:16)
- **Ezra 6:18** (details in Exodus & Leviticus)
- **Nehemiah 13:1** (Deut. 23:3-5)

Indirect References –

- **Joshua 1:7-8** – “... to all the law my servant Moses .. The Book of the Law shall not depart”
- **1 Kings 2:3** “it is written in the Law of Moses that you will prosper...”;
- **Malachi 4:4** ”Remember the Law of Moses, My servant...”
- Others -- **Joshua 23:6; 1 Chron. 22:13; Daniel 9:11; Malachi 4:4**

Indirect Inferences to Passages from Genesis 1-11 –

- Examples – **Duet. 4:32; Psalm 104:6, 7, 9; 139:13; 148:5; Isaiah 40:26; 45:12+18; Ezek. 28:13; 1 Chron. 1:1-34**



Internal Confirmation from Other Human Writers of Scripture – Who Validate Moses as Author of Genesis (& Pentateuch)

3 Biblical Sources which Confirm Moses – 1) Old Testament, 2) New Testament, 3) Jesus in NT

NEW Testament Confirmation (Contextual Evidence)

Direct References quoted (Pentateuch source, none specific to Genesis) –

- **Acts 3:22** (Deut. 18:15)

Direct quotes & references found in Genesis 1-11 –

- Acts to Revelation – **Acts 14:15, 17:24; Romans 1:20, 4:17, 5:12-19, 8:20-22; 1 Corin 6:16, 11:7-9, 15:21-22, 15:45, 2 Corin 11:3; Eph 5:31; Col. 1:16 3:10; Heb. 1:10, 4:3-4, 11:3-5, 11:7, 12:24; 1 pet 3:20; 2 Pet 2:5, 3:4-6; 1 John 3:8, 3:12; Jude 11, 14; Rev 2:7, 3:14, 4:11**
- Gospels – **Luke 3:34-38, John 1:1-3**

Direct Inferences to Book of Genesis from Chapters 1 to 11 -

- **Total of 57 New Testament references** (including those recorded from Jesus Christ)
- **Genesis 1 = 22 times; Genesis 2 = 18 times; Genesis 3 = 12 times; Genesis 4 = 9 times; Genesis 5 = 3 times; Genesis 6 = 3 times; Genesis 7 = 5 times; Genesis 8 = 1 time; Genesis 9 = 0 times; Genesis 10 = 1 time; Genesis 11 = 1 time** (Only Genesis 9 not referred to in NT)



Internal Confirmation from Other Human Writers of Scripture – Who Validate Moses as Author of Genesis (& Pentateuch)

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JESUS in New Testament Confirmation (Contextual Evidence)

Direct NT quotes and/or references originally recorded in Genesis 1-11 –

- Matthew 19:4-6 (marriage in Genesis 1 & 2)
- Matthew 23:35 (Righteous Abel)
- Matthew 24:37-39 (Noah and the Flood)
- Mark 10:6-9 (Created male & female, marriage in Genesis 1 & 2)
- Mark 13:19 (since beginning of Creation)
- Luke 11:51 (Blood of Abel)
- Luke 11:27 (Flood & destruction)
- John 8:44 (Father of lies – Devil)



Considering & Evaluating Evidence (Origins)

