

**THE WORLDVIEW APPROACH TO BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION AND ORIGINS:  
WHAT IT IS AND HOW IT DIFFERS FROM “ACCOMMODATION”**

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## WHAT IS THE WORLDVIEW APPROACH?

**\*The basic premise of Worldview Approach:** The Bible in its *original* text records *historical* events *if* considered from the *worldview* of the biblical authors.

**Original:** Not the King James Version or even the Hebrew Masoretic text, but archeological evidence must also be considered when evaluating the “original” meaning of the text.

**Historical:** History and pre-history in the traditional sense, but also the historical, time-related disciplines such as archeology, geology, and astronomy.

**Worldview:** The basic way of interpreting things and events that pervades a culture so thoroughly that it becomes that culture’s concept of reality – what is good, what is important, what is sacred, and what is “real”.

**\*How does Worldview Differ from Culture?** They are similar, but have important differences:

- Cultural aspects of a society can be seen or discerned; worldview cannot be seen, especially by the people who have it and are molded by it.
- Worldview is all aspects of culture bound up into a different way of thinking about the world.
- Worldview is a mindset that stems from a culture – it is not the culture itself.

## WHAT IS “ACCOMMODATION”?

### TWO BASIC MEANINGS OF “ACCOMMODATION”: General and specific

- (1) “Accommodation Theory” = **GA = General Accommodation**

AGREE

A basic principle underlying all of God’s revelation to man; God condescends to interact with humans on any level - from becoming the Incarnate Christ to directly interacting with humans to giving revelations through dreams and visions, angels, etc.

- (2) “Accommodation” (as per Seely, Lamoureux, etc.) = **SA = Specific Accommodation**

AGREE

(A) God accommodates the pre-ingrained scientific and historical ideas of the ancients, which ideas get incorporated into the biblical text.

DISAGREE

(B) God accommodates unhistorical people and events in the Bible in order to make His theological point. It is only the theology that matters.

## EXAMPLES OF (Specific) ACCOMMODATION STATEMENTS:

Seely (2007): PSCF article “Concordism and a Biblical Alternative”

p. 43: “I think it is evident that God can morally accommodate his message to the pre-ingrained cultural ideas of the people to whom he is speaking, even when that accommodation does not agree with the actual facts.”

Lamoureux (2008): *Evolutionary Creation: A Christian Approach to Evolution*

p. 144, 146: “The Lord comes down to the level of ancient peoples by employing their view (of medicine, geology, astronomy, biology). In other words, he accommodates.”

p. 178: “No correspondence exists between actual human events in the past and those recorded in the first chapters of Scripture.”

p. 274. “References to Adam by Jesus and Paul do not confirm that he was historical. Nor does his being mentioned in the New Testament confer historicity to him in Gen. 1-11.”

p. 319. “First, Adam never existed. Second, Adam never sinned. In fact, it is impossible for him to have sinned because he never existed. Consequently, sin did not enter the world on account of Adam. Third, Adam was never actually judged by God to suffer and die.”

p. 367. “Adam never existed and this fact has no impact whatsoever on the foundational beliefs of Christianity.”

## **ONLY THE THEOLOGY MATTERS?**

- Or, in other words, God accommodates untruth; it's only the theology that matters.
- Does this sound like God, who by his very nature does not lie, deceive, or contradict – or I would add “accommodate” untruth?
- What about the doctrines of the Fall, Original Sin, and Paul's entire theology of Christ as the new Adam and His dying to save us from sin?

