

Exploring the Ancient Past



MY HOMESCHOOL



Exploring the Ancient Past

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All enquiries to My Homeschool.

The following books and references used for these lessons:

- ◇ The Archaeology Book: Wonders of Creation by David Down
- ◇ The Bible

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HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

You are about to travel back to ancient times and discover the stories of the past and look at the way modern archaeologists interpret them. While learning your history in context with other cultures you will gather dates to see the big picture of ancient history rather than just a series of random events.

Exploring the Ancient Past looks at the ancient civilizations of Australia, Mesopotamia and Africa and the difficulties that archaeologists have as they try to connect the dots when they only have some of the pieces of the puzzle. There is a clash between the secular worldview of history and the Biblical one when studying ancient history. Not so much in the general findings of archaeologists but in the interpretation of their findings especially in dating periods. For example, the secular dates for Aboriginal people coming to Australia are up to 60 000 years ago but the Biblical timeline would have them arriving much later after Noah's flood around 2500BC. It is important to realise this because you may find this conflict confusing and worrying. So I encourage you to take the opportunity to discuss worldview with your child before they begin this unit as it will help them understand the sequence of human history and not get bogged down in the dating problems found in ancient history.

In Lesson Six we have assigned a secular video that presents the theory that Australian Aboriginals came from Africa about 60 000 years ago. This topic is part of the Australian Curriculum. It was produced in America but has indigenous and non-indigenous Australians, scientists from around the world and lots of Australian location content. Some old photographs of Aboriginals include naked people. The documentary is interesting in its mapping of the human genome, archaeological digs and rock art. It demonstrates how small fossil findings and assumptions can lead to big discoveries that then get reported as fact. Watch with your child if you are concerned about the evolutionary content.

Weekly Routine for This Subject

Lessons are set out to be completed twice a week. There are reading and notebooking activities to complete each day. It is expected that the child can work on these lessons independently.

Your child will be making a notebook which will include their lesson findings. There is no right way to do this and we encourage you to let them do it in a way they like. If they are struggling to do this then you can give them some ideas but ultimately, we want this to be an independent activity. A botany book works well as they can also add pictures if desired.



Reading List

You will need these companion resources:

- *The Archaeology Book* by David Down © 2010 to complete the notebooking exercises.
- The Bible: The Book of Genesis
- A Bible atlas or maps in the back of a Bible may also come in handy as a reference.

Book of Centuries

This year we will continue our Book of Centuries. If you haven't started one before, now is a good time to start. This will continue to be used for the high school years.

Dates that can be recorded in their Book of Centuries are added to this resource. Other dates can be added other if desired.

You can make a Book of Centuries, download a free one or buy one. For detailed instructions see our Homeschool Teaching 101 Course. Instructions for making your own can be found in the Before You Start section of this course.

LESSON ONE

The Origins of Human History

Read Genesis 1 – 2

Biblical World View

This term we will teach Ancient history from a Biblical world view.

“A biblical worldview begins with God in Genesis, chapter one and verse one. A Biblical worldview is viewing the world, the beginning of the world, people in the world, the problems in the world, governments in the world, issues in the world, solutions for the problems in the world, and the future of the world -- through God’s Word.” Ethan Pope

Who wrote Genesis?

Although the authorship of Genesis is attributed to Moses, some scholars believe that Moses compiled the books of antiquity into one book—Genesis, and at times made a few editorial comments. They cite the closing signature sentences of the authors as evidence. Every time we see the phrase *“This is the book of the generations of...”*, the name used in that phrase is most likely the author of that portion of scripture. (PJ Wiseman).

For example: The Book of God. An eyewitness account of Creation. The Book of Adam Gen. 2:5-5:2. The Book of Noah. Gen. 5:3-6:9a. The Book of The Sons of Noah Gen. 10:2-11:10a

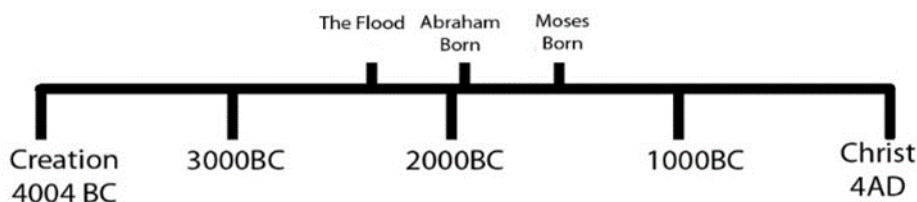
Our First Date —4000BC

James Ussher, an Irish archbishop in the 17th century, did a very comprehensive study of the chronology of the Bible. His dates appeared in the Kings James Version for many years and we will be using those dates for most of the Biblical history timeline. These dates are based on the Masoretic text (Hebrew Text).

