

Time Line

by

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Outline of Time Line

Introduction	This page
Dominant world powers	Go
Time line before the birth of Jesus Christ in some detail.	Go
Some points to consider on dating in the period before the birth of Jesus Christ	Go
Time line after the birth of Jesus Christ	Go
The eleventh to fifteenth century	Go
The sixteenth century	Go
The seventeenth century	Go
The eighteenth century	Go
The nineteenth century	Go
The twentieth century	Go
The twenty-first century	Go

Introduction

The time line started out as a small project for personal use - I like knowing when events took place. When some of my friends found out what I was up to, they requested a copy. With interest from others, I increased my efforts on the project, so that it has now grown to twenty pages. It is now a significant size, so it is time to publish. It is likely that I will come back to the work, but for the time being, I must cease and tackle other writing projects.

The focus of the time line is to aid the student of the Bible, so it unashamedly focuses on Christian events. It also mentions major secular events. Look up the year for the completion of the transcontinental rail line across the US, and you will find it was in the year 1869, which also happens to be the year the Suez Canal was completed.

Disclaimer

The author does not warrant that the information presented is without error. The information is presented 'as is'. Those wanting a high level of accuracy should consult other sources.

NB: Many of the early dates are not precise.

Learning

Learning requires confidence in the information. That is obtained by finding the same data in several sources. Occasionally you will find there is no agreement among scholars.

Dominant world powers

The student of the Bible should be familiar with the order of the world powers which influenced Israel. This chapter gives an outline of the kingdoms of the world. More dates are provided in the following chapter.

Dominant world powers in chronological order

- Akkad
- Egypt
- Assyria
- Babylon
- Persia
- Greek
- Rome

Nimrod

“Cush was the father of Nimrod who became a mighty warrior on the earth.” (Genesis 10:8).

“The first centres of his kingdom were Babylon, Erech, Akkad and Calneh, in Shinar. From that land he went to Assyria, where he built Nineveh ...” (Genesis 10:10).

So Nimrod is the world’s first chieftain. “Some scholars believe Nimrod was Sargon the Great, a powerful ruler over Accad ...” (Nimrod, *Nelson’s Illustrated Bible Dictionary*, © 2014, p. 809). Details on Sargon and the period in which he lived are understandably sketchy.

This is a dates app, however, there is no date for this period except a rough estimate. Nimrod was the great-grandson of Noah who was saved from the great flood in about 2,300 BC.

Akkad

Considered by many to be the first empire. The empire was established by Sargon of Akkad.

Egypt

1,700 (some put the date at 1,876 BC) Joseph enters Egypt.

1,446 The Exodus

Assyria

1,116 Babylon is conquered by Tiglath-Pileser I of Assyria.

967/966 The commencement of the building of Solomon’s Temple.

721 Samaria, comprised of the ten tribes of Israel to the north of Judah, are conquered by Sennacherib of Assyria (some put the conquest in 722 BC).

705-681 reign of Sennacherib (of Assyria) begins after assassination of his father, Sargon II, he reigns over Assyria and Babylonia.

701 Sennacherib threatens Jerusalem (Hezekiah is on the throne in Jerusalem). The army of Sennacherib receives heavy destruction from an angel. The remaining army withdraws from Jerusalem. (2 Kings 19:35-36).

Babylon

626 Nabopolassar establishes himself as king of Babylon. He is the founder of the Neo-Babylonian or Chaldean dynasty of Babylon.

612 Nineveh (Assyrian capital) destroyed by Babylonian forces under King Nabopolassar.

605 Egyptians defeated at Carchemish by the Babylonians. First year of King Nebuchadnezzar, son of Nabopolassar. Nebuchadnezzar is head of gold (DanIel. 2:32, 37-38).

586 Jerusalem destroyed by Babylonians.

Medes and Persians

539 Babylon under King Belshazzar is conquered by Medes and Persians (Dan. 2:32). The following year, Cyrus issues a decree ordering the restoration of the community and worship in Palestine.

538 The decree of Cyrus, formally ending the Babylonian captivity. This decree allowed the Jews to

return home and also rebuild the temple.

Greek

490 Persians defeated at Marathon by the Greeks.

334 Alexander crosses the Hellespont with 35,000 men on way to conquering Persia.

331 The crucial battle of Gaugamela in which Alexander defeats Darius. Susa, Persian capital is conquered by Alexander. He dies in 323.

Rome (Dan. 2:40-43)

190 Antiochus III of Syria defeated by the Romans.

168-63 Period of Hasmonaean kingdom in Israel. Founded by Judas Maccabee.

146 The Romans destroy Corinth and conquer Greece.

87 Athens conquered by Romans under General Sulla.

63 Jerusalem is conquered, actually comes under the command of General Pompey through invitation of leaders in Jerusalem because of the corruption and abuses of the ruling Hasmonaean dynasty.

In the time of the Roman Empire, God establishes the kingdom which will 'stand forever' (Dan. 2:45).

Time line before Christ in some detail

Many of the dates before Christ lack certainty. That is particularly the case with dates marked with an asterisk (*).

5,600 The creation of Adam This date derived from the Septuagint (LXX) and supported by the Jewish historian, Josephus.

4,713 Day one of *Julian Day* is 01 January 4,713 BC. *Julian Day* is used in astronomy and computing.

4,004 The year of creation according to Archbishop James Usher.

3,761 Year one in the Hebrew Calendar.

c. 3100 The unification of Egypt (*The Encyclopedia of Ancient Egypt*, p. 22).

c. 2925- c. 2775 First dynasty of Egypt. The dating of the first dynasty is an area of scholarly debate. Wikipedia dates the period to 3,218 - 3,035 BC.

The history of man

Please note that there is no reliable date for the history of man which goes back beyond 5,600 BC. Stories of man's existence before 5,600 BC are in the realm of myth.

1,876 King Sesostris III "According to the biblical data, Jacob and his family entered Egypt around 1,876 B.C. which would have been during the reign of King Sesostris III of the 12th Dynasty." (Haley's Bible Handbook, 25th Edition, 2007, p. 128).

Pharaoh in time of Exodus (1,446 BC) was probably **Amenhotep** II from 18th dynasty (middle kingdom).

2,300 * The Great Flood.

1,900 * Abraham enters promised land.

1,790 * King Hammurabi of Babylon (c 1790-1750) developed the Hammurabi Law Code.

1,700 * Jacob enters Egypt.

1,446 * Date of Exodus. Some place date at approx. 1,280 B.C. See note below at end of BC dates.

1,406 The Jews cross the Jordan River and enter the promised land (Joshua 1:2).

1274 The *Battle of Kadesh*. A large battle between Egyptian and Hittite forces. Thousands of chariots were involved. There was no clear winner.

1,116 Babylon is conquered by Tiglath-Pileser I of Assyria

1,000 * King David reigns.

967 The foundation to King Solomon's Temple laid. Scholars have dated this event fairly precisely.

931 The nation of Israel is divided. Ten tribes to the north split from Judah and Benjamin to the south (1 Kings 11:31-36).

740 King Uzziah dies, beginning of prophet Isaiah's ministry

753 Rome founded.

721 Samaria (city) conquered by Assyria. The provincial towns were gradually conquered by Assyria over three years (2 Kings 17:1-6).

701 Sennacherib, King of Assyria, marshals his army against Jerusalem, then withdraws after an angel sent from God destroys a large portion of his army (2 Kings 19:35).

612 Nineveh (Assyrian capital) destroyed by Babylonians.

605 Egyptians defeated at Carchemish (in the northern part of Syria) by the Babylonians.

600 * Zoroastrianism begins. Some place the date at 1,500 B.C.

586 Jerusalem destroyed by Babylonians.

539 Babylon Conquered by Medes and Persians. The following year, Cyrus issues a decree ordering

the restoration of the community and worship in Palestine.

536 Return of Zerubbabel to Jerusalem.

525 With Persian conquest of Egypt, Pharaoh Psamtik III is deposed.

515 2nd temple (in Jerusalem) completed.

