



A Final Word About the Dating

Good men's opinions will vary on most things, and certainly do in the field of Bible Chronology. Experts in this field have included James Ussher, Martin Anstey, Sir Robert Anderson, Clarence Larkin, Henry Halley, Charles Fred Lincoln, Merrill Unger, Edwin Thiele, John Whitcomb, Donald A. Waite, and others. No two men have agreed on every date. For example, consider the date of the birth of Abraham: Whitcomb, 2165 B.C.; Unger, 2161 B.C.; Lincoln, 2128 B.C.; Larkin, 2111 B.C.; Ussher, 1996 B.C.; Klassen, 1967 B.C. However, even with the variance of a few years in different dating patterns, basic chronological order of scripture is generally accepted. For example, Ussher, Lincoln and Klassen all agree that it is 2,008 years from creation to the birth of Abraham.

Because scholars vary, a dating system was most difficult to decide upon. In recent years, Frank R. Klassen has developed a dating arrangement that gives fresh insight into the many problems connected with biblical chronology. For some ten years, Klassen has studied Bible chronology full time. With his architectural and engineering background, he has devised numerous graphs and charts that seem the most accurate to Mr. Reese.

On the following page is shown the calendar used by the Jews, April being the first month of the year. Klassen is able to show what calendar was used (out of a possible 14 arrangements) in any year of history.

Regarding the dates of the first days of creation, Mr. Klassen's reasoning seems most plausible. God is a God of order. In the Bible April 1, the first day of the first month,

often surfaces. The tabernacle was completed on April 1, 1461 B.C. (the veil was raised). Klassen believes Jesus was born April 1, 5 B.C. (not December 25). No one has ever satisfactorily accounted for the origin of "April Fools' Day." It is theory that, because of derision directed at our Lord and those who remembered His true birthday, it developed into a "Fools' Day." Jesus began His public ministry at age 30 in A.D. 26, which is 4,000 years after Adam was created a mature man of probably the same age. Klassen's calendar research shows indeed that April 1 in 3975 B.C. was a Friday, the sixth day (man created).

The beginning of time has always been highly debatable in the scholarly world. Advocates of the "Gap Theory" allow for millions of years between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2. This view has been advocated by such scholars as Harry Rimmer, C. I. Scofield, and M. R. DeHann.

In recent years the thinking of many has shifted to the position that Genesis 1:1 and 1:2 have no gap between them and that the earth is not millions of years old, but actually of recent vintage—God creating a mature world, just as He created mature man and animals. An outstanding book contributing to this theory is *The Genesis Flood* (Morris and Whitcomb).

May the dates and titles be kept in proper perspective. They are only aids. This Bible would be of great value without them. Only the Scriptures themselves are really important and inspired.