**\*Does historicity impact and authenticate theology?**

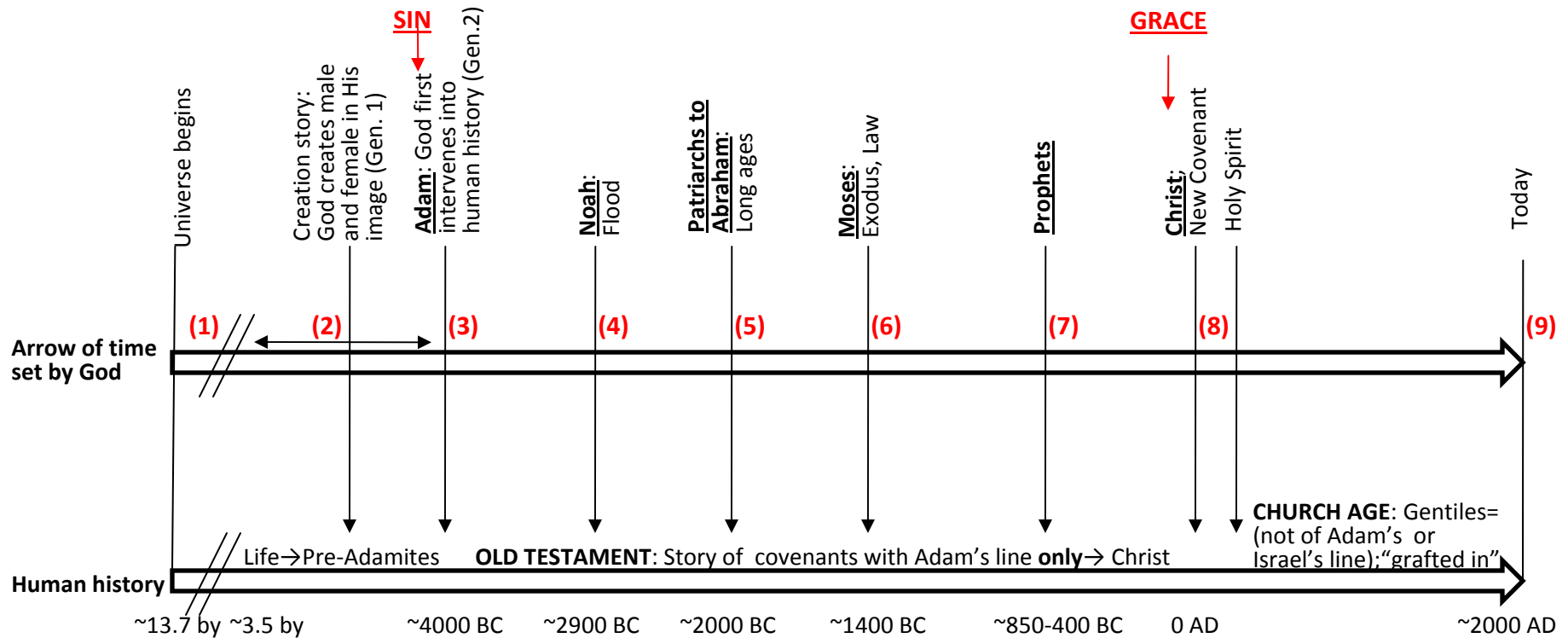
**The Worldview Approach would answer “Yes”.**

- Offhand, it would appear that the Worldview and “Accommodation” Approaches are similar in that they both acknowledge that the pre-ingrained scientific and historical ideas of the ancients are incorporated into the Genesis text.
- However, they are only deceptively similar; in reality they have some important theological differences.

**THEOLOGICAL POSITION OF THE WORLDVIEW APPROACH COMPARED WITH  
YOUNG-EARTH CREATIONISM, PROGRESSIVE CREATIONISM, AND ACCOMMODATION**

	Young-Earth Creationist	Progressive Creationist (concordist)	Worldview Approach	Accommodation Approach
Historical Adam	Yes	Yes, but lived >50,000 YBP *	Yes, but lived ~4000 B.C. *	No *
Historical Garden of Eden	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Historical Noah	Yes	Yes	Yes *	No *
Historical Flood	Yes	Local extent; but killed all humans except Noah & family; ~50,000YBP?	Yes; but local to Mesopotamian Basin; ~2900 B.C.	Has historical base, but not Noah's Flood since Noah≠historical person
Patriarchial* Ages = real ages	Yes	Yes	No, numbers are numerological, *	No
Creation Days	24-hr view	Day = Age view	Literary View *	Literary View
6000 yr age of Earth & universe	Yes	No	No	No
Existence of pre- Adamite humans	No	No Adam & Eve lived >~50,000 YBP	Yes Gen.1=pre-Adamites Gen.2=line of Adam	Yes
Evolution	No	No	Yes	Yes