510 Roman Republic begins with the expulsion of Tarquin the Proud. It ends in 27 BC with the proclamation of Augustus as the first Roman Emperor.

560 About this time, Siddharta Gautama, later known as *Budda* (enlightened one) was born in north eastern India. After meditating under a bodhi tree, usually shortened to just Bo (the year is not known) he received new ideas which led him to reject Hinduism. Buddhism has spread into Asian countries, and is now the fourth largest religion after Christianity, Islam and Hinduism.

500 * Confucius in China, gives his sayings.

400 By this date it is known that the square root of 2 is irrational (1.41421356 to the eight decimal place). The discovery of irrational numbers is sometimes ascribed to Hippasus c. 530 - c. 450 BC.

490 Persians defeated at Marathon by the Greeks.

334 In Spring, Alexander (Greek) crosses the Hellespont (Dardanelles) with 35,000 men on way to conquering Persia.

331 Susa, Persian capital is conquered by Alexander.

323 Death of Alexander the Great.

200 * To as late as 150 B.C. for translation of Hebrew Old Testament into Greek; the *Septuagint* (LXX).

190 Antiochus III of Syria is defeated by the Romans.

168-63 Period of Hasmonaean kingdom in Israel. Founded by Judas Maccabee.

87 Athens is conquered by Romans under General Sulla.

63 Jerusalem comes under the command of the Roman General, Pompey, through invitation of leaders in Jerusalem because of the corruption and abuses of the ruling Hasmonean dynasty.

55 In this year, and again in the next, Julius Caesar conducts raids into Britain. He suffers heavy losses. The raids are a propaganda exercise for his supporters in Rome.

52 The battle of Alesia, situated in Gaul (France), Julius Caesar defeats the forces of Vercingetorix.

51 Gaul is secured as a Roman province.

49 On 10 January. Julius Caesar crosses the northern boundary (Rubicon River) into Italy. Becomes dictator of Rome.

48 Caesar defeats General Pompey at Pharsala in Greece. The armies meet on 09 August. Pompey flees to Egypt where he is murdered the following year (47) on order of the Egyptian boy-king Ptolemy XII.

44 Ides of March - (15th March), three days before he was due to go on a military campaign, Caesar is assassinated by Roman senators (stabbed 23 times). Mark Antony seizes power. Octavian (adopted son of Caesar) has son of Caesar and Cleopatra (Caesarian) killed because he was a political threat.

43 Triumvirate of Octavian, Antony and Lepidus rule Rome.

31 By this year, Octavian rules alone.

30 Egypt conquered by Romans.

27 Octavian given supreme power and title of Augustus. The first Roman Emperor.

4 Death of Herod the Great.

6-4 The birth of Jesus Christ.

Some points to consider on dating prior to the birth of Jesus Christ

Dating of Egyptian Kings

Ancient Egyptian chronology has many problems. Egyptologist Sir Alan Gardiner wrote that: “Even when full use has been made of the king lists and of such subsidiary sources as have survived, the indispensable dynastic framework of Egyptian history shows lamentable gaps and many a doubtful attribution ... What is proudly advertised as Egyptian history is merely a collection of rags and tatters.” (Gardiner, A., *Egypt of the Pharaohs*, p. 53, Oxford University Press, London, UK, 1964. Cited in creation.com/egyptian-history-and-the-biblical-record-a-perfect-match, 3 December 2013).

Pharaoh

One authority makes the point that the term, ‘Pharaoh’ came into use around 1500 BC, and that the word was originally used to describe the palace of the king. (Pharaoh, *Nelson’s Illustrated Bible Dictionary*, p. 884). According to Wikipedia, the term ‘Pharaoh’ came into use during the reign of **Thutmose III** (ca 1479-1425 BC).

The Bible uses the term ‘Pharaoh’ when referring to the king of Egypt, e.g. Exodus 4:21, 5:1, 2.

The Exodus - 1446 BC

“In the four hundredth and eightieth year after the Israelites had come out of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon’s reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv, the second month, he began to build the temple of the Lord.” (1 Kings 6:1).

One author makes the following point. “Most evangelical scholars generally believe the date for the commencement of the building of the Temple (the fourth year of Solomon’s reign) is in May 967 or 966 BC, this would place the Exodus at around 1446 or 1445 BC (some suggest a date earlier of around 1491 BC. To prefer a late Exodus date of 1267 BC, the 480th year referred to in Scripture would have to be allegorised. The main reasons scholars do this is their deference to secular archaeological interpretations and the dates attached to them. Ramses II’s reign was c. 200 years after the biblical date for the Exodus (even by secular dating of his reign). Egyptologist and biblical scholar Doug Petrovich favours the early Exodus Date. In addition to the biblical evidence, he writes:

“A compelling argument for choosing 1446 BC is that the Jubilee cycles agree with this date exactly, yet are completely independent of the 479+ years of 1 Kings 6:1. The Jubilee dates are precise only if the priests began counting years when they entered the land in 1406 BC (cf. Lev. 25:2-10)”.

1267 BC - Late exodus date to around 1280 BC

This date is associated with Ramses II (the Great). Exodus 1:11 states that the Israelites built the store cities of Pithom and Raamses (Pi-Ramses). Some scholars use this to favour a ‘late Exodus’ date of 1267 BC. However, scribes changed the name Avaris to Ramses to keep the Scriptures up to date with current facts. So the location is best referred to as Avaris/Ramses.

The year of the birth of Jesus Christ

Our dating system, known as the Anno Domini dating system was devised in 525 by Dionysius Exiguus. His intention being that year one starts at the year Christ was born. It is now widely believed that his work contained errors. He missed some little-known short-lived emperors. King Herod (Matthew 2:7) died in 4 BC. Jesus was born before the death of Herod, most likely in the period 5 - 7 BC.

Another date which is debated has to do with the year of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It was most likely on 03 April in the year 30 AD. Given that he was born around five or six BC, that would make him about thirty-five or thirty six at the time. Some prefer a date three years later (33 AD). All are agreed on the day and month. It was on the fifteenth day in the Jewish lunar month of Nissan (on a full moon).

Go to top [Go](#)

Time line after the birth of Jesus Christ

27 BC to August 14 AD Augustus reigns as the first Roman Emperor.

05 Romans acknowledge Cymbeline as king of Britain.

14-37 Tiberius is emperor. The ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is during his reign.

26 to 36 Pontius Pilate is treasury officer (procurator) for the Romans.

30 On the 15th day in the Jewish month of Nissan (03 April) Jesus Christ was crucified. The 15th day of the lunar month is a full moon. Some scholars believe this momentous event took place in the year

33 on 15th day of Nissan.

37 - 41 Gaius Caligula is emperor.

41-54 Claudius I is emperor - He began the permanent conquest of Britain. Previous conquests were temporary.

43 Romans under Aulus Plautius Claudius (Claudius I) invade Britain. They, under the command of Vespasian, defeat the English at the 'Battle of the Medway'.

49 Council of Jerusalem. The first general council of the Church. It determined that it was not necessary for Christians to follow Jewish laws (Acts 15:5-35).

66 In May the Zealots (major Jewish political party) massacred the Roman garrison in Jerusalem. In spite of early Jewish victories, Titus surrounded Jerusalem four years later in 70 AD. Taking heed of Christ's warnings (Matt. 24:15), Christians flee to Pella beyond Jordan and were saved.

69-79 Vespasian is Emperor of Rome.

70 Titus, son of Vespasian destroys Jerusalem.

77 The Roman conquest of Britain, Emperor is Vespasian.

79-81 Titus is emperor of Rome.

110 Ignatius was a student of the apostle John and Bishop of Antioch. He was arrested for refusing to worship idols. He was taken to Rome where he was martyred.

117-138 Hadrian is emperor.