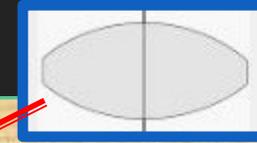
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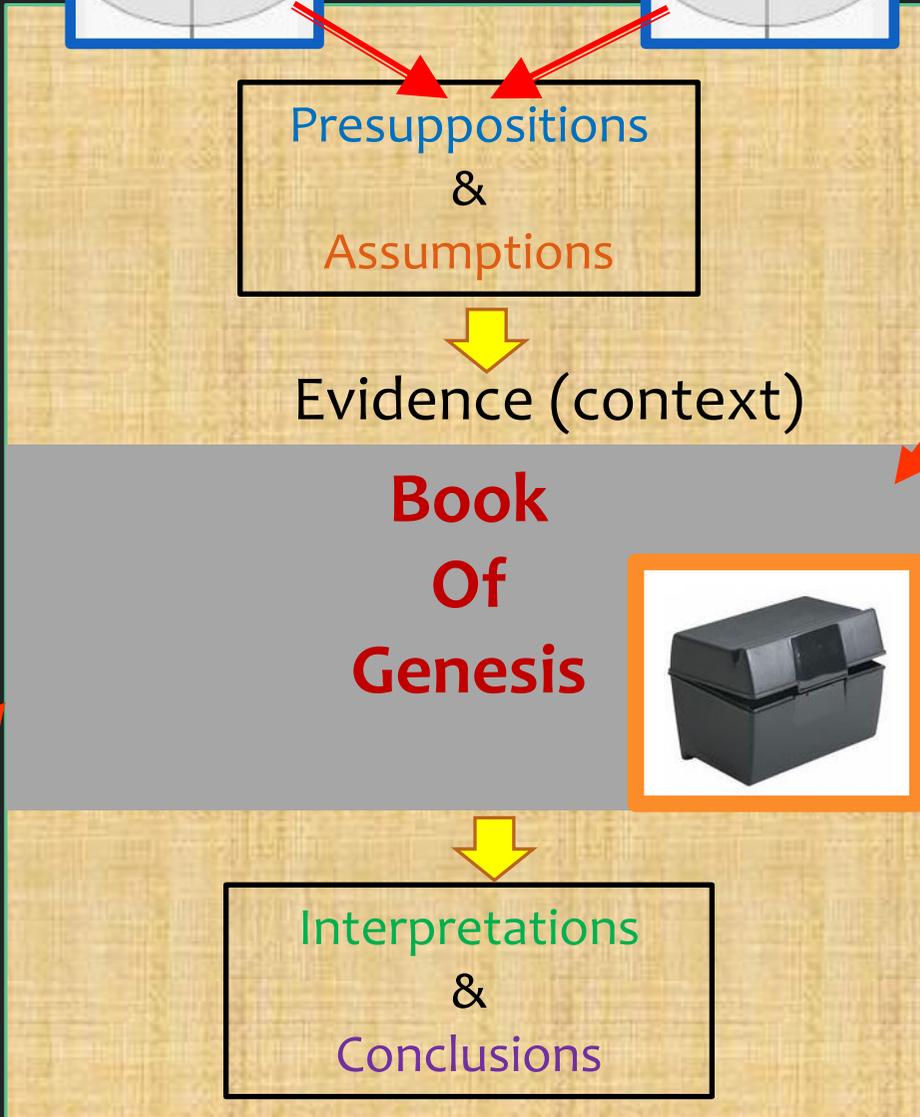
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Differing views about both the internal & external evidence and support for the same



Evidence
Is what actually exists

Interpretation
about factual evidence
Conclusion
Final view reached



How did Moses write – Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy?

Time line of Moses' life (from Exodus) --- 1526 - 1406 BC, Moses' birth & death

- Born (1526 BC) & Lived in Egypt – to age of 40 (raised as child by Pharaoh's daughter)
- Escaped to land of Midian (east Red Sea) – age of 40 (1486 BC) to age of 80, then returned to Egypt
 - Lead the nation of Israel out of Egypt age of 80 (**Exodus began 1446 BC**)
 - Exodus lasted 40 years in wilderness/desert (East & North of Egypt & East and South of Promised Land)
 - **Moses died (1406 BC)** before Nation of Israel entered the Promised Land (Deut. 32:52, 34:7)

- Time of writing the above books – **during 40 years in wilderness**
- Type of Literature – **Historical Narrative & Doctrinal Teaching (prose)**
 - Moses wrote these books – **from direct 1st person experiences**



The Common Method of writing Secular History
(**Historical Narrative**)

From Eye Witness Accounts & Scholarly Research

An Example – A History of Abraham Lincoln



How did Carl Sandburg write about Abraham Lincoln?

Carl Sandburg lived from 1878 to 1967. He grew up in Galesburg, Illinois, which is a small town in West-Central Illinois and about 100 miles from Springfield, Illinois where Lincoln lived as a young man. Sandburg is known for both his poetry (Pulitzer prize) and his historical narratives (2nd Pulitzer prize) → ‘Lincoln’s War Years’.

Sandburg was born 13 years after Lincoln’s assassination. So how did he write his biographies of Lincoln’s life? The following excerpt explains --

“As a young boy growing up in Galesburg, Illinois, Carl Sandburg often listened to stories of old-timers who had known Abraham Lincoln. He would regularly take a shortcut through nearby Knox College in Galesburg where, on October 7, 1858, Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas had met for the fifth joint debate in the famous Senatorial contest. Sandburg served in the 6th Illinois, Volunteers in Puerto Rico during the Spanish-American War where he was assigned to General Nelson A. Miles who was a brigadier general in some of the bloodiest battles of the Army of the Potomac in 1864. These experiences and the Lincoln lore that was prevalent during Sandburg’s formative years sparked his curiosity and interest in the person of Abraham Lincoln.”



The Common Method of writing Biblical History (Historical Narrative)

Was to rely on 1st Person Historical Accounts
(research of same)

How was this method employed for the Writing
of Scripture?



How did Luke write the Gospel of Luke?

Luke 1:1-4

¹Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, ² just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. ³With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴ so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.



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- Investigation
 - Careful documentation
- Eye witness (1st person) testimony from others
 - From a Christian perspective, the Holy Spirit directed the Luke in this process



How did Luke write the Book of Acts?

Acts 1:1-3

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about **all that Jesus began to do and to teach** ²until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³After his suffering, **he presented himself to them** and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. **He appeared to them** over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

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- Careful documentation
- Eye witness (1st person) testimony **from others**
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How did Luke write the Book of Acts?

