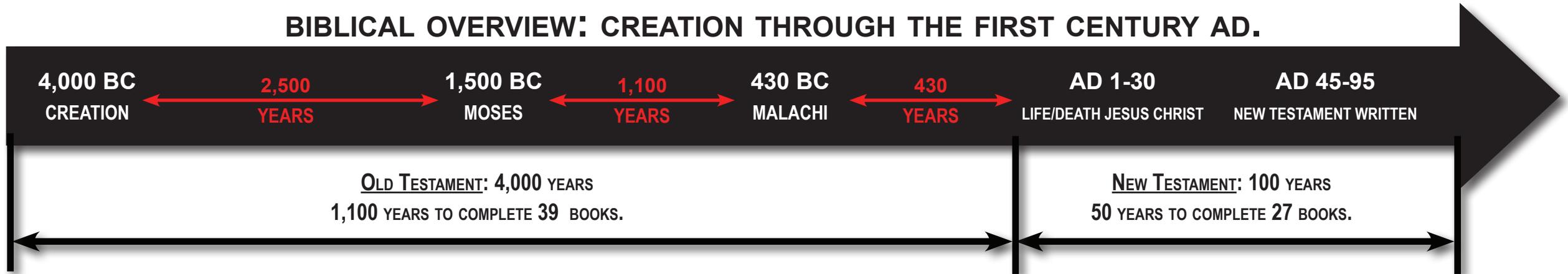


BIBLICAL OVERVIEW: CREATION THROUGH THE FIRST CENTURY AD.



OLD TESTAMENT NOTEWORTHY:

1. There is no Law for the first 2,500 years of Old Testament history.
2. God made his promises (covenants) to Abraham 430 years before the Law.
3. The Law was given 1,500-1,400 BC.
4. Moses—first five books of the Bible around the same time; from oral and written accounts going back to Adam.
5. By studying the genealogies and doing the math we discover that they had literally hundreds of years to “compare notes” as their lives overlapped.
6. Some examples: the lives of Adam and Methuselah overlapped by 243 years. Methuselah and Noah overlapped by 600 years. Shem had 350 years after the flood with his father, Noah. And Shem and Abraham overlapped by 210 years.
7. *(Galatians 3:16a–17 ESV)* Now the promises

were made to Abraham and to his offspring. ... This is what I mean: the law, which came 430 years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to make the promise void.

NEW TESTAMENT NOTEWORTHY:

8. The coming of Jesus Christ began a period of great upheaval and transition in the history of the earth. God had literally come to the planet.
9. Change came very quickly. Four thousand years had passed between the first promise of hope in Genesis 3:15—“he shall bruise your head”—and the Son of God arriving as an infant.
10. Then, the life and death of Christ and the writing of the New Testament was like a lightning round in a game show compared to the 1,100 years it took to complete the Old Testament.
11. The 27 books of the NT were completed in about 50 years.

THE BEGINNING: GOSPELS

- Matthew, Mark, Luke and John give an account of the life of Jesus Christ up to and including his resurrection.

THE TRANSITION: ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

- Acts gives us a first-hand account of the beginning of Christianity as it works its way out into the world. Some have called Acts the sequel to the Gospels. To understand Acts properly we must understand its place in the context of the transition which is happening as these believers in Jesus Christ move from the old to the new.

THE FOUNDATION: LETTERS OF THE APOSTLES

- From Romans through Revelation the apostles present the teaching and direction that will be needed for the saints to stay faithful until the return of Jesus Christ.
- In this section the “dust has settled” and the Apostle Paul and others lay the foundation for the gospel and all Christian living. From this

foundation we build our theology.

- *(1 Corinthians 3:10–11 ESV)* According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.
- Many do not understand this and make the book of Acts their foundation and point of emphasis. This grave error brings confusion and leads to false teaching such as the “different gospel” that Paul addresses in Galatians.
- *(Galatians 1:8–9 ESV)* But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.