120 By this time, Londinium (London) has displaced Colchester as the capital of Roman Britain.

126 The Pantheon was completed in this year during the reign of Emperor Hadrian.

128 Hadrian's Wall is completed between Scotland and England.

132 Jewish revolt (Bar Kokhba Revolt). Jews capture Jerusalem from Roman forces. This victory only lasts three years.

135 The Jewish revolt is brutally crushed by the Romans under emperor Hadrian (emperor 117-138) Jerusalem is destroyed. The final expulsion of the Jews. Hadrian made Jerusalem a Roman City, it is renamed Aelia Capitolina and a statue of the chief of the Roman gods, Jupiter, is installed in the temple. Jews are forbidden from worshipping in Jerusalem. Romans rename Judea **Palestine** in honour of their former enemy, the Philistines. In this brutal, forceful way the Roman army (or rather God) brings the Old Testament sacrificial system to an end because, "it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins." (Hebrews 10:4).

Under Emperor Constantine, Jerusalem gets its true name back.

200 By about this date, the ban on Jews visiting Jerusalem is not strictly enforced.

303 Emperor Diocletian orders persecution of Christians.

312 The Battle of the Milvian Bridge in which Constantine is victorious over Maxentius to become Roman Emperor. Constantine is converted to Christianity just before the battle.

313 Edict of Milan. Emperor Licinius (eastern empire) and Emperor Constantine (western empire) allows Christianity in the Roman Empire.

321 Emperor Constantine declares Sunday (the first day of the week, Mark 16:9) to be a day of rest.

324 Emperor Constantine unites the two halves of the Roman Empire.

325 Council of Nicea. Emperor Constantine convenes a general council of the Church which affirms that Jesus is fully God.

337 Constantine abolishes crucifixion throughout the empire out of respect for Jesus Christ.

360 Books begin to replace scrolls in the Roman Empire.

- 381 Christianity is declared to be the state religion of the Roman Empire.
- 393 The Council of Hippo (north Africa) sets the canon of the Bible. The list of books which make up the New Testament of the Bible needed to be formally determined to avoid erroneous writings from making a presence in the list. A list of twenty-seven books were approved. The thirty-nine books which make up the Old Testament had been determined centuries earlier. The Bible has sixty-six books.
- 395 The end of the reign of Theodosius. He was a very capable administrator who advanced Christianity. In this year the empire is permanently divided. The sons of Theodosius are appointed to rule. Honorius governs the west from Rome and Arcadius the east from Constantinople. They are not as capable as their father, leading to a weakening of the empire. See year 410.
- 410 Alaric, the Gothic leader conquers Rome.
- 410-411 The Romans retreat from Britain.
- 451 The council of Chalcedon agreed that the term 'Pope' be used exclusively for pope Leo the Great (390-461) and his successors in Rome.
- 452 The Huns threaten Rome, and three years later, the Vandals. On both occasions Pope Leo negotiates peace. These actions elevate the status of the Pope.
- 525 The Anno Domini dating system is devised by Dionysius Exiguus. History is split BC / AD. *Anno Domini* means, 'in the year of our Lord'.
- 596 Pope Gregory sends Augustine along with forty monks to evangelise England.
- 622 The 'Hegira' - Muhammad flees from persecution in Mecca to Medina. Year one in the Muslim calendar. Mecca has become the holiest site for Muslims, followed by Medina, then Jerusalem.
- 638 Muslim forces capture Jerusalem.
- 691 Muslims build the *Dome of the Rock* on the site where Solomon built the temple. This action by Muslims (or rather by God) prevents Jews from building a temple and reintroducing sacrifices. "... it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins." (Hebrews 10:4), also "... we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." (10:10). God is determined to honour the 'once for all' sacrifice of His Son. The nations of the world can not prevail against the plan of God. "... he does according to his will ... and none can stay his hand ..." (Daniel 4:35).
- 732 Charles Martel conquers Islamic army in Europe.
- 782 Revival of learning in Europe under Charlemagne.
- 800 At around this time, the massive 15 volumes of the *Talmud* were completed for Judaism. The Talmud is the world's largest religious writing.
- 814 Arabs adopt Indian numbers (0-9).
- 856 - 875 Continuous Viking assaults on England.
- 887 Final separation of France and Germany.
- 932 Wood block printing used to mass produce brief documents in China.

The eleventh to fifteenth century

- 1000 Chinese perfect their invention of gunpowder.
- 1015 Canute the Dane invades England. He reigns 1016-1035.
- 1052 King Edward (*Edward the Confessor*) founds Westminster Abbey. He reigned 1042-1066.
- 1054 The Great Schism between the Eastern Orthodox Church and Roman Catholic. Actually a gradual process rather than a sudden break.
- 1066 On 24 April, Haley's Comet appears over the night sky of England. An ominous sign to many.
- 1066 Harold takes the throne, but only for 10 months. He is killed on 14 October.
- 1066 Battle of Hastings (14 October). William (Guillaume) of Normandy defeats and kills King Harold II (the last Anglo-Saxon king) at the battle of Hastings to become king.
- 1085 King William commissions the *Doomsday Book*. Survey was done the following year. The survey's primary purpose was to "... record the annual value of every piece of landed property to its lord ..." (Wikipedia). It was so called because its decisions were unalterable. The word *doom* was an Old

English term for a law or judgment. The book was valuable for taxation purposes.

1169 and 1170, Richard Fitz Gilbert (Strongbow) a powerful Anglo-Norman baron crosses into Ireland.

1170 Thomas Becket was murdered in Canterbury Cathedral on 29 December by knights of King Henry II.

1174 Peter Waldo is converted and founds the Waldensian Church which declares the Bible to be the sole authority for faith and practice. This group rejects the authority of the Pope. Pope Lucius declares them to be heretics in 1184.

1175 A treaty is signed which recognised the control of King Henry II and his barons over Ireland.

1202 Indian/Arabic numbers (0-9) introduced to Europe.

1203 King John of England has Arthur (his nephew) murdered.

1209 Pope Innocent III excommunicates King John of England.

1215 Magna Carta - Powerful barons force King John to sign a statement to their rights. Actually, just charter. The 'Magna' part comes several years later.

1228 The sixth crusade led by Emperor Frederick II recaptures Jerusalem. However, sixteen years later (in 1244), Egyptians recapture Jerusalem from the Christians.

1252 The Spanish Inquisition. Pope Innocent IV sanctions the use of torture. Heretics were handed over to the state to be burned to death, giving the Church a thinly veiled appearance of innocence regarding the barbaric practice.

1305 Popes removed to Avignon in France by Clement V to escape the political turmoil in Italy.

1377 Gregory XI transfers the papal court back to Rome.

1327 Pope John XXII Is deposed by Louis IV after he invades Italy.

1328-1347 King Louis IV is Holy Roman Emperor.

1340 English Parliament brings in laws ensuring taxation can only be imposed by parliament.

1341 English Parliament divided into two houses, the Lords and the Commons.

1348 The black death (bubonic plague) kills thousands in Europe (to 1352).

1351 Statute of Provisors. This Act forbids the sending of tax out of Britain to a religious power.

1353 Statute of Praemunire - English parliament forbids appeals to the pope.

1370 Steel crossbow used as a weapon of war.

1377 Gregory XI transfers the papal court back to Rome.

1384 The first complete Bible in English by Nicholas Hereford under the supervision of the English reformer, John Wycliffe.

1384 The death of John Wycliffe, known as the 'Morning Star' of the Protestant Reformation. He was such a prolific writer that even his enemies were amazed. Students from Bohemia came to Oxford and took his teachings back to Prague. His teachings influence John Huss, Erasmus, Martin Luther and many others.

1395 Lollard Bible.

1410-1415 John XXIII is pope; officially antipope.

He should not be confused with Pope John XXIII who in the 1960s set in motion the Vatican II Council.

The 15th century

John XXIII was one of three claiming to be Pope. He made the Medici Bank the official Vatican Bank. This enhanced the wealth and power of himself and family.

1413 (1413-1422), the reign of King Henry V. He is the first King of England to correspond in English for over 300 years - since the reign of William the Norman king who defeated King Harold in 1066. He promoted the use of English in government instead of Norman French.

1415 On 06 July, Jan Huss, a Bohemian reformer was burnt at the stake because of his writings which opposed the false teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, which included the sale of indulgences.