Acts 16:7-10

⁷ When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. ⁸ So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. ⁹ During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” ¹⁰ After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

- Investigation & 1st Person through verse 16:9
 - Careful documentation
- Eye witness testimony from others & Luke himself
- 1st person of Luke himself, beginning in Acts 16:10
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How were the Historical Books of 1st & 2nd Kings written?

- Jewish Tradition identifies Jeremiah as the ‘Author’ of these books.
- From a Christian perspective, the Holy Spirit directed the author (Jeremiah) to use the records of contemporary prophets, within each time frame for the Kings listed, to complete the work.
 - These sources, from which Jeremiah would have utilized:
 - Jehu (1 Kings 16:1), Annals of Solomon
 - Annals of (major source) – Kings of Judah
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Assuming Jeremiah as the author – (ministry 626 to 587 BC) He would have used eye-witness (5 Kings - Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, Zedekiah) & written accounts from contemporaries of each king (prophets of God) to write this history. His father the priest Hilkiah discovered the 'Book of Law' in temple (2 Kings 22). These books were written in historical narrative.



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Assuming Ezra as the author – (ministry ~480 to 440 BC) He would have used eye-witness & written accounts from contemporaries of each king -- prophets & scribes of God. These books were written in **historical narrative**.



Biblical History contains multiple examples of (Historical Narrative)

Primary method to produce this writing - was to
rely on 1st Person Historical Accounts

It is clear from → 2 Timothy 3:16 & 2 Peter 1:20-21
that this type of writing was recorded under the
guidance of the Holy Spirit



“How did Moses Write the Book of Genesis?” -- Sessions 1, 2 & 3

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So...How might Moses have received the content of Genesis?

Three possible ways Moses could have obtained information –
1) direct revelation, 2) oral history, 3) written history – 1st person



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- Direct Revelation is ‘always / nearly always / significantly’ used in **Prophecy & prophetic portions** of Scripture (**fore-telling & forth-telling**)
- Direct Revelation is used for significant portions of **Doctrinal Truths** – especially in the **Pentateuch**



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This is a common means of passing along God Acts to the next Generation
This is noted in various passages – **Book of Deuteronomy & Psalms 78, others**



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What about the Book of Genesis?

Premise - A written history via a tablet / toledoth (TT) process



What is the Tablet / Toledoth Method of Written History?

A number of papers written by Biblical Scholars & and other researchers were referenced & utilized for the following discussion. These are provided below:

‘Did Moses Write Genesis?’ By Bodie Hodge & Terry Mortensen, Answers in Genesis

<https://answersingenesis.org/bible-characters/moses/did-moses-write-genesis/>

‘The Origins of Genesis: Solving the Toledoth Mystery’ by Talk Origins (author not listed)

www.talkgenesis.org/genesis-toledoth-mystery/

(Links to several other articles included in this article)

Who Wrote Genesis? Are the Toledoth Colophons? By Charles Taylor, Creation Ministries International - <https://creation.com/who-wrote-genesis-are-the-toledoth-colophons>

+ Several others



What is the Tablet / Toledoth Method of Written History?

The name for this book 'Genesis' – comes from the Septuagint translation of the Greek word *geneseos* (transliterated). *The original Hebrew word for this is **toledoth*** (transliterated). This word appears throughout the book of Genesis (11 times).

It (toledoth) is used to divide this book into discrete historical sections while also providing a sequential list of these 11 accounts. This process unites these individual sections into a complete history from Adam (at creation) through Joseph (in Egypt).



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It (toledoth) is used to divide this book into discrete historical sections while also providing a sequential list of these 11 accounts. This process unites these individual sections into a complete history from Adam (at creation) through Joseph (in Egypt).

While providing these historical accounts, plus the genealogical history included with them, this *toledoth* usage is represented well by the way in which this has been translated in Genesis. Commonly, translations use wording such as “this is the account of..” or “these are the generations of...”.

Each account has an associated name with it (at the end of section), which most likely provides, either the writer of the section or its custodian of the original written document (or possibly the oral history to be handed down – less likely).



What is the Tablet / Toledoth Method of Written History?

Many conservative Biblical scholars believe that this tablet / toledoth process represents original 1st hand accounts of past people, events and times. These accounts were likely recorded (onto tablets) by the person named, then preserved (by decedents & under God's preserving protection) and then handed down to succeeding generations.

These tablets continued to be preserved I this way until the time of Moses (Nation of Israel in Egypt). Moses, as directed by the Holy Spirit, used these documents to write in final form the book of Genesis (likely during the 40 years in the wilderness).



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Many conservative Biblical scholars believe that this tablet / toledoth process represents **original 1st hand accounts** of past people, events and times. These accounts were likely recorded (onto tablets) by the person named, then preserved (by decedents & under God's preserving protection) and then handed down to following generations.

These tablets continued to be preserved until the time of Moses (Nation of Israel in Egypt). Moses, as directed by the Holy Spirit, used these documents to write in final form the book of Genesis (likely during the 40 years in the wilderness).

