

Bible Chronology and the years 1872 - 1873 - 1874

This subject has simple explanations and extended explanations.

We offer the following to consider how these dates are referenced in the Harvest Message.

If at a certain point the matter is clear, it may be good to stop and let the subject rest.

If more details are desired, then continue a bit. But don't let the subject become too complicated.

▶ TIME COUNTED FROM CREATION OR FROM THE FALL IN EDEN:

We may count the years from the **creation** of Adam to October **1872** as 6,000 years.

Counting **2 years of perfection** in Eden, then follows 6,000 years reaches to October **1874**.

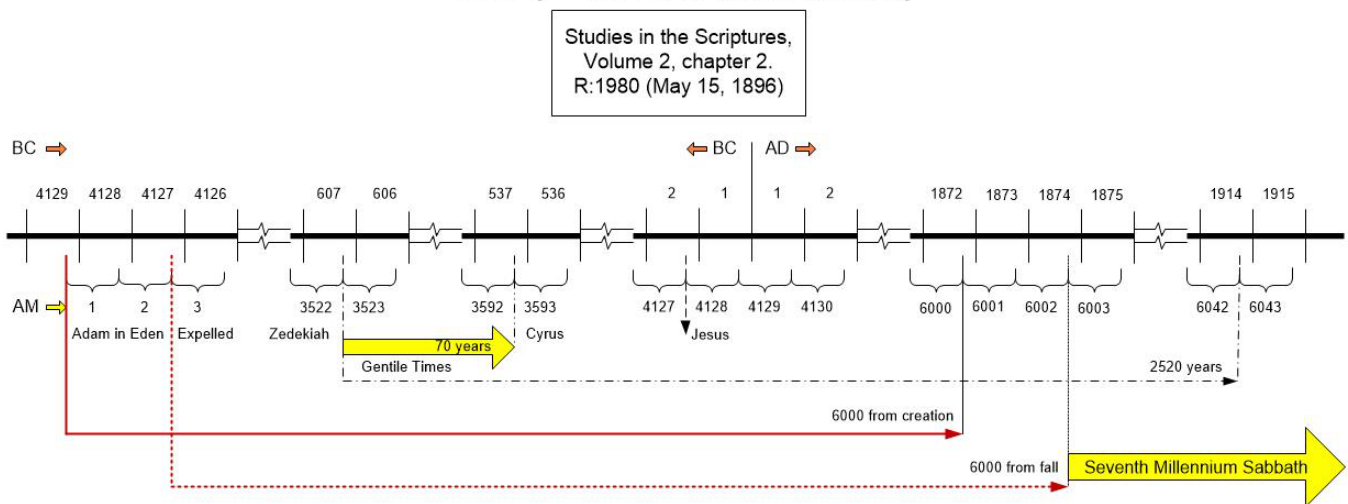
After Six long days of God's creative work, He rested in the seventh.

In God's seventh, human labor under sin started for six days of 1000 years each for 6,000.

1874 also corresponds to other prophecies for Christ's return and the antitypical Sabbath.

This is illustrated in the following diagram with the **2 red lines**:

6000 years of human history



▶ TWO YEARS IN EDEN ENDS THE SIXTH CREATIVE DAY:

From Gen. 1:27, 31-2:1 we understand that **six days** of creation concluded with Adam and Eve.

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. ... And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good.

And the evening and the morning were the **sixth day**. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.”

