

The True History in the Holy Scriptures

by Benjamin R. Chapman

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

The importance of beginning at the beginning

To make a study of ancient history, especially to specialize on the ages-old history of the beginning of the world as contained in the Bible, it is appropriate to begin *at the beginning - Creation*.

It seems that most historians like to start in the present - or even start in the unknown future! Many prefer to begin their studies with the unknowable subject of the return of our Savior Jesus Christ, then attempt to trace back to Creation. Many prophets have tried to establish this date by vain attempts at understanding mysterious scriptures, or by simply guessing, or listening to a prophet about a date, which God's Word has told us that no one can know when this *is going to be!* Some scholars have figured 4004 B.C. (Bullinger), 4008 B.C. (Ussher) or 4026 B.C. (Hoeh) as the date for Creation, or some other magical date. The latest paper I have read on this subject doesn't speculate on the beginning date but the date Jesus is coming back to this earth: 2028 A.D.! Who really knows?

Of course, these starting dates or return dates are based on the fact that most Christians believe in a Master Plan originated by God which will take seven thousand years to complete. The Bible clearly talks about a thousand-year Millennium during which Jesus Christ Himself, as King of kings and Lord of lords, will rule righteously with a strong hand. Since man was given six days in the week to work and do all his pleasure, and then to rest on the seventh day to worship God and study His Word, he also figures that the first six thousand years of man's history are for him to do his work, form his governments and societies, and the seventh one thousand years are for God to show those who are left of mankind after the terrible events of the near-future Great Tribulation how to be really happy and prosperous, with happy marriages and families, worshiping the One and only true God! This common belief is based on what we read in 2 Peter 3:8, Ex 20:8-11 and Rev 20:2-7 (all scriptural references quoted in this History are taken from the King James Version of the Bible, any emphasis mine):

“3:8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that *one day* is with the Lord as *a thousand years*, and *a thousand years* as *one day*.”

“20:8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy, 9. *Six days* shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: 10. But *the seventh day* is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any

work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy man servant, nor thy maid servant, nor thy cattle, nor the stranger that is within thy gates: 11 For *in six days* the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested *the seventh day*: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.”

“20:2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him *a thousand years*, 3. And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till *the thousand years* should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. 4. And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the work of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ *a thousand years*. 5. But the rest of the dead lived not again until *the thousand years* were finished. This is the first resurrection. 6. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him *a thousand years*. 7. And when *the thousand years* are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison.”

So why does puny man not want to believe the Scriptures? We read in Matt. 24:31-36 these very informative words:

“31. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. 32. Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: 33. So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. 34. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled. 35. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. 36. *But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.*”

End Time Events

Of course, not many people believe that Jesus is coming back to this earth even though He said so Himself in John 14:1-3:

“1. Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2. In my Father’s house are many mansions [offices]: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3. And if I go and prepare a place for you, *I will come again*, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”

Acts 1:9-11 confirmed to his early disciples this fact:

“9. And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up, and a cloud received him out of their sight. 10. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; 11. Which also said, Ye men of

Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, *shall so come in like manner* as ye have seen him go into heaven.”

Jesus came to understand His great calling, what He had to do on earth, and what was in His future. Read John 17:3-5:

“3. And this is life eternal that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. 4. I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. 5. And now, O Father, *glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.*”

As end-time catastrophic events take place, man may realize that Christ’s return is close, but it has not been revealed to mankind the exact date of our Savior’s return! Only God the Father knows when this is going to be! So why waste time trying to second-guess God? Why not start discussing the beginning *with the beginning*, not the end!

Perhaps in the years since His resurrection back into the God Family, Jesus and His Father may have discussed this all-important topic, but there is absolutely no biblical evidence that any human has been informed of this fact! Not a one of the so-called prophets has even been close. Maybe in the future, some true prophet of God may be given some important facet of this truth, but only if it is necessary to accomplish some great responsibility outlined by the Eternal God.

You might say, Surely the Apostles and Early Church knew about His second coming. Not so, for we can read the attitude of the first century Church in Acts 1:6-8, 15:

“6. When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? 7. And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. 8. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.... 15. And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,)”

One hundred and twenty disciples had no definitive idea when Christ was to return! They thought His return was to be in their lifetime. They understood very little about their job! They had no grasp of the great Plan of God, which was to take seven thousand years.