1415 The battle of Agincourt on 25 October. King Henry V of England had an overwhelming victory

against the French with 1,500 casualties against 10,000 French casualties.

1453 The Ottomans capture Constantinople (renamed Istanbul) and destroy the Christian Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire.

1455 Guttenberg produces the 'Guttenberg' Bible, an edition of the Vulgate. It is the first major book produced by his newly invented moveable (adjustable) type press. This marks the beginning of the printing revolution.

1476 William Caxton sets up the first printing press in England, at Westminster.

1485 Battle of Bosworth - Henry Tudor, Earl of Richmond defeats and kills King Richard III. He becomes Henry VII, King of England.

1492 Christopher Columbus (an Italian under Spanish authority) discovers America.

1493 Pope Alexander VI divides New World between Spain and Portugal. The boundary line is simplistic, it fails to consider ethnic groups.

Return to [Top](#)

The sixteenth century

1509 - 1547 Henry VIII is king of England (born 1491). Under his reign, the English Reformation is initiated. His desire to make England a significant European power was pursued from **1515** by his Lord Chancellor, Cardinal Wolsey.

1509 In this year, King Henry VIII brings in a law which rules that only the king and his close family can legally wear purple or gold silk.

1515 - 1560 Reign of Mary, Queen of Scots (Scotland). Mary married her cousin, Henry Stuart, also known as Lord Darnley. He was a Catholic which caused powerful Protestant lords to revolt. The rebellion was quashed. There was romance between Mary and Bothwell. Lord Darnley, her husband was murdered when his house was blown up. She then married Bothwell. Her unpopularity because of the murder reached such a high level that she was forced to abdicate in favour of her son James in 1567 (James VI King of the Scots). He was James I, first Stuart King of England and Ireland (1566-1625). She became involved in a plot to kill her cousin, Queen Elizabeth in 1586. She was found guilty of treason. She was beheaded on 08 February 1587. NB: Not to be confused with 'bloody Mary' who ruled England around thirty years prior (from 1553-1558).

1516 An improved Greek text is produced by Erasmus.

1517 On 31 October 1517, on the eve of *All Saints Day*, held on 01 November by the Roman Catholic Church. Luther nailed 95 theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. This is the beginning of the Protestant Reformation in earnest.

1521 Diet (conference) of Worms - Luther is condemned as a heretic.

1521 On 11th October, Defender of the faith is title conferred on King Henry VIII by Pope Leo X after Henry wrote a book which supported Roman Catholic teaching on the sacraments and condemned the teaching of Martin Luther. Ironically, Henry later takes upon himself the title, Head of the Church (of England). This Church, under the influence of godly men opposes Roman Catholicism. The title *Defender of the Faith* continues to be held by British monarchs to this day.

1522 One of Magellan's ships (Spanish) completes the first circumnavigation of the world. Magellan is Portuguese.

1525 The publication of an accurate English translation of the New Testament portion of the Bible. The translation is carried out by William Tyndale under great difficulty and threat to his life from Roman Catholic authorities. He was eventually betrayed, captured, strangled and burnt in 1536.

1530 The **Augusberg Confession** (28 articles). A statement of Protestant beliefs, is drawn up in Augusberg Germany.

1531 Second civil war in Switzerland between Catholic and Protestant districts. Zwingli, the great Protestant reformer is killed.

1534 The *Act of Supremacy*. The Church of England is established as the official Church in England and King Henry VIII is proclaimed the head of the church. This act of parliament severely diminishes the influence of the Pope in England.

- 1535 On 04 October, Myles Coverdale (1488-1569) publishes, the first printed English Bible.
- 1535 Sir Thomas More (Roman Catholic) had served King Henry VIII as his Lord Chancellor until May 1532, was beheaded on 06 July 1535 on a charge of treason. He had refused to recognise the annulment of Henry's marriage to Catherine of Aragon. He also refused to take the *Oath of Supremacy*.
- 1536 Augusberg Confession is translated into English.
- 1536 Frenchman, John Calvin (1509-1564) publishes *The Institutes of the Christian Religion*. It has been translated into English and is still in print.
- 1536 On 06 October, William Tyndale is strangled and burnt at the stake. He had translated the New Testament from Greek into English. After encountering resistance to his work in England, he moved to Germany. His much loved New Testament was banned in England, so it was printed in Germany, and from there, smuggled into England. He kept himself hidden, but eventually he was found, betrayed, then strangled and burnt at the stake in Vilvorde, Belgium (near Brussels).
- 1541 **John Knox** who was taught by John Calvin, brings the reformation to Scotland.
- 1542 The beginning of the Roman Catholic Inquisition (it sanctioned the use of torture) by Pope Paul III. It was used to combat the Protestant Reformation.
- 1543 Alliance of Henry VIII of England and Charles V (Holy Roman Emperor) against France and Scotland.
- 1547 Edward VI becomes king upon the death of his father, Henry VIII. His mother was Jane Seymour, third wife of Henry. Edward negotiated the release of John Knox (he became a famous preacher in Scotland) from prison in France. Edward became sick and died in 1553. There are allegations that he was poisoned. He is followed by Queen Mary.
- 1549 *Book of Common Prayer* is published, it brings uniformity to Church of England services.
- 1553 *The Forty-two articles*. The work of Thomas Cranmer to advance biblical doctrine in the Church of England is published.
- 1553 - 1558 Queen Mary I (Bloody Mary) reigns (five years). Reintroduction of heresy laws against Protestants in 1554 resulted in almost 300 deaths at the stake.
- 1558 Queen Elizabeth I reigns (forty-five years) till her death in March 1603.
- 1560 Under the leadership of the Protestant reformer, John Knox, the Scottish Parliament makes Presbyterianism the state religion.
- 1562 - 1598 Wars in France between Roman Catholics and Protestants (Huguenots) 36 years.
- 1570 King Philip of Spain had Pope Pius V issue a papal bull on 25 February which excommunicated the English Queen Elizabeth I. It has little effect.
- 1571 A fleet of ships from Venice, Spain and the Papal States defeats the Ottoman Turks at Lepanto.
- 1576 Protestantism is forbidden in France, making the country firmly Roman Catholic.
- 1582 *Gregorian Calendar* introduced into Roman Catholic countries.
- 1587 Execution of Mary, Queen of Scots on charge of treason. She was involved in a plot to take the throne of Elizabeth I.
- England at war with Spain. Drake (English) destroys the Spanish fleet at Cadiz.
- 1588** English fleet defeats the Spanish Armada with help from strong gales.

Return to [Top](#)

The seventeenth century

- 1603 James I (and VI of Scotland) House of Stewart, becomes king of England. He is son of Mary, Queen of Scots who was beheaded in 1587. He reigns twenty-two years (till 1625).
- 1605 Gunpowder Plot - Guy Fawkes with several Roman Catholic conspirators attempts to blow up King James and the House of Lords. Leader of the plot was Robert Catesbury. Guy Fawkes is discovered in the early hours of 05 November guarding the gunpowder and is subsequently arrested. Immediately before his execution on 31 January 1606, he leapt from the scaffold where he was to be hanged and broke his neck, thus enduring a less painful death. 05 November was celebrated as '*Guy Fawkes Night*' with fireworks.
- 1607 First permanent white settlement of English settlers in America when John Smith founds a colony

in Jamestown, Virginia.

1609 John Smyth baptises himself and the first Baptists. The official beginning of the Baptist denomination.

1610 The followers of Jacobus Arminius (1560-1609) issue the *Remonstrance* which outlines the beliefs of what is known as Arminianism which opposes the biblical doctrine of election.

1611 Publication of a new translation of the scriptures into English under the commission of King James (in 1604). Hence, this version is known as the *King James Version (KJV)* or *Authorised Version (AV)*. In 1769 a major revision was released known as the *Oxford Standard Edition*, although it is still commonly referred to as the KJV.