Then follows Gen. 2:2

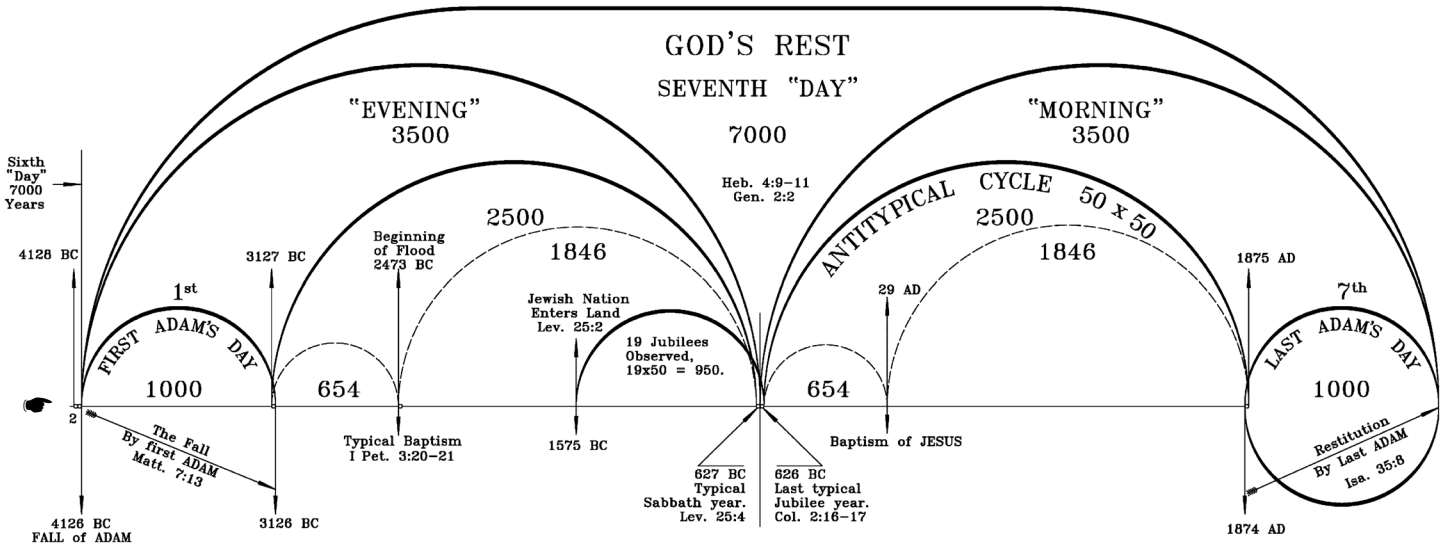
“And on the **seventh day** God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.”

When God “rested” from His creative work. Mankind began to labor under sin and death. Gen. 3:19.

At the same time the divine program began with a promise for the seed of the woman. Gen. 3:15.

So begins six symbolic thousand-year labor-days for mankind as the first part of seven thousand.

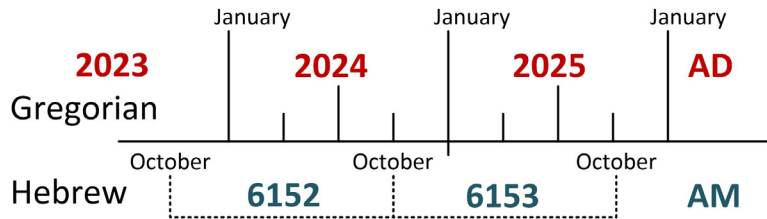
As 1874 marks “the Lord of the Sabbath,” the 6 previous days are understood as days of “labor” beginning with the expulsion from Eden. This leaves but 2 years back in the perfection of Eden from Creation. From Adam's creation extends 6000 years to 1872 and from the expulsion to 1874.



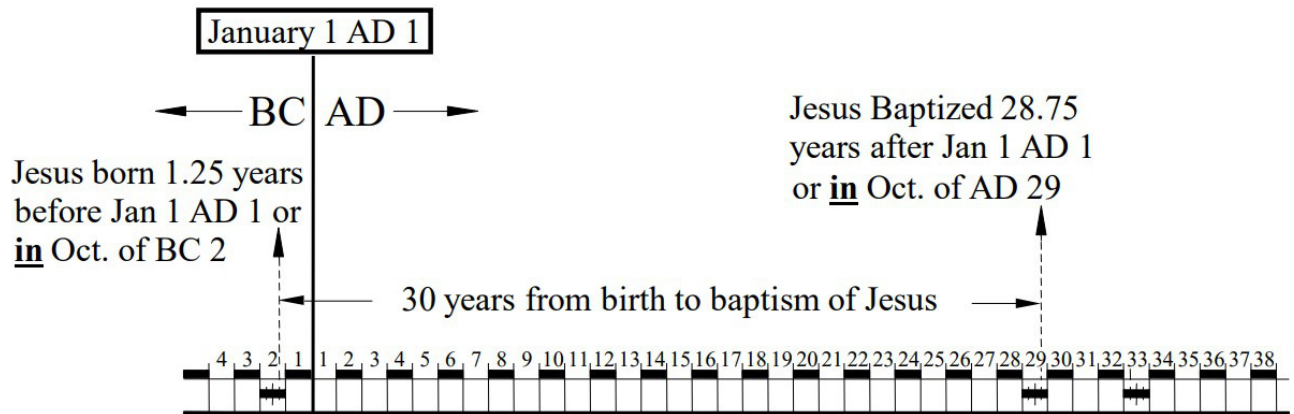
▶ **GREGORIAN AND HEBREW CALENDARS:**

The western world today counts years beginning in January through December.

The Hebrew calendar counted years beginning in the Fall or Autumn of the Gregorian calendar.