Nor did the Apostles! Only later in life did they fully come to understand that there was going to be lots of time before Jesus’ return. They did think His return was eminent in their lifetime. See I Thess. 4:16-17:

16. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17. Then *we which*

are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Here, the Apostle Paul thought Christ was coming in his lifetime! But later he wrote an epistle to Timothy in which he showed his increased understanding, 2 Tim. 4:6-8:

“6. For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: 8. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”

I wonder if Paul realized it would be several millennia later? The time was not the important thing in Paul's mind. He knew he had a job to do. In that same chapter in 2 Timothy, verses 11-13, he was telling his readers about the coming New Testament, a work which he was to contribute to its canonization!

“11. Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable for me for the ministry. 12. And Tychicus have I sent to Ephesus. 13. The cloke that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and *the books, but especially the parchments.*”

The entire Old Testament and New Testament canonization's was thoroughly covered by Dr. Earnest L. Martin in his doctoral thesis *Design and Development of The Holy Scriptures* in 1965. I do not plan to cover this subject at all, since Dr. Martin has already done such a masterful job!

Indeed, the Bible does outline many end-time events which to those who believe in the True God and His Son Jesus Christ will make it very apparent that Jesus' return is near. For instance, when we see the Great Tribulation mentioned in Matthew's Chapter 24 begin or the incredible heavenly signs foretelling the day of the Lord shining brightly in the skies, the world will know that the Lord's long-awaited return is near. How can anyone miss these great events? Read Matt. 24:15-22 and verses 29-30:

“15. When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) 16. Then let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains: 17. Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: 18. Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. 19. And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! 20. And pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: 21. For then shall be *great tribulation*, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.... 29. Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: 30. And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and *they shall see the Son of man coming* in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”

We know that many different awe-inspiring events will occur even before we see the heavenly signs. The Apostle Paul warned the first-century Church about false teachers and false apostles who would deceive Christians. See II Thess. 2:1-4:

“1. Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, 2. That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. 3. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that *man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition*; 4. Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.”

You need not worry. There will be plenty of signs telling mankind that His day is near! Our responsibility is to be ready!

Indeed, the Apostles didn't even know. So how could puny man know? Answer: They don't! The best they can do is make guesses and so far they have always been wrong.

My Goal in this Study

So, what is my goal? It is *not* to start with some unknown future date about Christ's return to this Earth. Rather, my plan is to start with the beginning B with the Creation of our world as we know it today. I will start with God's Creation that He specifically formed for man. Many years later Christ came to this Earth to reveal His Father and to show man how he could receive the Holy Spirit as a begettal and qualify for membership in God's Family. But that's many years after Creation and a world of chapters about how man has failed to make the grade. But we will see that occasionally a righteous man has qualified for the ultimate reward of being born into the very Family of God.

0 A.M. The obvious way I'm going to do this is with *dates*. So I will start with the
Creation Genesis 1 Creation as *Year 0*. I will use the A.M. dating scheme (which means in Latin *anno mundi*, or year of the world). Who could argue with this? In E. W. Bullinger's famous *Companion Bible* in older editions, Appendix 53, the first column of dates is devoted to A.M. Dates. He, of course, starts with Creation as *0 A.M.* It is not necessary, nor important, at this point to argue about the age of the earth? Is it a young earth as some propose, or is it billions of years old as geologists and paleontologists maintain? The age of the world is not my concern now.

All events in this study will begin with a definite, unarguable, date: Genesis 1 Creation at 0 A.M. I will use biblical information whenever available since the basis of this study is God's Word. John tells us in John 17:17:

“17. Sanctify them through thy truth: *thy word is truth.*”

As a Christian and biblical scholar, who firmly believes in God’s Word, why would I want to start with any other source? All historical facts must agree with the Bible. Next, works written by Biblical scholars will be used, especially Dr. Herman L. Hoeh’s *Compendium of World History* and *The Works of Flavius Josephus*. Then secular historians may help fill in the gaps, but any conclusions they may present must agree with the Holy Bible!

Groundwork and a master plan are important to begin any project. Some hard-to-understand historical events may be difficult to grasp; some may even be impossible to get right! But certainly starting with the return of Jesus Christ is not the way to go! I will logically go through the Bible in its original inspired order in each of my chapters, occasionally branching into other histories as they concur with the Bible. I have not even begun to dream up all the subjects I will be covering in each chapter. But to me it is an exciting undertaking, and I hope will be a profitable and informative work to all Christians.