1618 - 1648 The Thirty Years War - Actually a series of wars began when Holy Roman Emperor Ferdinand II of Bohemia attempted to curtail the religious activities of his subjects, sparking rebellion from Protestants. Several countries were drawn into the conflicts between Protestants and Catholics. The war ended with a series of treaties which made up the *Peace of Westphalia*. Campaigns were waged primarily in the area of modern Germany, with very high casualties. After this war, religion plays a diminished role in European politics.

1618-1619 The *Synod of Dort*. Held in the Netherlands town of Dort (Dordrecht). It upholds the orthodox Calvinistic position on election, predestination and related issues. It was directed against the Remonstrants or Arminians.

1620 Puritan Pilgrim Fathers from England (on the Mayflower) reach America.

1629 King Charles I of England dissolves parliament. He is sole ruler until 1640.

1633 The Roman Catholic Church forces Galileo to recant his theories on the Solar System.

1642 - 1649 Civil war in England.

1646 The *Westminster Confession of Faith* is produced. Drawn up in Westminster (1643-1646). This confession played a significant role in the English civil war. King Charles I tried to assert his authority over the Church of Scotland by installing his own bishops in the Church. The Church did not tolerate his interference in its affairs. The Church dismissed the King's appointed bishops and kept their own. The leaders of the Church in Scotland knew their action would infuriate the king, so they formed an army to defend their stance. King Charles sent a military force to Scotland to enforce his will. However, the Scots were well prepared, so they defeated his army. Charles decided to raise a larger force to defeat the Scots. In the meantime, the parliamentarians in England were having their own disagreements with Charles I which escalated into open warfare. King Charles wanted a dictatorial form of rule, while the parliamentarians wanted a greater say in the running of the country. The parliamentarians came under the very capable leadership of Oliver Cromwell. The Scots knew they needed the help of the parliamentarians in their fight against Charles, and likewise, the parliamentarians knew they need the help of the Scots. However, the Scots, who were very advanced in their grasp of protestant doctrine were somewhat hesitant to commit to an English cause which had not yet proclaimed a thoroughly protestant faith. They wanted to make sure Protestant bishops would stay in place in the Church (King Charles did not proclaim a protestant faith). It is in this context that one hundred and twenty men of solid faith gathered at Westminster to draw up a confession of faith. When the confession was completed, it was sent to Scotland for their approval. The Scots announced their approval of the confession. The confession was then sent to the parliament in London for their approval. The confession was rejected by parliament on the grounds that it did not have Scripture references. It was then sent back to Westminster to have the Scripture references inserted. From there the document was sent back to Scotland to be checked; they approved, and it was sent back to the English parliament and they approved. So, with all this hard labour and dedication, the Church of England gained a solid confession of faith.

The Baptists developed their confession of faith two years earlier (in 1644) which became the backbone of the long established *1689 Baptist Confession of Faith*. The *Philadelphia Confession* (1742) is a good revision of the 1689 confession.

1649 In January, King Charles I of England is beheaded. He was condemned by parliament on a charge of treason against his people. Lost his head by a majority of just one vote.

1653 Oliver Cromwell is named *Lord Protector*.

1662 The Great Ejection of the Non-conformists from the Church of England. It followed the 'ACT of Uniformity' in the same year which required among other things, the use of the *Book of Common Prayer*. Charles II was king.

1666 The Great Fire of London.

1673 & 1678 Test Acts. Only people in the established Church of England were eligible for public employment.

1675 The Royal Greenwich Observatory is founded for navigational purposes by King Charles II of England. The observatory was gradually transferred between 1698 to 1717 in search of clearer skies to Herstmonceux in Sussex.

1678 The famous Baptist, John Bunyan, writes the popular *Pilgrim's Progress* (still in print).

1679 *Habeas Corpus* Act passed, forbidding imprisonment without trial.

1682 William Penn founds Pennsylvania in USA.

1687 Sir Isaac Newton publishes '*Principia*'; his findings on motion and gravity.

1689 Toleration Act (May 24, 1689), act of Parliament granting freedom of worship to Nonconformists (i.e., dissenting Protestants such as Baptists and Congregationalists). In this year (1689) the *Baptist Confession of Faith* was published. 'Bill of Rights' in England establishes principle of constitutional monarchy and bars Catholics from the throne.

1689 William and Mary come to the throne.

1694 Bank of England founded in London.

1699 English naturalist Edward Tyson publicly proclaims similarities between the orangutan and humans, blurring the line between the two for the first time.

The eighteenth century

1701 The Act of Settlement. It excluded Roman Catholics from inheriting the throne, particularly the Roman Catholic Stuarts.

1707 Act of Union unites England and Scotland under one parliament.

1707 The birth of John Wesley. He became a powerful preacher in the open fields of England. He founded the Methodist Church. John died in 1791. NB. He lived in every decade of the eighteenth century.

1714 King George I (unpopular) takes the throne. This is the start of the Hanover dynasty which remains to this day. The family name was changed to Windsor in 1917, toward the end of WWI.

1714-1770 George Whitfield. The leading evangelist of the 18th century *Great Awakening* in Britain and the US.

1721 Walpole, the first British prime minister (to 1742. PM for 21 years!). Actually his title was, 'First Lord of the Treasury'. The first person with the PM title was Campbell Bannerman who officially had the title in 1905.

1737 The start of the Great Awakening under the powerful preaching of George Whitfield. Whitfield began with preaching daily and sometimes twice a day in the churches of Bristol and London. He later preached to huge crowds in the open air. He invited John Wesley to join him in the work. Historians attribute the Great Awakening to preventing a bloody revolution in England of the type which happened in France.

1742 King George II leads an army into battle at Dettingen, Germany. The last English king to lead an army into battle.

1752 On Wednesday 02 September Great Britain and her dominions switch from Julian calendar (365.25 days per year) to Gregorian calendar. The following day was Thursday 14th (11 days subtracted). In the Old Style Calendar, New Year's Day was on 25th March. The change to 01 January was adopted on the same day.

1759 The beginning of the English Industrial Revolution. Carron iron-works established and Bridgewater Canal constructed.

1759 British General James Wolfe defeats the French in Quebec, Canada. He is shot and dies in this battle.

- 1763 Treaty of Paris: Indian, Canadian, and West Indian land granted to the English.
- 1765 The British Parliament passed the *Stamp Act* in March. It was a tax on British colonies in America.
- 1766 The first *Nautical Almanac* is published with data for 1767. The Almanac is relied upon for calculating latitude.
- 1768 Captain Cook discovers Australia. In 1770 he declares possession of the East coast for Great Britain. The location becomes *The Town of 1770* (in northern Queensland).
- 1773 Boston Tea Party. On 16 December, citizens disguised as Indians threw 340 chests of tea into Boston Harbour. It helped to provoke the war of independence two years later.
- 1775 - 1783 American War of Independence.
- 1783 Treaty of Paris on 03 September. Britain formerly recognises American independence.
- 1785 James Hutton puts forward theory that present geology is the key to the past.
- 1787 - 1797 George Washington is president (the first United States President).
- 1788 On 26 January, the first fleet under Captain Arthur Philip settles in Botany Bay Australia.
- 1789 - 1799 The French Revolution, beginning with the storming of the Bastille.
- 1789 Bill of Rights (UK). Among other things, it set limits to the power of the monarch and established the rights of parliament.
- 1791 Bill of Rights (USA) becomes law on 15 December.
- 1793 William Carey, Protestant missionary travels to India.
- 1795 The metric system first adopted by France, then internationally in 1875.
- 1796 English doctor, Edward Jenner notices that milk maids who were exposed to cowpox (harmless to humans) were immune to smallpox. The start of immunisation.