This understanding, if true, would mean that **the record of this history from Genesis, begins from the very beginning of time.** It would **be a record of** people, places, events, and times from **before the flood and back to the very beginning of creation.** These **1st person accounts** would then not be made up stories or allegories or myths, but **true accounts of past history** and **preserved by** God (inspired, truthful & factual). This is now revealed to us by God in His Word to us.



What is the Tablet / Toledoth Method of Written History?

A brief summary of the recorded 'Toledoths' in Genesis, by verse and listed 'author'

Beginning Verse	Ending Verse	Probable author of original work
Genesis 1:1	Genesis 2:4a	of the heavens and the earth when they were created
Genesis 2:4b	Genesis 5:1a	Adam
Genesis 5:1b	Genesis 6:9a	Noah
Genesis 6:9b	Genesis 10:1	Shem, Ham, and Japheth
Genesis 10:2	Genesis 11:10a	Shem
Genesis 11:10b	Genesis 11:27a	Terah
Genesis 11:27b	Genesis 25:12a	Abraham
Genesis 25:12b	Genesis 25:19a	Ishmael
Genesis 25:19b	Genesis 36:1a	Esau
Genesis 36:1b	Genesis 36:9a	Jacob?
Genesis 36:9b	Genesis 37:2	Jacob
Genesis 37:2b	Genesis 50:26	Joseph (no 'toledoth' given)

“of the heavens and the earth when they were created”

No specific name provided.



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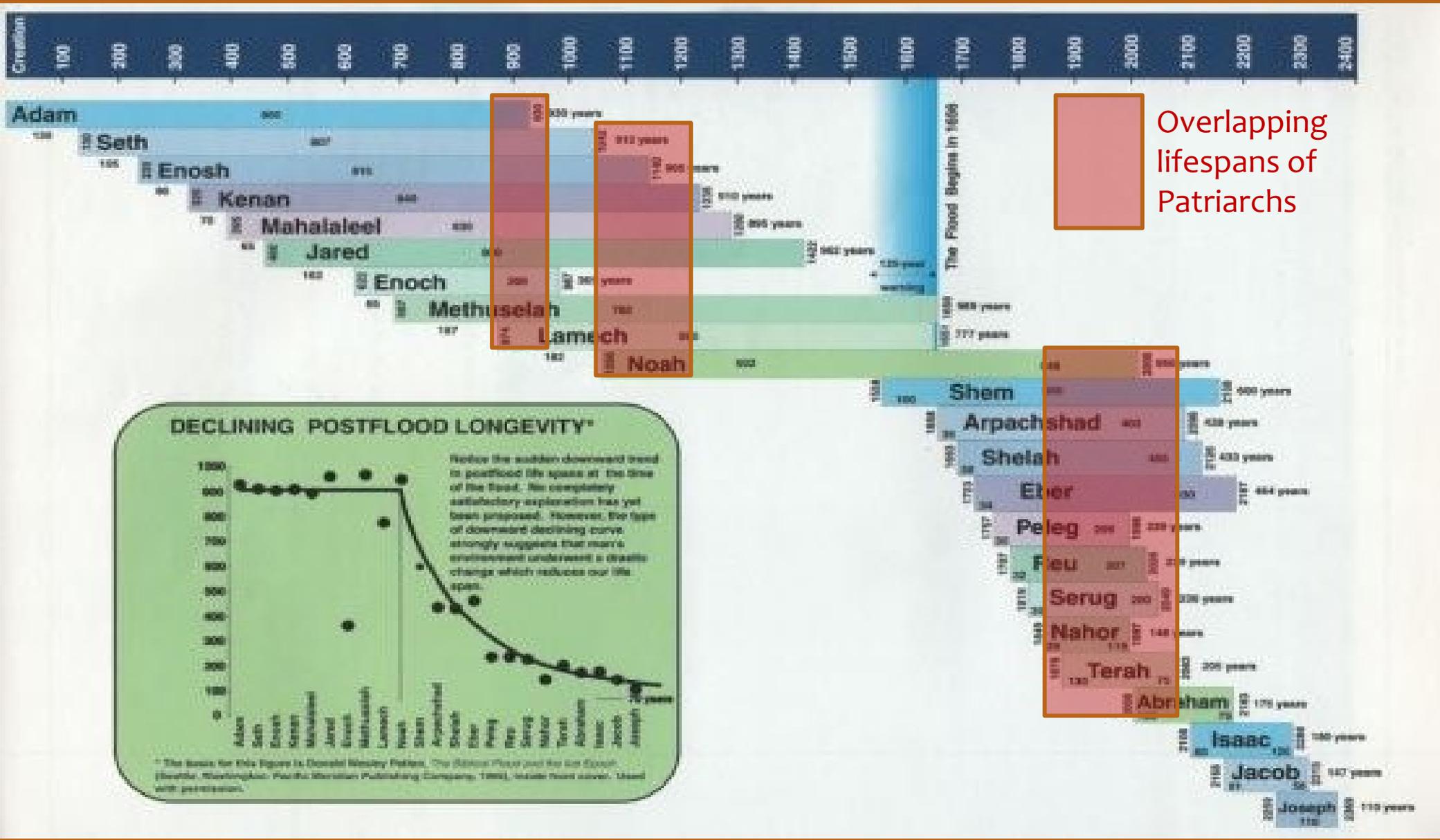
The most likely author is GOD Himself.