\* Patriarchs = Adam to Abraham; not specifically Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph

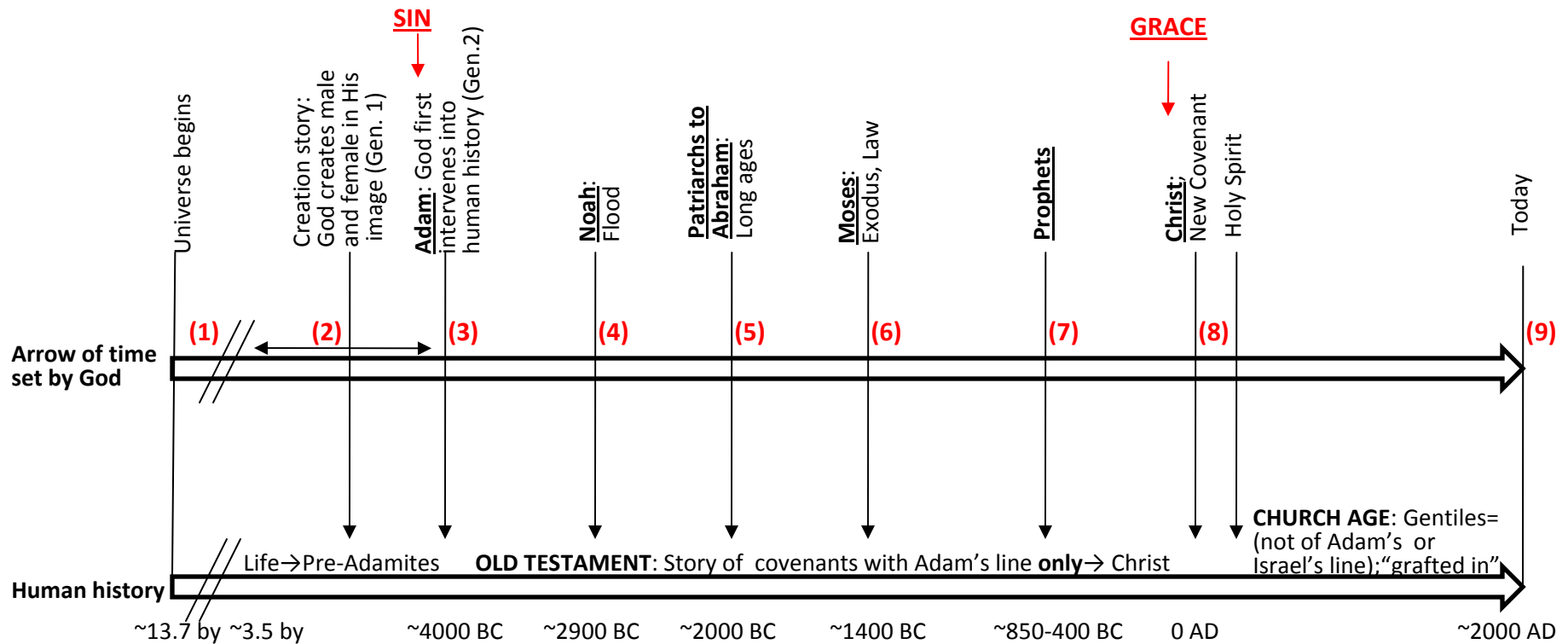


### WORLDVIEW APPROACH:

- God is not doing the “accommodating” (SA): He is simply entering the time line of human history (GA).
- Man is the one doing the accommodating: He (the biblical author) writes down God’s revelation according to his own worldview in that time line.