The nineteenth century

- 1800 The world population is estimated to be around one billion.
- 1807 In this year, England abolishes slavery, under the leadership of William Wilberforce.
- 1800 Washington DC becomes the capital of the US.
- 1801 Act of Union between Great Britain and Ireland.
- 1803 Louisiana Purchase. Around 2.14 million square kilometres (0.828 million acres) of land between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains was purchased from the French for \$27,267,622. This purchase doubled the size of the USA. Napoleon Bonaparte needed the money to finance his wars.
- 1804 on 02 December, Napoleon Bonaparte crowns himself emperor. Emperor till Waterloo in 1815. Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821).
- 1804 *British and Foreign Bible Society* is formed.
- 1805 The English fleet, under the command of Horatio Nelson defeated the French and Spanish fleet at the battle of Trafalgar on 21 October, foiling plans for the invasion of England. He is shot and dies.
- 1811 Alexander Campbell begins the *Restoration Movement* (the beginnings of the Churches of Christ).
- 1812 - 1815 Conflict between the US and Britain over the violations of US maritime rights.
- 1815 The Battle of Waterloo - Napoleon defeated by Wellington and exiled to St. Helena where he dies in 1821.
- 1821 Greek war of independence from Turkey.
- 1824 The name, "Australia" is adopted by the British Admiralty to replace the name, *New Holland*.
- 1830 The Mormon Church is founded by Joseph Smith.
- 1833 Slavery abolished throughout the British empire.
- 1833 Factory Act - children under nine may not be employed.
- 1837 to 1901 The reign of Queen Victoria (63 years reign). Died on 22 January 1901.
- 1838 Battle of Blood River. Boers defeat the Zulus in Natal.
- 1839 - 42 First Opium War between Britain and China after Chinese commissioner Lin destroys opium shipments.
- 1839 Charles Goodyear vulcanises (strengthens) Indian rubber.
- 1840 David Livingstone sails for Africa where he does missionary and exploration work. He is missing

for several years until Stanley finds him in November 1871.

1842 The Grossner Mission started by Johannes Grossner to train missionary candidates. Probably preceded all other institutions. See 1882 on A. B. Simpson.

1844 Morse telegraph is used for the first time.

1844 William Miller predicted the coming of Jesus Christ on 22 October 1844. This day is known as *The Great Disappointment*. Out of his ideas (but mostly from Mrs Ellen G. White) came the 'Seventh Day Adventist' Church.

1845-46 The potato famine in Ireland.

1846-48. Mexican-American war. The US gained Alto California and New Mexico.

1846 Soren Kierkegaard (1813-1855) formulates the idea that subjectivity is truth.

1847 On 03 April, Ellen G. White has a vision which deceives her into believing she should abandon the Christian Sunday Sabbath and follow the Jews in worshipping on Saturday. She becomes the main founder of the Seventh Day Adventist Church.

1848 A wave of revolts against European monarchs beginning in Sicily and spreading to France, Germany, Italy and the Austrian Empire. They largely failed except in France.

Marx and Engels issue *The Communist Manifesto*.

1848 On 24 January gold is discovered by James Marshall in California setting off a gold rush.

1850 French troops allow the return of the Pope to Rome.

1854 *Eureka Stockade*, a miners rebellion on the Eureka goldfield in Ballarat Victoria (Australia) against oppressive government legislation. It was put down by government troops.

1854 - 1856 The Crimean War.

1854 Commodore Perry (USA) forces Japan into a commercial treaty with the USA.

1856 - 57. Persia captures Herat in Afghanistan which leads to war with Britain.

1858 British put down Indian mutiny at Lucknow.

1859 On 06 June, Queen Victoria signs the *Letters Patent* act, approving the creation of the new colony of Queensland. The new colony is officially proclaimed on 10 December in Brisbane by the newly appointed Governor, Sir George Bowen. The northern section of the colony of New South Wales (NSW) becomes the colony of Queensland. See 1901.

1859 Darwin's *Origin of Species* is published, promoting theory of evolution.

1861 Abraham Lincoln becomes president.

1861 - 1865 The American Civil War - between the north and eleven states to the south. Confederate General Robert E. Lee (south) surrenders to Union General Ulysses Grant in 1865. Over 600,000 lives are lost in the conflict.

1865 Abraham Lincoln is assassinated by John Wilkes Booth on 14 April. He died in the morning of the next day (15 th).

1867 USA purchases Alaska from Russia. It became the 49th state in 1959.

The dominion of Canada is established.

1869 The Suez Canal is completed.

On 10 May 1869, the first rail line across the United States is completed (east-west).

1869-1870 Vatican I. Reckoned by Roman Catholics to be the twentieth ecumenical council. Convened by Pope Pius IX.

1870 Kingdom of Italy annexes papal states.

1870 - 1871 Franco-Prussian War which leads to the defeat of France and the emergence of a united Germany.

1871 The Unification of Italy.

1875 The British (Disraeli, PM) purchase 42% of Suez Canal shares from Egypt.

1878 - 1880 Second Afghan war to prevent Russia from gaining control.

1881 The Westcott and Hort Greek text published.

1882 First American Bible school started by A. B. Simpson in New York City; partly to combat liberal ideas which were infecting theological colleges, particularly the idea that the Bible is based on a collection of old documents instead of face-to-face encounters between God and Moses. His school had

an emphasis on the reliability and authority of Scripture. See date, 1842.

1884 An international commission adopts the Greenwich Meridian (runs through Greenwich) as the Earth's prime meridian (0 deg. Longitude) and the starting point of international time zones.

Return to [Top](#)

The twentieth century

Time Zone: In this section, the exact date is occasionally given. Please be aware that Australia is ten hours ahead of Universal Standard Time (formerly *Greenwich Mean Time*) so a day given for an event in Australia (and a similar time zone) will be around 15 hours behind in the US.

1901 On 01 January, the Duke of York, later King George V, proclaimed the Commonwealth of Australia. The Australian Federal Government is formed. The six colonies; New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia become states in the new government. The Northern Territory remained a territory, however, it gained limited self-government in 1978.

On 09 May, the Duke of York opens Australia's first parliament at the Exhibition Building in Melbourne. Edmund Barton is Australia's first Prime Minister.

Queen Victoria dies on 22 January. Her eldest son becomes King Edward VII.

1902 In Australia, the Methodists and Primitive Methodists unite.

1905 Albert Einstein published three scientific papers. The Theory of Relativity, The Photoelectric Effect, The Equivalence of mass and Energy.

1906 San Francisco Earthquake on 19 April. At least 1,000 people are killed.

1910 to 1915 Fundamentalism - dated to a series of twelve booklets published to defend the fundamentals of Christianity.

1912 First Balkan War - Bulgaria, Greece, Serbia and Montenegro against Turkey. The Balkans are victorious.

1912 The sinking of RMS *Titanic* on 14 April. The British shipping company, *White Star*, built *Titanic*, the world's largest and most expensive luxury liner. Because of special safety features, the company and some of its crew boasted 'not even God can sink this ship'. Late on 14 April (at 2340) while on its maiden voyage from Southampton, England, to New York, it struck an iceberg and sank in the early hours (0220) the next day, roughly 400 miles off the coast of Newfoundland, with the loss of more than 1,500 lives. The Morse Code, SOS is used for the first time.

1913 Second Balkan War. Serbia, Greece, Romania and Turkey against Bulgaria.

1913 Panama Canal opened with large dynamite blast on 10th October, to remove the last obstacle of rock and soil separating the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

1913 The US Federal Reserve was established by act of Congress. It began operations the following year (with 12 Federal Reserve Banks). It did not prevent the bank failures of 1933.

1914 In this year, on 04 August World War One begins. It ends on 11 Nov. 1918.

1915 On 25 April, ANZAC (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps) landing at Gallipoli.

1916 The secret Sykes-Piquet agreement between Britain and France which defined mutually agreed spheres of influence after the defeat of the Ottoman Empire. Signed on 09 May.

1916 Sydney Missionary and Bible College (SMBC) is founded under the leadership of Benson Barnett.

1917 The overthrow of the Tzar of Russia in February 1917. In the October Revolution (1917) led by Lenin, the Communists seize power in Russia. Lenin rules until his death in 1924.

1917 July, King George V of Britain changed his family name from the House of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha to the House of Windsor and gave up all his German titles - Britain was at war with Germany.

1917 The capture of Beersheba and its seventeen vital wells on 30 October after what has been described as 'the last decisive calvary charge in history' by the Australian Light Horse. On 12 December, General Allenby (British) walked into Jerusalem, marking the capture of the city from the Turks.