Why might this be the case?



What is the Tablet / Toledoth Method of Written History?

How was it handed off?



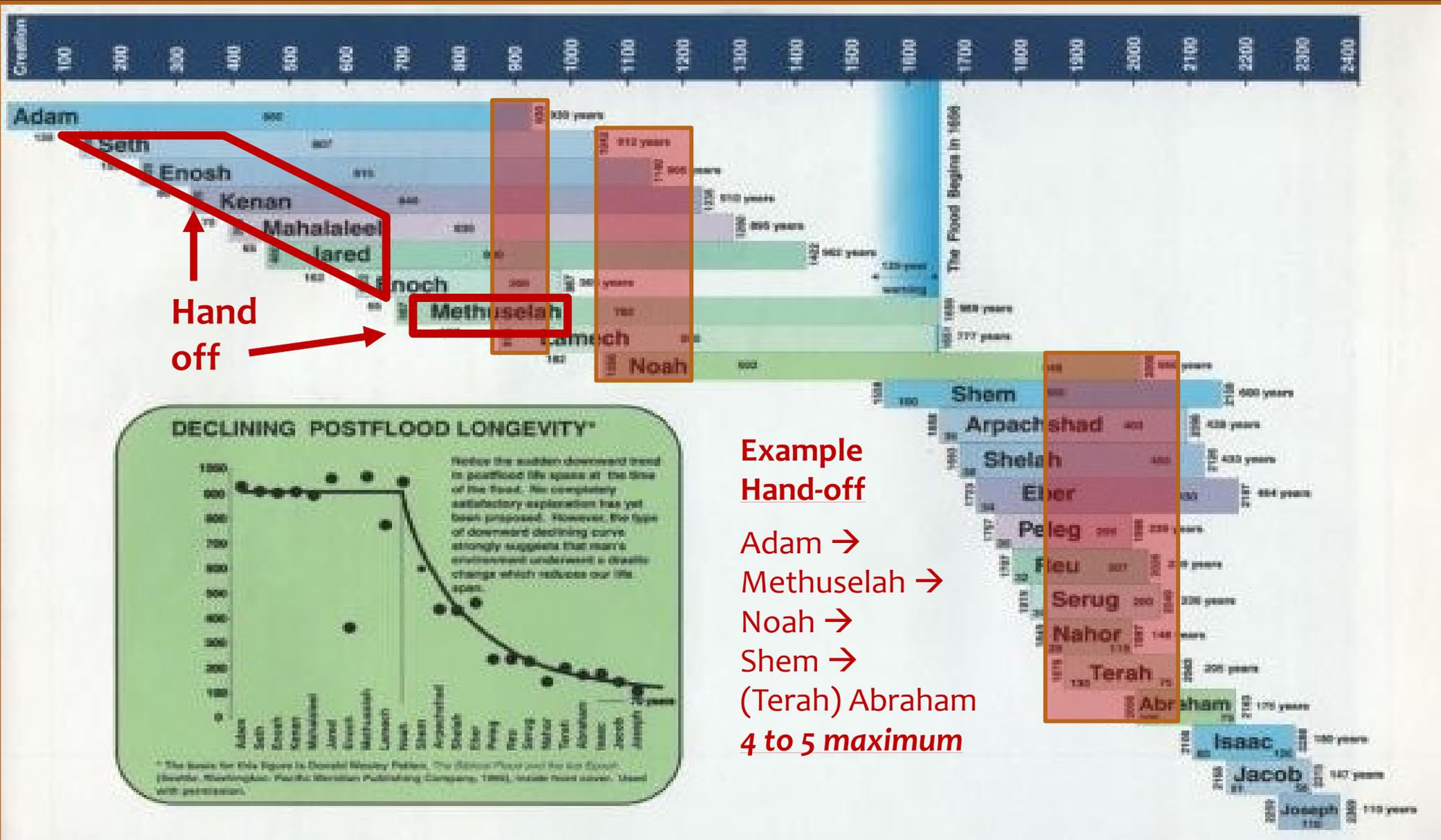
Overlapping lifespans of Patriarchs

To hand off these sequential histories (toledoths) from Adam to Abraham

Would only require 4 times [Shem nearly outlived Abraham]



What is the Tablet / Toledoth Method of Written History? How was it handed off?



