

# The Genesis Genealogical Error

By Tim Warner © answersinrevelation.org

---

Virtually all Biblical chronologists claim that from the creation of Adam, to the birth of Abraham, was 2008 years. There are two problems with the common calculations.

**Problem #1:** When you simply add up the biblical genealogies, (as virtually all chronologists do), you are making a faulty assumption, that each child was born on the birthday of his father. That is simply NOT likely in the real world. There is a margin of error of anywhere between 0.1 to 11.9 months for each generation. For example, we know that Seth was born in Adam's 130<sup>th</sup> year. But, was he born the day Adam turned 130, or a month later, two months later, or even eleven months later? Adam remained 130 years old for 12 months. So, each generation listed in the Genesis genealogies must be viewed as the specified years plus an unknown number of days (between 1 and 364). Compounding over the 20 generations from Adam to Abraham, this error would be anywhere from 0 to 20 years, (zero if every child was born the day of his father's birthday, and 20 if every child was born the day just before his father's next birthday). Of course, the true measurement will average fairly close to the center of this range (if we assume births fell randomly throughout the 12 months of the year).

**Problem #2:** Bible chronologists use exclusive reckoning. In our society, we consider a child to be "0" until he has lived a full year. So, to us a baby is 1 year old throughout his 2<sup>nd</sup> year of life. However, the Jews typically used inclusive reckoning for calculations. Consequently, a child would be considered 1 year old throughout his full 1<sup>st</sup> year. He was considered 2 years old after he had lived 1 full year. That is, his 1<sup>st</sup> year of life, (from birth to 12 months), was considered his 1<sup>st</sup> year (one year old). During his 2<sup>nd</sup> year of life, he was considered 2 years old. His age was reckoned by the year begun rather than the year completed (as we do today). Therefore, in Adam's 130<sup>th</sup> year (when Seth was born), he had only completed 129 years plus some days or months (by modern exclusive reckoning). That being the case, the total margin of error (correcting both of these problems) becomes a negative number. To arrive at a reasonably correct record of the 20 generations from Adam to Abraham, one must subtract one year for each generation, and then add the window of 0-20 years to account for the extra months AFTER their father's birthday, (0.5 years being the average).

When we correctly calculate the genealogies, Noah's death and Abraham's birth occurred exactly two millennia after creation. Noah's death marks the end of the second millennial "Day." Abraham's birth marks the beginning of the third millennial "Day."

Calculations are given in the chart below.

- The “Lifespan” column below contains the possible range of total years lived, taking into account inclusive reckoning, and that death can occur anytime between the stated birthday and the day before the next birthday.
- The “Age @ Son’s Birth” column contains the earliest and latest possible age for each father when his son was born. The higher number is given in Genesis. The lower number accounts for inclusive reckoning. The difference accounts for the range of possible extra months between birthdays.
- The “Born AC Range” (after creation) column gives the range of possible birth years after creation. These are calculated by adding the lower number in the “Age” column to the lower number in the “Born AC” column. The sum is placed on the next line in the “Born AC” column. Then, the higher number in the “Age” column is added to the higher number in the “Born AC” column, and the sum becomes the higher number on the next line in the “Born AC” column.

Name	Lifespan	Age @ Son’s Birth	Born AC Range
1. Adam	929-930	129-130	0 – 0
2. Seth	911-912	104-105	129 – 130
3. Enos	904-905	89-90	233 – 235
4. Cainan	909-910	69-70	322 – 325
5. Mahalalel	894-895	64-65	391 – 395
6. Jared	961-962	161-162	455 – 460
7. Enoch	364-365	64-65	616 – 622
8. Methuseleh	968-969	186-187	680 – 687
9. Lamech	776-777	181-182	866 – 874
10. Noah	949-950 <sup>3</sup>	502-503	1047 – 1056
11. Shem	599-600	99-100	1549 – 1559
<b>Flood</b>	1	599-600 (from Noah’s birth)	1646 – 1656
12. Arphaxad <sup>1</sup>	437-438	34-35	1648 – 1659
13. Salah	432-433	29-30	1682 – 1694
14. Eber	463-464	33-34	1711 – 1724
15. Peleg	238-239	29-30	1744 – 1758
16. Reu	238-239	31-32	1773 – 1788
17. Serug	229-230	29-30	1804 – 1820
18. Nahor	147-148	28-29	1833 – 1850
19. Terah <sup>2</sup>	204-205	129-130	1861 – 1879
20. Abram	174-175	99-100	1990 – 2009

#### Notes

1. Arphaxad was born 2 years after the flood (Gen. 11:10). Ussher reckons this from the beginning of the flood. It is more likely that it would be calculated from the end of the flood, when Noah and family began repopulating the new world.
2. Terah died in his 205<sup>th</sup> year (204-205) according to Gen. 11:31. Abraham left Haran the year his father died (Acts 7:4, Gen. 12:4), in his 75<sup>th</sup> year (74-75). Therefore, Terah’s 130<sup>th</sup> year was also Abraham’s 1<sup>st</sup> year.
3. The mid-range possible year of Noah’s birth is 1051. Noah completed 949 years (plus unknown days) when he died sometime in his 950<sup>th</sup> year. Adding 949 years to 1051AC is 2000AC, the same year as Abraham’s birth.