1922 Kemal Ataturk replaces the Ottoman Empire with the state of Turkey.

1926 The birth of Elizabeth II. She reigns from 1952 until her death in September 2022. She married

Prince Philip in 1947.

1927 On 09 May, the Australian Federal Parliament moved from Melbourne to the Provisional Parliament House in Canberra.

1929 - 39 The Great Depression. The biggest one day stock market loss was on *Black Tuesday* 29 October 1929.

In this year The Australian Federal Government, due to the depression crisis, takes over the State debts on the condition that it becomes the sole borrowing authority.

1929 - 1968 Martin Luther King. Civil rights leader. "*I Have a Dream*" speech (1963). Assassinated by James Earl Ray in Memphis on 04 April 1968.

1933 President Hindenburg of Germany appoints Adolf Hitler chancellor.

1937 Stalin, out of a paranoid fear of the potential power of the officer class in the military, begins a series of purges of the officer class. Over 40,000 officers were imprisoned, tortured and killed. Three marshals (highest military rank) were killed in the purge, leaving just two.

1939 - 45 WWII 03 September 1939 the British and French declare war on Germany. 07 May 1945, Germany surrenders. 08 May VE day. Victory in Europe.

1939 On 23 August, the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany sign a non-aggression pact which Hitler has no intention of keeping.

1940s

1940 On 18 December, Hitler gives the order to begin planning for '*Operation Barbarossa*' - the invasion of the Soviet Union.

1941 On 22 June, around three million personnel of the axis powers invade the Soviet Union, breaking the non-aggression pact. The largest invasion force in the history of warfare.

1941 On 07 December, Japanese carrier-borne aircraft conduct a surprise attack on aircraft and shipping at the US Naval Base at Pearl Harbour. It is a strategic failure because the aircraft carriers were out of the harbour on that day. The following day, the US declares war on axis powers (WWII).

During the war, the Australian states surrender tax rights to the Federal Government.

1942 The beginning of the killing of six million Jews in concentration camps by Hitler's forces.

1945 On 07 May, Germany surrenders unconditionally.

1945 On 06 August an atomic bomb is detonated over Hiroshima. Three days later on the 9th, an atomic bomb is detonated over Nagasaki. A further five days later on 14th August, Japan surrenders unconditionally. The official signing of documents took place on 02 September aboard USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay.

1945 Emperor of Japan, Hirohito, surrenders unconditionally to allied forces on 14 August.

1946 On 31 July, as a consequence of the return of men from war, women are no longer allowed to drive taxis. Ruling of Melbourne City Council Licensed Vehicles Committee (Australia).

1947 British rule of India comes to an end on 14 August (midnight).

1947 A Bedouin Arab in search of a goat, discovers the *Dead Sea Scrolls*.

1947 On 14 October, American, Chuck Yeager, in the Bell X1 rocket powered aircraft becomes the first man to fly faster than the speed of sound in level flight.

1948 On 14 May, the state of Israel is declared under the leadership of David Ben-Gurion (1886-1973), 'Israel's founding father'.

1949

The end of the first half of the twentieth century. The population of the world is 2,377 million, North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) is formed, Communism triumphs in China, The USSR detonates nuclear device, the *Snowy Mountains Authority* (Australia) was established for the development of hydro-electric power (work completed in 1974), Billy Graham begins his ministry in earnest after being praised in the press. His first crusade was in 1947. In September, the Berlin airlift ends after 277,000 flights, Honda motorcycle company begins production (with 1949 D type). In October, US president Harry Truman increases minimum wage from 40 cents to 75 cents. The German Democratic Republic

is formed from Russian occupation zone. The first round the world non-stop flight. South Africa institutionalises apartheid. First use of cable TV in the U.S.

In 1949, Newfoundland became part of Canada. This year was a busy year.

1950s

1950-53 Korean War. Began on 25 June 1950 when North Korean forces backed by China and Russia invaded South Korea. Fighting ended on 27 July 1953.

1950 The assumption of Mary becomes dogma for those in the Roman Catholic Church.

1953 End of Korean War and Death of Stalin (J. Dzhughashvili) Malenkov becomes Soviet prime minister.

1954 In this year, Queen Elizabeth II signs the flag act, giving Australia its own flag. Up to that time, the British flag was the official flag of Australia.

1957 The first artificial satellite (Russian) launched on 04 October, named 'Sputnik'. It is a metal sphere 58 cm. in diameter. It is observed on earth with the naked eye because of its low orbit and being highly reflective of sun light.

1958 National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is formed.

1959 Alaska becomes the 49th state of the USA.

1960s

1961 In this year, Kuwait gained independence from Great British.

1961 On 12 April, Colonel Yuri Gagarin (Russian) becomes the first man to orbit the earth. The flight lasted 108 minutes.

1962-65 Vatican II. It had four sessions in the period 11 October 1962 to 08 December 1965.

1961 -63. John Fitzgerald Kennedy is President of the US. Assassinated in Dallas by Lee Harvey Oswald on 22 November 1963.

1963 On 27 February, Madalyn Murray O'Hair, founder of *American Atheists* wins case in Supreme Court regarding reading the Bible in school. It rules that reading the Bible in school cannot be compulsory under the constitution which declares there is a separation between Church and State. NB. It outlaws *compulsion*.

Her atheism was a monumental failure in her private life. Her marriages failed, she had failures with her employment. There were severe arguments with fellow atheists in her office, she stole large amounts of money from donations to her cause. Her daughter was raped and murdered by an atheist. She was kidnapped and later murdered by an atheist. Her organisation was robbed by an atheist in the same crime spree. The message of Madalyn did not win the support of someone close to her. Her son William J. Murray rejected atheism and became a Baptist minister. Not surprising!

1965-75 Vietnam conflict. The French lost 98,000 killed before the US entered the conflict. The USA lost 58,000 and Australia lost 496 killed.

1967 Israel is victorious in a six-day war against Arab forces. The pre-emptive strikes began on 05 June with Israel destroying 374 planes. Israel took the Gaza Strip from Egypt and the biblical towns of Bethlehem and Hebron from Jordan. On 07 June, Israeli troops take possession of the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem after fierce house to house fighting against Jordanian forces. In the space of six days, Israel took command of Arab territories many times larger than Israel. On 10 June, fighting ceased with Israel observing a UN brokered cease-fire.

1967 World's first heart transplant carried out at Cape Town South Africa on 03 December by a team of doctors led by Christian N Barnard, Professor of Cardiothoracic surgery.

1967 Indonesia, in part of its strategy to combat communism makes it mandatory for all of its citizens to belong to one of four religions, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism or Christianity. The majority chose Islam, but don't take the religion seriously. They don't go to Friday night prayers.

1968 On 04 April, Martin Luther King. Civil rights leader who gave "*I Have a Dream*" speech (1963). Assassinated by James Earl Ray in Memphis.

1968 The 'Tet Offensive' in Vietnam (officially called the General Offensive) began on 30 January. On the New Year holiday of Tet.

1969 Neil Armstrong (USA), Apollo II astronaut, on 21 July, steps off the ladder of the lunar module 'Eagle' to become the first person to set foot on the moon - at 0256 UT (Universal Time).

1969 The *Football War* between Honduras and El Salvador. Tensions were high over other matters before the war broke out.

70s

1971 On 30 November, flags were lowered at the ANZ Task Force base at Nui Dat, ending Australia's combat role in Vietnam. This ended a five year occupation of the base. Prime minister William McMahon praised the achievement of the Royal Australian Regiment.

1971 In this year around 2,000 Iraqi Jews were forced to leave Iraq.

1972 On 11 August, the last American combat unit left the large Da Nang air force base in Vietnam, however, the US continued with bombing.

1975 On 30 April the war (officially termed conflict) in Vietnam comes to an end when North Vietnamese tanks burst through the gates to the Presidential Palace in Saigon.