Example Hand-off

- Adam →
- Methuselah →
- Noah →
- Shem →
- (Terah) Abraham
- 4 to 5 maximum**

To hand off these sequential histories (toledoths) from Adam to Abraham

—
Would only require 4 times [Shem nearly outlived Abraham]



If the Toledoth / Tablet Method of Transmitting the information from Adam to Moses is True? (something like this)

- Minimum of 3 hand-offs (max. of 5) from Adam to Abraham (one indirect)
- Handoffs from Abraham to Isaac to Jacob (Israel) to Joseph to complete the book of Genesis
- Hand-offs by descendants of Israel through the continuous generations while living in the land of Egypt.
- Eventually as leader of the nation of Israel, Moses would have received these written documents.
- From a Christian perspective, the Holy Spirit directed Moses to use these written records (tablets) of these 1st person accounts, as provided within each time frame, to complete the book of Genesis.



The Concept of Toledoth Tablets Of Genesis 1 – 11

1:1 In the beginning...
2:4 ...the account of the heavens and earth...

Noah

????

5:1b When God created...
6:9a ...the account of Noah.

Shem

11:1 Now the whole world...
11:10a ...the account of Shem.

God

2:5 Now no shrub...
5:1a ...the book of the account of Adam.

Adam

Sons of Noah

6:9b Noah was a righteous...
10:1 ...the account of Shem, Ham and Japheth...

Terah

11:10b Shem was one hundred...
11:27a ...the account of Terah.

Preserved for ~2700 years

Moses

????? (in Egypt)
Joseph
Jacob/Esau
Isaac/Ishmael
Abraham

Genesis 12 - 50



“How did Moses Write the Book of Genesis?” -- Sessions 1, 2 & 3

Issues & Questions Which Challenge the Integrity of the Book of Genesis

Part #1 – Understanding the Background & Importance of Recognizing that Moses did write the Book of Genesis (**Truth** issue) [6-28]

Part#2 – Facing The Proposed Problems of Explaining How Moses wrote the Book of Genesis (**Time Discrepancy** Issue) [29-44]

Need to Provide Cogent Responses to These Challenges – in Session 2

Part#3 – Providing an (internal) Evidentiary Explanation of the Fact that Moses did write the Book of Genesis (**Scriptural Support** Issue) [47-70]

Part #4 – Providing a Reasonable Scenario of How Moses obtained the info to write the book of Genesis (**Logical Means’ or Reasonableness** Issue) [71-86]

Part #5 (Brief) – Answering Critics of **Truth (#1) & Time Discrepancy (#2)** [87-95]

Need to Provide Cogent Responses to These Challenges – in Session 3

Part #6 (Brief) – Addressing of **Issues raised about Genesis 1 & 2 & Conclusion** [97-110]



Considering the View that Moses wrote the Book of Genesis
by **Utilizing the 'Toledoth – Tablet' Process**

In **Answering the Critics** about the **Truth & Time Discrepancy**
Issues of Moses writing Genesis

1st Person Content for Genesis 1 – 11

God – Genesis 1:1 – 2:4a (1 week – 7 days)

Adam – Genesis 2:4b - 5:1a (day 6 – a few to several generations)

Noah – 5:1a - 6:9a

Sons of Noah – 6:9b – 10:1

Shem – 10:2 – 11:10a

Terah (father of Abraham) – 11:10b – 11:27

Terah descendants given 11:27-32 → to Abraham's story ++

Time line from Creation to Abraham ≈ ~2000 years



Considering the View that Moses wrote the Book of Genesis
by **Utilizing the 'Toledoth – Tablet' Process**

In **Answering the Critics** about the **Truth & Time Discrepancy**
Issues of Moses writing Genesis

The Four Challenges in Parts 1 & 2

1. **JEDP** – Documentary Hypothesis
2. ***Enuma Elish*** (Creation) & ***Gilgamish Epic*** (Flood)
3. Genesis 1-11 is **not written as actual history** or historical narrative
4. The **Timeline Issue** of Moses Writing the Book of Genesis



Considering the View that Moses wrote the Book of Genesis
by Utilizing the 'Toledoth - Tablet' (TT) Process

In Answering the Critics about the Truth & Time Discrepancy
Issues of Moses writing Genesis

1. JEDP

The **documentary hypothesis** relies on the fact that the writer(s) of Genesis (& the rest of Pentateuch) drew on oral traditions handed down within the Jewish nation until the initial writing took place 500+ years after (~900 to ~500 BC) Moses life. These writings were simply legends. The writing labels of Jahwist (J), Elohist (E) within JEDP (Genesis 1 & 2) rely on two separate authors, which were not 1st person accounts, just two writers (priests?) using different titles for God to distinguish them.

Response

However in the TT process the authors (Gen. 1 & 2) are God and Adam and thus the reference of Elohim (by God in Genesis 1) and Yhwh (by Adam in Genesis 2) simply express 1st person accounts of God speaking of Himself and Adam expressing reverence for God.