These dates **are not meant to be interpreted as an exact representation** but rather an approximate educated assumption. Giving a time framework will help you see the Bible sequentially and also tie in some secular history with Biblical history.

The Bible date for Creation is estimated at being around 4000 years before Jesus Christ

CREATION TO CHRIST TIMELINE



The Spade—Archaeology

Sometimes you might read different dates to what the Bible says for kingdoms and events. This has made some people struggle with the dates that the Bible uses. In the Encyclopaedia Britannica, a footnote about the changing of the dates for the Kings of Israel said that the revision to Ussher's dates had been made because of revelations from "*the spade and archaeology.*"

Most dates begin to line up with the Bible with Nebuchadnezzar around 597 BC. This is called the Exile in Jewish history.

Archaeology is a science dating from the 1800's. It is historic in nature and often the findings are more assumptions based on theory rather than repeatable testing to examine a hypothesis. For this reason, archaeologist's findings can differ. Take the city of Nineveh as an example. For many years archaeologists claimed that it did not exist until it was discovered by Austen Henry Layard in 1847.

What Does BC Mean?

BC means before Christ was born. AD actually stands for a Latin phrase *anno domini* which means in the year of our Lord. 1 AD was meant to signify the birth of Christ which they now date from 4-6 BC.

This dating system was not used in the Bible

but it came into use around the 4th Century AD as a way to reflect that the birth of Christ was a turning point in world history.

B.C.E (Before the Common Era) and C.E (Current Era) is a secular dating term that has replaced BC and AD. This has been adopted by some historians who do not wish to use dates that acknowledge the Christian creed.

Prepare Your Book of Centuries

A Book of Centuries is a timeline book. You will make entries into your Book of Centuries as you come across dates, events and people.

Each week dates are given to add to your Book of Centuries. You can also add other dates if desired. Sometimes these dates are approximate dates as accepted dates can differ depending on what reference books you are using. This won't matter. The aim is to get an idea of the general flow of history.

If you don't already have a Book of Centuries then there are instructions in your My Homeschool Virtual Cupboard to make your own.

LESSON TWO:

Genealogy of Ancient Man

Read Genesis 4 to 5:29

Man is Made in the Image of God and He has Work to Do!

Man was made differently to the animals and God gave him a job. He was to be a wise steward of God's creation. After the fall he still had work to do but it became more difficult.

The Promise.

Adam, Eve and the serpent all had a curse placed on them after they sinned. But God also had a plan for redemption. Genesis 3:15 is generally seen as the first prophecy of the Messiah.

Seth is Adam and Eve's third son. From his descendants Noah is born.

Who Was Cain's Wife?

In the Bible it says that Adam and Eve had other sons and daughters (he lived to be 930 after all). In those days brothers and sisters could have married. If close relatives were permitted to marry today we would have many defects for we all carry imperfect genes.

Men of Technology

Genesis 4:17—24 gives us some of the history of Cain and his descendants. Notice the technology and skills in this age. These men built cities, played and made instruments, worked with metals to make tools, lived in tents and raised cattle.

This is quite different from the evolutionary


representation of primitive man that says man moved from cave to tent, to wandering around with animals, and then he worked out how to make fences and then VOILA! —a city!

A Common Language

The Bible tells us that from Adam to the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11) the whole world spoke one language. Some scholars believe it was a form of Hebrew. One of the reasons for this is that many of the early names still have meaning in Hebrew but not in other languages. Another argument is that when Noah compiled the books written from Adam to Noah he didn't rewrite them in a different language, for example when he made an editorial comment he used the original language like Ephrath and made a comment that it is now called Bethlehem. All claims that Hebrew is not the original language are based on the assumption that "men made up language" but so far no one has figured out how someone could have done this.