1975 On 11 November, The Gough Whitlam government in Australia is terminated by the Governor General, Sir John Kerr (he had been appointed to the position by Whitlam). This action brought to an end tensions in parliament because of the refusal of the Senate to pass supply bills in order to bring on an early election. Whitlam refused to go to an election because he knew his government had become unpopular because of economic mismanagement. Further to that was the scandal of what became known as the *Khemlani Loans Affair*. Government ministers had bypassed official government channels to obtain loans. Apparently, they also bypassed informing the Prime Minister. He denied having any knowledge of what they were doing. Leading up to the election, the Labor Party asked people to show their disapproval of the sacking of the Whitlam government by voting for Labor. When elections were held, it was a landslide victory for the Liberal Party led by Malcolm Fraser. People were glad to be rid of the Labor government and the scandal of the loans affair, along with the financial mismanagement. Money was being spent like there was no tomorrow. Sir John Kerr did the Labor party a favour by dismissing the Whitlam government because the Labor party was becoming very much disliked. Bringing an early end to the damage potentially helped Bob Hawk and Labor win the election a few years later. Many Whitlam supporters decades after the event, remain angry over the actions of Malcolm Fraser and Sir John Kerr. The whole event has a bright side, after retirement from politics, Whitlam and Fraser became friends and worked together on aide projects.

1977 On 22 June, the *Uniting Church* came into being, uniting the Presbyterians, Methodists and the Congregationalists.

1978 The *New International Version* (NIV) of the Bible is published (1973 NT). It was very popular until a revised edition was published.

1978 In this year, the Northern Territory (Australia) self-government Act grants limited self-government to the Northern Territory.

1979 China's Deng Xiaoping brings about market reforms. The beginning of China's economic growth.

80s

1981 In this year, work on Australia's permanent parliamentary building begins on Capital Hill in Canberra. It is completed in 1988.

1988 On 21 February, Jimmy Swaggart, a prominent Pentecostal (AOG) televangelist publicly admits that he had sinned (sexually). This admission diminishes the excitement in many Churches regarding the claim that those who speak in tongues (glossolalia) have an extra measure of the Holy Spirit.

1988 On 09 May Queen Elizabeth II opens Australia's first permanent parliament building on Capital Hill, Canberra. See 1927.

1989 On 04 June, the massacre of student demonstrators in Tiananmen Square, Beijing, by soldiers backed by tanks. Unfortunately, the demonstration turned brutal at one point with a small group of

demonstrators pouring petrol over one of the tanks and setting on fire, killing the occupants.

1989 On 10 November, the collapse of the Berlin Wall. The gates had opened at midnight, bringing down a barrier between East and West Germany. One of the most dramatic political events of the 20th century.

90s

1990 The Gulf War - *Operation Desert Shield* (02 August 1990 - 28 February 1991). In response to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, under Saddam Hussein.

1991 On 17 January, operation 'Desert Storm' (Gulf War) begins. Officially ends on 30 November 1995.

1991 In this year, the first website is set up.

1996 In this year, Roger Ailes joined forces with Australian, Rupert Murdoch to found 'Fox News'.

Return to [Top](#)

The twenty-first century

2000 On 01 January there were fears in the general public over what was termed *The Millennium Bomb*. Personal computers didn't become popular until the 1980s, and computing power was very weak, forcing programmers to take shortcuts. One widely used shortcut was to only code for part of the year, so 05-03-75 would be stated, not 05-03-1975. This led to concerns over what would happen when computers came across the date 01-01-2000 (01 January 2000). One concern was that traffic lights might fail - they didn't. Many programmers received good overtime pay updating old software code.

2001 January - the official commencement date for digital television in metropolitan regions of Australia. Regional areas by 2004, giving a significant improvement in image quality over analogue TV.

2001 On 11 September (9/11) the Twin Towers in New York are destroyed in a terrorist attack when aircraft flown by Arabs hit the towers.

2003 On 04 December Australia's population reached 20 million. The population passed 10 million in the 1950s. It was 3.8 million in 1901.

2006 In January of this year, the website, defenceofthefaith.org is established, bringing an explanation of Christianity to people around the world.

2011 30 December. The island nation of Samoa shifts the international boundary to the east of their nation so they now share the same day with New Zealand - for convenience and economical reasons. They skipped Friday 30 December 2011 and moved straight to Saturday. This became a big problem for the *Seventh Day Adventist Church* with some wanting to count off seven days from the previous worship day, however, that move would result in them worshipping on Sunday - the same day as other Christians.

2014 First landing of a spacecraft on a comet (on 12 November at 1603 UT) courtesy of European Space Agency. Comet found to be mostly hard rock - Comet 67P/C-G. The mission involved an orbiter 'Rosetta', and a separate craft which landed on the comet.

2015 In March, a change in legislation now allows British royals to marry Catholics. Also, female members of the royal family now take precedence over younger males in the line to the throne.

2016 (Russia) "The 2016 Yarovaya laws fine Russians for proselytising unless they have a government permit through a registered religious organisation" (*Christianity Today*, July 2019, p. 16).

2017 in December the US officially recognises Jerusalem as the capital city of Israel.

2018 On 01 July, the *Australian Space Agency* was founded in Adelaide, SA.

2019 At the end of this year the outbreak of COVID-19. It develops into a pandemic until the virus is mostly contained by middle of 2023 due to strong uptake of vaccines.

2020s

2020: On 31 January Brexit. At 2300 UT (GMT) or 00:001 CET (Central European Time) the official date and time of Brexit. The separation of economic ties between Britain and Europe.

COVID-19 Pandemic peaks in April. On 02 May (Saturday), Queensland (Australia) eases restrictions so that people can drive up to 50 kilometres, and can now do non-essential shopping.

2021: On 06 January, an angry mob of Republicans, stirred up by Donald Trump with accusations that the election was stolen from him, marched down Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington and broke into the Capitol building. Five people were killed in the failed insurrection.

01 May - persecution of Christians in China increases. From this day, Church pastors must have a “*Clergy Card*”. This card is hard to obtain and easy to lose. Among other things, pastors must proclaim love for the CCP (Chinese Communist Party).

2022: On 08 September, Queen Elizabeth II died at her Balmoral estate in the Scottish Highlands, aged 96.

2022 On 09 September, King Charles III is officially proclaimed king of the British Commonwealth.

2022 On 12 November, the world population reached **eight billion** according to world population estimates.

2023 In May, Stewart Rhodes, leader of far-right group ‘*Oath Keepers*’ is sentenced to eighteen years jail for his role in the Capital Hill riot on 06 January 2021 (ABC News, 26-5-23). He is later pardoned under President Trump.

2023 Winter temperatures have been unusually warm in Brisbane. Maximum temperatures are usually around twenty degrees C. but they have been around twenty-five degrees.

Temperatures in the Northern Hemisphere have been unusually hot, with Beijing for example having temperatures above forty degrees. The average temperature for the earth has gone from just under seventeen degrees to just over eighteen degrees - reached in July, and scientists are not united on the cause.

2023: 07 October. On a Saturday, Hamas terrorists attack civilians. Rockets are fired from Gaza into Israel and citizens in Israel are brutally slaughtered. Some are taken prisoner. The beginning of the Israel/ Gaza war. Israel is determined to destroy the terrorist group, Hamas.

2025: 04 October, peace in Gaza. After two years of fighting and many casualties (around 2,000 Israelis and nearly 70,000 Palestinians killed). The cease fire came about after mediators from Qatar, Egypt and Turkey came up with a plan to end the war in Gaza. Israel was not involved in the negotiations. Netanyahu, was simply informed he had to accept the deal (*Time*, 10 November 2025, p.26). Nine days later, on Monday 13th, prisoners on both sides were being released.

This list of dates finishes on a positive note. The reader will most likely think of dates which should be included. I keep thinking of dates to include, however, this project must come to an end for now. I might return to it in the future.

“The Lord is exalted over all the nations, his glory above the heavens. Who is like the Lord our God, the One who sits enthroned on high?” (Psalm 113:4).

and

“Praise be to the Lord God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvellous deeds. Praise be to his glorious name for ever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen and Amen.” (Psalm 72:18-19).

Go to top - [Go](#)

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