Considering the View that Moses wrote the Book of Genesis
by Utilizing the 'Toledoth – Tablet' Process

In Answering the Critics about the Truth & Time Discrepancy
Issues of Moses writing Genesis

2. Enuma Elish-EE (Creation) & Gilgamesh Epic-GE (Flood)

The view held by many secular scholars about these accounts is based on the concept that EE & GE each pre-date the writing of Genesis by Moses. Thus, this view includes the concept that Moses relied on these or similar accounts to write the book of Genesis.

Response

While it is technically true that Moses would have written Genesis some 300+ years after these writings, the fact is that the content of Genesis and especially the pre-Abraham portions did exist in written form some 300 to 2000 years prior before the EE & GE documents. Thus, these EE & GE documents would have likely relied upon these TT accounts, but with EE & GE written in a highly corrupted form when transmitted via oral tradition as handed down within separate people groups -- post-dispersion.



Considering the View that Moses wrote the Book of Genesis
by Utilizing the 'Toledoth – Tablet' Process

In Answering the Critics about the Truth & Time Discrepancy
Issues of Moses writing Genesis

3. Genesis 1-11 is not written as actual history or historical narrative

This issue is summarized by recent attempts within current Christian Scholarship -- forcing the book of Genesis to fit within the history and timeline of secular science. The means of how this 'occurs' is said to vary – with differing views for early chapters of Genesis – myth or poetic language or symbolic language or allegory, all having non-literal meaning, etc. The overall idea – Genesis does not speak to a historical reality-- but simply references God as Creator.

Response

In its various forms (10+ views) these attempts seek to modify Scripture to say something other than what God has intended to say (1st person in Genesis 1). In doing this, God's character and ability to communicate truth about the creation is called into question (His honesty, His ability or willingness to speak clearly & His all-knowing attribute, etc.).



Considering the View that Moses wrote the Book of Genesis
by Utilizing the 'Toledoth – Tablet' Process

In Answering the Critics about the Truth & Time Discrepancy
Issues of Moses writing Genesis

4. The Timeline Issue of Moses Writing the Book of Genesis

The timeline problem goes away when – **Response**
we recognize that Genesis is composed of 11 separate, 1st person accounts, which were combined and edited by Moses as the author (TT process) of Genesis. Moses simply gathered these recorded and preserved accounts, handed down generationally during the 2500 years prior to his writing the book of Genesis (as directed by the Holy Spirit).

We also see that a minimal (3) number of hand-offs between generations was necessary to have these accounts available for Moses to for Genesis (to time of Joseph - plus more during slavery in Egypt). Thus, these toledoth writings would likely contain the only preserved documents predating the Flood.



These Three Key Presuppositions & Truths become Premises about the Foundational Importance of the Book of Genesis (& its relationship to the Entire Bible)

1. For the Book of Genesis (& the entire Bible) to be **INSPIRED** (from God), **Moses must have written Genesis.**
2. For the Book of Genesis (& the entire Bible) to be **TRUTHFUL** (its content & its meaning & its intent), **Moses must have written Genesis.**
3. For the Book of Genesis (& the entire Bible) to be **AUTHORITATIVE** (its teaching & application to the life of the believer), **Moses must have written Genesis.**



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The most likely & Reasonable means was the **TT process.**



Q & A / Thoughts on Session 2

Session 3 – follows
Go to PPCF email for Zoom Meeting
Instructions on Session 3



“How did Moses Write the Book of Genesis?” -- Sessions 1, 2 & 3

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Need to Provide Cogent Responses to These Challenges – in **Session 3**

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3

Part #6 (Brief) – Addressing Questions **about Genesis 1 & 2** + **Conclusion** [97-110]



Considering the View that Moses wrote the Book of Genesis
by **Utilizing the 'Toledoth – Tablet' Process**

In **Answering the Critics** concerning questions posed by the
content in Genesis 1 and Genesis 2

Five Challenges Posed as Questions by **Critics of Genesis 1 & 2**

1. Why **differing Creation Accounts** in Genesis 1 & 2?
2. **How could Adam have the Intelligence** indicated in Genesis 1 as the First Man?
3. **How could Genesis 1 have been written?**
4. If indeed God created over numerous 'long ages' (largely consensus, secular view), then **God's character is on trial** as the original author for Genesis 1? How does one respond?
5. Why does Genesis 1 speak of **creation as being JUST 'good' and 'very good'** and **not perfect?**



Considering the View that Moses wrote the Book of Genesis
by Utilizing the 'Toledoth – Tablet' (TT) Process

In Answering the Critics concerning questions posed by the
content in Genesis 1 and Genesis 2

1. Why differing Creation Accounts in Genesis 1 & 2?

Critics have often viewed these **separate accounts as being separate creative events** or creations. The standard position held by conservative Christian theology has to indicate two distinct viewpoints for the account – Genesis 1, the big picture and Genesis 2, the humanity perspective.