**REVELATION = FROM GOD, CONCEPTS OF SCIENCE & HISTORY = FROM MAN**

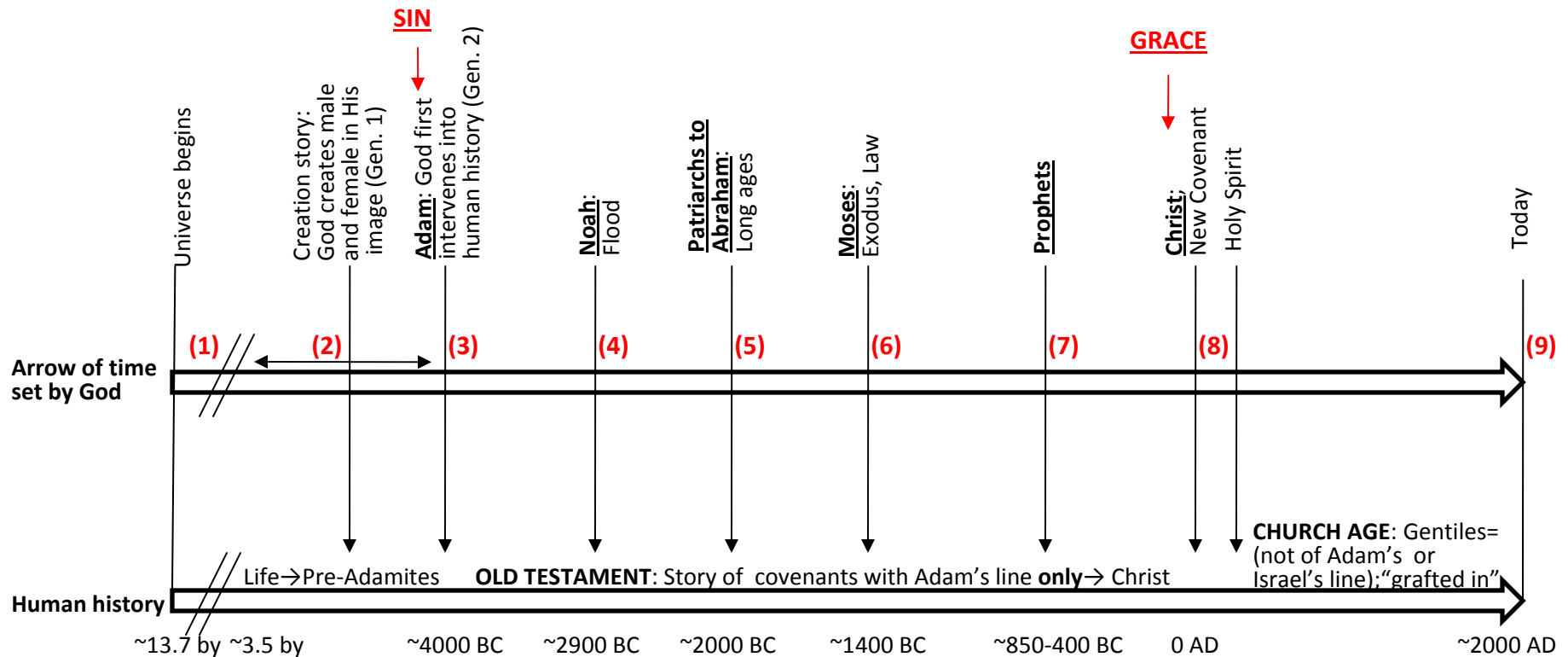
Or in other words, when God speaks and acts, he does so within the human drama as it is being played out at a certain time and place, with all of the cultural trappings that go with it. These “cultural trappings,” or worldview, get incorporated into the text alongside God’s revelation.