Hebrew (Tishri) years were used for biblical counting the ages of patriarchs or the reigns of kings. This was so with either Adam, Noah, Moses, Saul, Zedekiah, Nebuchadnezzar, Cyrus or others. Jesus was born about the beginning of the Hebrew year and was baptized near his 30th birthday.



In order to reckon sums of years, it may seem more clear to count date points as fraction of years for the sum rather than rounded whole years. Such would be:

4128¼ BC + 1871¾ AD (4128.25 + 1871.75) = 6,000 years

4126¼ BC + 1873¾ AD (4126.25 + 1873.75) = 6,000 years

606¼ BC + 1913¾ AD (606.25 + 1913.75) = 2,520 years

etc.

▣ REFERENCES TO VARIOUS YEARS — 1872, 1873, 1874:

A reference may be to a beginning point during a year or prior year for the Hebrew calendar but laps for its major portion in the next of the Gregorian calendar. Thus we might notice that the destruction of Jerusalem began late in 607 or the first year of Cyrus began late in 537 BC, yet these are normally counted as the full Gregorian years of 606 and 536 for whole year counting.

The number of years BEFORE a year may be referenced. In other words the years TO a date.

As in years reaching *to* 1873 ----->
... [1871][1872][1873]

So let's examine Br Russell's wording with some bracket comments for explanation as I would understand the meaning:

Bii

... six great thousand-year Days beginning with Adam are ended, and that the great Seventh Day, the thousand years of Christ's Reign, began in 1873.

[This is a very preliminary introduction for first-time readers of this volume. He here only presents the idea that evidence will show that after 1872 follows an era for Christ's reign.]

B39

Here we furnish the evidence that from the creation of Adam *to* A.D. 1873 was six thousand years.

[The word: "*to*" is in italics, indicating **through** 1872 (Tishri) and **to** the next year 1873.]

B40

If, then, the seventh thousand-year period of earth's history be an epoch specially noted as the period of Christ's reign, we shall, by showing that it began in A.D. 1873, be proving that we are already in it.

[This is still very preliminary. He must first demonstrate the 6000 years from Adam and that Christ's reign will follow. He is not yet trying to show the exact year of Christ's return. This feature will be explained after first establishing the years from Adam.]

B41

The general condition of the world today, and the rapid development since [after] 1873 of Socialism, Nihilism and Communism ...

[Br Russell is here leading the reader to consider world events following 1873.]

B42

Thence to A.D. 1873 1872

[Here for the first time is a tabulation of the 6000 years from Adam through 1872 leading to the following years from 1873 and onward.]

B51

Thus we have found a clear and connected line of chronology from creation to the beginning of the Christian era (A.D.)—in all, a period of ... (4128) years, which, together with eighteen hundred and seventy-two years [1872] of the Christian era, make six thousand years from creation *to* the year 1873 A.D.

[Clearly he marks 6000 years from Adam through 1872 AD and calls our attention to the era following. Again he emphasizes "*to*" (or we might say reaching to) 1873. He has not yet introduced the year of Christ's return.]

B53-54

... as we have shown, the year 4129, according to the Bible record, thus showing the year 1872 A.D. to be the year of the world 6000, and 1873 A.D. the commencement of the seventh thousand-year period, the seventh millennium, or thousand-year day of earth's history.

[In this more precise language, he notes that in 1872 completed 6000 years earth's history (i.e. human history), following with the next from 1873. It should be noted here he is not marking this as the prophetic year of Christ's return and millennial reign.]

B55

Let the line represent the six thousand years of earth's history from the creation of Adam to 1873 A.D.

[Again he indicates the 6000 years leading TO 1873.]

B170

The next chapter will present Bible evidence that 1874 A.D. was the exact date of the beginning of the "Times of Restitution," and hence of our Lord's return.

[Here is the FIRST TIME 1874 is mentioned with our Lord's return, yet to be confirmed in subsequent pages.]

B181-182

... that very year, beginning October, 1874, must have begun the antitype of Restitution times. ... as will shortly be shown, we have already entered upon the great antitypical Jubilee period, and have been in it since October, A.D. 1874.

B188

Acts 3:19-21 On the strength of this inspired statement alone, we have clear evidence of the fact that our Lord's second advent was due when the Times of Restitution were due to begin, viz., in October, A.D. 1874, as marked by the Jubilee arrangement.

[So after 5 chapters establishing the chronology from Adam, the date of the first advent, the "Times of the Gentiles", the Manner of the Second Advent, and Earths's Great Jubilee, he has now led the reader to 1874 as the year of Christ's return and the "Times of Restitution.]

[It is not until Volume 3 (C127-128) that he examines the 2 years between 1872 and 1874 with the 2 years in Eden.]

— Jerry, April 2024 (2023^{1/3})