Response

This concept **two distinct viewpoints** is the **same position as that of the TT process**. The **TT process provides a straight-forward view as to how this would occur**. In **Genesis 1, with God as the author** of its content, God would provide an overall view of the entire creation (**Days 1 to 6**). In **Genesis 2, with Adam as the author** of its content, Adam would provide a narrower view by focusing on and knowing details of human creation as **occurring on Day**

6.



Considering the View that Moses wrote the Book of Genesis
by Utilizing the 'Toledoth – Tablet' (TT) Process

In Answering the Critics concerning questions posed by the
content in Genesis 1 and Genesis 2

2. How could Adam have the Intelligence indicated in Genesis 1 as the First Man?

Critics challenge this because of their perspective of humanity simply being a part of an ongoing chain of evolutionary development. Thus, their bias against this verse is to view the teaching of secular science (and evolutionary naturalism) as being correct and Creation by an almighty God as being false. This is a perspective issue.

Response

Based on God's character and His desire to have fellowship with mankind, God created everything, including humanity, in a way that reflects this intentionality. Adam (and Eve) were created to be able to communicate and respond to God in fellowship. This ability would include verb communication (naming animals), but also written capability (Genesis 2-4). Mankind is seen to develop significant technology within a few generations (Gen. 4).



Considering the View that Moses wrote the Book of Genesis
by Utilizing the 'Toledoth - Tablet' (TT) Process

In Answering the Critics concerning questions posed by the
content in Genesis 1 and Genesis 2

3. How could Genesis 1 have been written?

Response

A 'straight-forward' and face value reading of Genesis 1 indicates that **only God was present during the entire 6-day week of Creation**. Mankind was not created until Day 6. Thus it would make sense that the **author of the content for Genesis 1 would be God**. If so, God being all-knowing would and could write this in a way that would and should be clearly understood as conveying the creation in six, 24-hours days.

The **means of this writing** could have occurred in one of two ways. The first would be that **God told Adam what has occurred** and then **Adam could have written this down**. The second way would be for **God to have written this account** and then **provided it to Adam**. Both are possible. The **second means** is seen by the way in which **God wrote the Ten Commandments** & gave them to Moses as recorded in Exodus 31.



Considering the View that Moses wrote the Book of Genesis
by Utilizing the 'Toledoth - Tablet' (TT) Process

In Answering the Critics concerning questions posed by the
content in Genesis 1 and Genesis 2

4. If indeed God created over numerous 'long ages' (largely consensus, secular view),
then **God's character is on trial** as the original author for Genesis 1? How does one respond?

Response

A critical understanding of who God is -- has been revealed to us in His Word. This Word reveals a God of **integrity, righteousness, justice and faithfulness**. These characteristics reveal a God who would **communicate with honesty, clarity and authority** as to what He intends to say. This can be summarized as **"Gods says what He means and means what He says."**

While God could have created over long ages, this kind of idea is neither stated nor implied in the Genesis account of creation. To suggest otherwise, is to say God really intended to describe a creation of long ages and thus lacking a miraculous outcome. **This would effectively call God at best misleading and at worst a liar.** God could have easily recorded a different kind of creation if He had chose to. **Instead He described a creation of 6 days.**



Considering the View that Moses wrote the Book of Genesis
by Utilizing the 'Toledoth – Tablet' (TT) Process

In Answering the Critics concerning questions posed by the
content in Genesis 1 and Genesis 2

5. Why does Genesis 1 speak of creation as being **JUST 'good' and 'very good'** and not 'perfect'?

Response

Recognizing that **God is the author of Genesis 1** (TT process) indicates that **God was personally expressing His view** of the 6-day creation. As part of this, He would **use terms of personal response** to what has occurred. The Hebrew word for **'good' has a meaning of 'satisfaction or pleasure'**. The word for **'very' has the meaning of 'exceedingly or greatly'**. Thus, when God is describing the **six** expressions of 'good' in the Genesis 1, **He is stating a true satisfaction for the Creation** He had done (to this point). When the end of Day 6 was completed, He now describes Creation as **'very good' -- expressing the fact this His work was 'exceeding satisfactory' to Him.**

When considering the Hebrew word for **'perfect', its most common use is 'without blemish'**. Thus, it is used to **describe a visual observation of no defects**. When David was describing God's Word in Psalm 19:7 in this way, he described it as **'perfect' (the truth as 3rd person).**



Concluding Thoughts & Aspects, which are affirmed by Moses' Authorship of the Book of Genesis



6 Presuppositional Aspects for Origins (Biblical Creation) Theology as Confirmed by Moses' Authorship of Genesis (& Affirmed in the Genesis Account)

1. God's Word is Inspired, Truthful & Authoritative



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4. Act of Creation – Miraculous & Designed → Supernatural
5. The Creation Account is Written as Historical Narrative
6. The Time Line Provided in God's Word (Genesis 1 & whole of Genesis 1-11)
Demonstrates a Recent Creation
(~6000 to 6150 Years from the Creation Week)