## GENERAL POINTS OF TIME-LINE GRAPH:

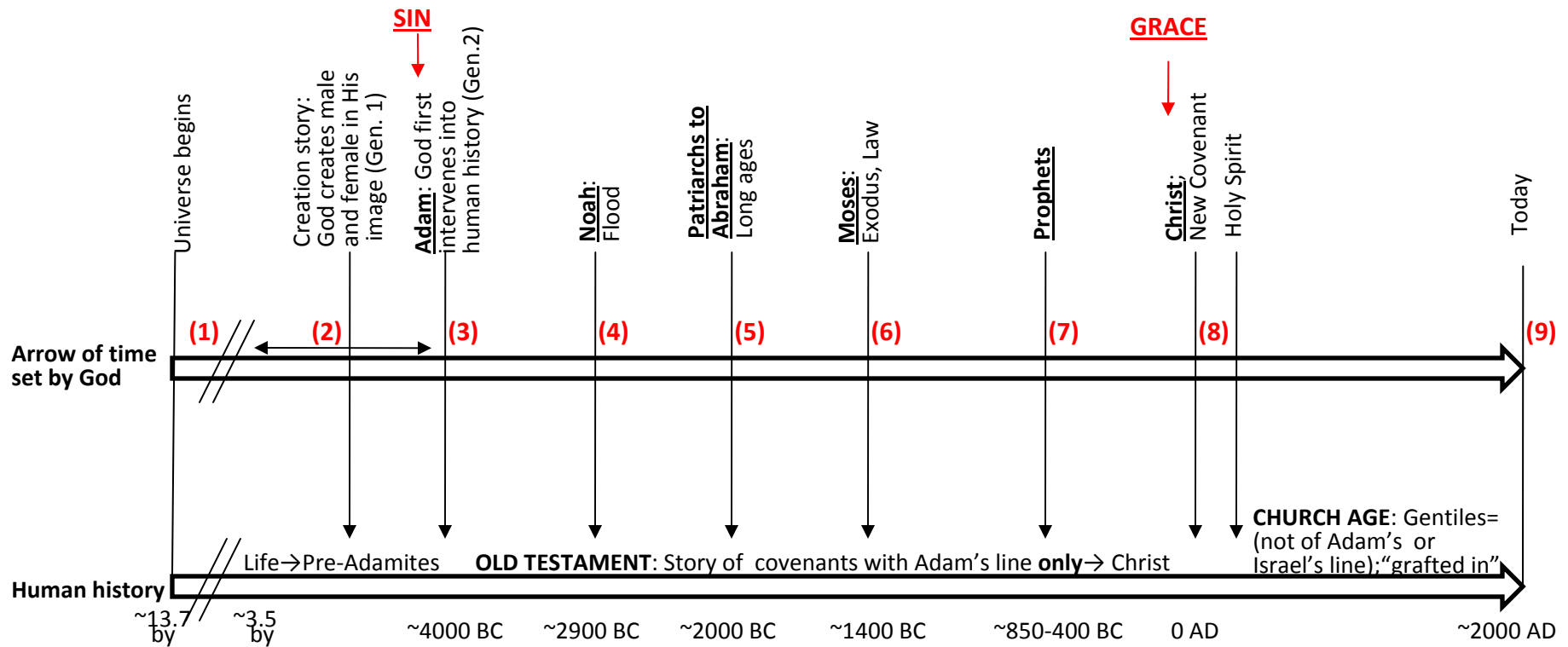
- **Biblical history does NOT exactly = real history.** It is a modification of real history colored by the worldview of the biblical authors. Or to quote Kenneth Kitchen in his *On the Reliability of the Old Testament* (p. 63):  
 “By and large, the ancients did not *invent* spurious history, but normally were content to interpret real history in accord with their views...Once detected, their viewpoint can be ‘peeled back’ if need be and the basic history made clear.”
  - **The Old Testament is *only* concerned with the genealogical line of Adam to Christ.** It is not concerned with the line of pre-Adamites and only marginally concerned with the non-Israelite line of Adam. The biblical author's main purpose was to relay the story of God's interaction with, and revelation to, his ancestors.
- \*This concept is extremely important with respect to Origins: Adam & Eve were not the parents of the whole human race; they were *only* the parents of those in the line leading to Christ!**