As Old as Methuselah

Have you ever heard the expression that someone is "as old as Methuselah"? This



refers to the oldest man in the Bible. In Genesis Chapter 5 of the Bible we are given a chronology of Adam's descendants. This is not a record of all the people born after Adam but rather a record of his family tree that traces to Noah.

Look at **Adam's Family Tree** (found on the next page). Before the flood men had long lifespans. Why?

These and many other factors may have led to man's much shorter lifespan after the flood.

◇ Original man was perfect and genetically free from inherited diseases with each new generation more sicknesses and diseases were introduced.

◇ The earth's climate after the flood was dramatically different than it was before the flood.

◇ man's dietary habits went from solely plant-based to one where meat was eaten.

The Story of Noah

The story of Noah is pivotal in the history of mankind. It can be broken down into two periods: Before the Flood and After the Flood.

The first part of Noah's book begins with a genealogy from Adam to Noah. This genealogy also appears in 1 Chronicles 1:1—4 and Luke 3:36—38.

There are 10 generations and eight rulers. (Enoch went to heaven before his father's death and Methuselah also outlived his son

Lamech).

Some ancient writings record the flood and the generations before the flood. King's list dug up in Sumer show 8 kings before the flood. Gilgamesh, an ancient poem from Sumer, depicts a flood story extremely similar to Noah's flood.

Were Noah's Sons Triplets? Genesis 5:32.

"And Noah was five hundred years old; and Noah begot Shem, Ham, and Japheth."

The landmark date for Noah was not his sons' births but rather the flood. The age of Noah at his son's birth were not given exactly according to Noah's age like all the other dates in the genealogy. His genealogy was recorded from the flood. The flood occurred when he was 600 and he died 350 years after the flood. Scholars have worked out Seth's birth date to be when Noah was 502 using Seth's genealogy and flood dates.

Kinds of Animals on the Boat!

God brought the animals to Noah and they were all different kinds. That does not mean there was every variation of one kind. How many types of dogs can you think of? Well Noah only needed to put one KIND of dog on the boat, not a whole range of varieties of dog species like poodles, bull dogs, dingos and greyhounds.

The Science of Noah's Flood?

This story is often seen as just a fable for little kids. Pictures depict a tiny boat with a Noah

and his wife plus a menagerie of animals on deck. (Where were the dinosaurs?) This representation is unhelpful because it makes the story seem ridiculous.

Noah's flood was a catastrophic event in human history. With such a catastrophe taking place you would expect to find some evidence of this event.

Geological evidence for The Flood can be seen in fossils. Up until Darwin's theory emerged everyone just assumed that fossils were created in The Flood. In short, large portions of animals were quickly fossilized during the flood, some even had food in their mouths. Deep valleys were also carved out of stone from flood waters receding.

Note: More discussion can be found on this topic by looking at the Creation verses Evolution debate.

NOTEBOOKING ENTRY

Write about something you have learned in this lesson.

BOOK OF CENTURIES

4004BC Creation – This is the first date that we use.

Grey dates are the BC dates to be used in your Book of Centuries.

2348BC—Noah's flood date

Genealogy of Adam	Year Born after Creation	Born BC (BOC)	Age at Time of Death	Year Died BC (BOC)
Adam	Day Six after creation	4004 BC	930 years old	3074 BC
Seth	130 years after creation	3874 BC	912 years old	2962 BC
Enos or Enosh	235 years after creation	3769 BC	905 years old	2864 BC
Cainan or Kenan	325 years after creation	3679 BC	910 years old	2769 BC
Mahalaleel	395 years after creation	3609 BC	895 years old	2714 BC
Jared	460 years after creation	3544 BC	962 years old	2582 BC
Enoch	622 years after creation	3382 BC	365 years old - He did not die. (Gen 5: 21 – 24)	3017 BC
Methuselah	687 years after creation	3317 BC	969 years old	2348 BC
Lamech	874 years after creation	3130 BC	777 years old	2353 BC
Noah	1056 years after creation	2948 BC	950 years old	1998 BC