

Comparison of Pre-Abrahamic Genealogical Dates

Hebrew MT vs. Greek LXX

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NOTE: The dates leading up to Abram and Teraḥ are based on chronological notices in the Hebrew Masoretic Text (MT). See my handout, “Calculating the Date of Creation and the Flood,” for substantiation. I explain on that handout why Teraḥ was not 70 years old when he fathered Abraham (and thus the need for “± 25 yrs.” Prior to Teraḥ, however, the dates for Abram’s ancestors in the MT differ from those in LXX. Unless otherwise indicated, the dates given for LXX are based on manuscript LXX^A (Alexandrinus). Text critical data for all the ages given in Genesis 5 and 11 for both MT and LXX are provided in my handout “Genealogies of Genesis 5 and 11; A Comparison of the Hebrew Masoretic Text, the Samaritan Pentateuch, and the Septuagint.”

PERSON	YEARS ACCORDING TO HEB MT (Hebrew Masoretic Text)	YEARS ACCORDING TO GK LXX (Greek Septuagint)
CREATION	4199 BC ± 25 yrs	5585 BC ± 25 yrs
Adam	4199 – 3269 BC ± 25 yrs	5585 – 4655 BC ± 25 yrs
Seth	4069 – 3157 BC ± 25 yrs	5355 – 4443 BC ± 25 yrs
Enosh	3964 – 3059 BC ± 25 yrs	5150 – 4245 BC ± 25 yrs
Kenan	3874 – 2964 BC ± 25 yrs	4960 – 4050 BC ± 25 yrs
Mahalalel	3804 – 2909 BC ± 25 yrs	4790 – 3895 BC ± 25 yrs
Jared	3739 – 2777 BC ± 25 yrs	4625 – 3663 BC ± 25 yrs
Enoch	3577 – 3212 BC ± 25 yrs	4463 – 4098 BC ± 25 yrs
Methuselah	3512 – 2543 BC ± 25 yrs	4298 – 3329 BC ± 25 yrs ¹
Lamech	3325 – 2548 BC ± 25 yrs	4111 – 3358 BC ± 25 yrs ²
Noah	3143 – 2193 BC ± 25 yrs	3923 – 2973 BC ± 25 yrs
Shem	2643 – 2041 BC ± 25 yrs	3423 – 2821 BC ± 25 yrs
FLOOD	2543 BC ± 25 yrs	3323 BC ± 25 yrs
Arpachshad	2541 – 2103 BC ± 25 yrs	3321 – 2756 BC ± 25 yrs
Kainan	(MT does not have Kainan)	3186 – 2726 BC ± 25 yrs
Shelah	2506 – 2073 BC ± 25 yrs	3056 – 2596 BC ± 25 yrs
Eber	2476 – 2012 BC ± 25 yrs	2926 – 2422 BC ± 25 yrs
Peleg	2442 – 2203 BC ± 25 yrs	2792 – 2453 BC ± 25 yrs
Reu	2412 – 2173 BC ± 25 yrs	2662 – 2323 BC ± 25 yrs
Serug	2380 – 2150 BC ± 25 yrs	2530 – 2200 BC ± 25 yrs
Nahor	2350 – 2202 BC ± 25 yrs	2400 – 2192 BC ± 25 yrs
Teraḥ	2321 – 2116 BC ± 25 yrs	2321 – 2116 BC ± 25 yrs
Abram	2166 – 1991 BC	2166 – 1991 BC
ABRAM DEPARTS HARAN FOR CANAAN	2091 BC	2091 BC

¹ The evidence for the LXX date for Methuselah’s age at which he fathered Lamech is disputed. LXX^A is not clear (although A* has 167, A^c has 187). Several other mss have 167, but Josephus and a number of other mss have 187. The chart above accepts the number 187. For a full listing of the ms evidence, see my chart, “Genealogies of Genesis 5 and 11.”

² LXX^A gives Lamech’s age as 188, but Josephus gives his age as 182 (in agreement with MT). What makes this interesting is that if the number 182 is followed (so Josephus), this would result in a date for the flood in 3329 BC ± 25 yrs, the same year that Methuselah died. MT, although having different figures, also has Methuselah dying the same year as the flood (for MT, 2543 BC ± 25 yrs).