### **PROBLEMS WITH SPECIFIC “ACCOMMODATION” (SA) IN THIS TIME LINE:**

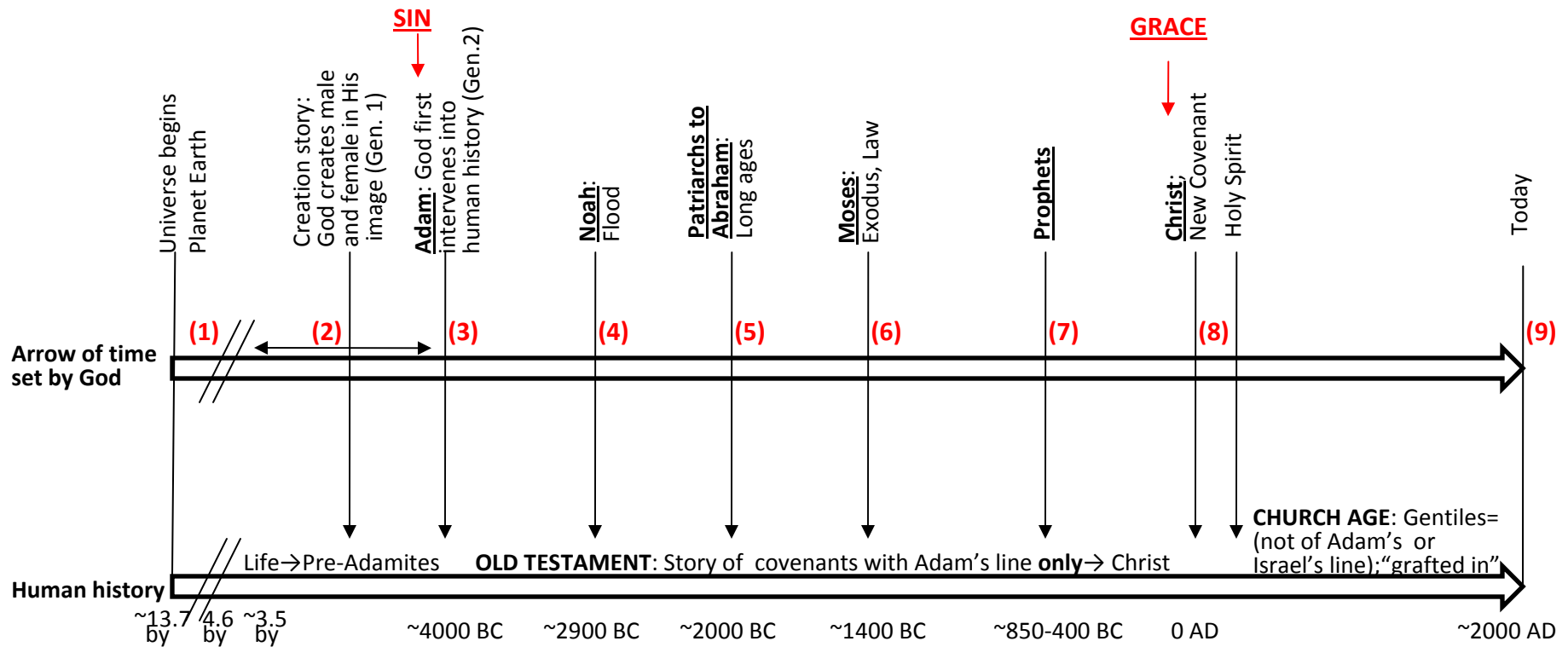
- The Bible goes to great lengths to establish the genealogy from Adam to Christ in Genesis, Chronicles, Ezra-Nehemiah, Matthew, and Luke.
- If these genealogies are not composed of historical people, then where do the historical people start and the unhistorical people end? Minimalists deny this historical line up to and including the Exodus and even later. So what impact does this have on the reliability/credibility of the Old Testament (and thus on the New Testament, which is based on the Old Testament)? **An immense impact!**
- The basic Christian doctrines of sin, grace, redemption for sin (etc.) are all tied up with this historical time line.



### THE WORLDVIEW APPROACH TO THIS TIME LINE:

- The people, places, and events in this time line are real. However, the *description* of these people, places, and events is necessarily colored by the worldview of the biblical authors. To “beget” someone is a *physical* act – either it happened or it didn’t. But a descriptive interpretation of a real event is a *cultural* act that stems from a particular worldview.
- The stories in the Bible (especially Genesis) have a dual nature:
  - (1) Historical: They have a historical base.
  - (2) Figurative: The biblical author’s worldview is interwoven with this historical base .

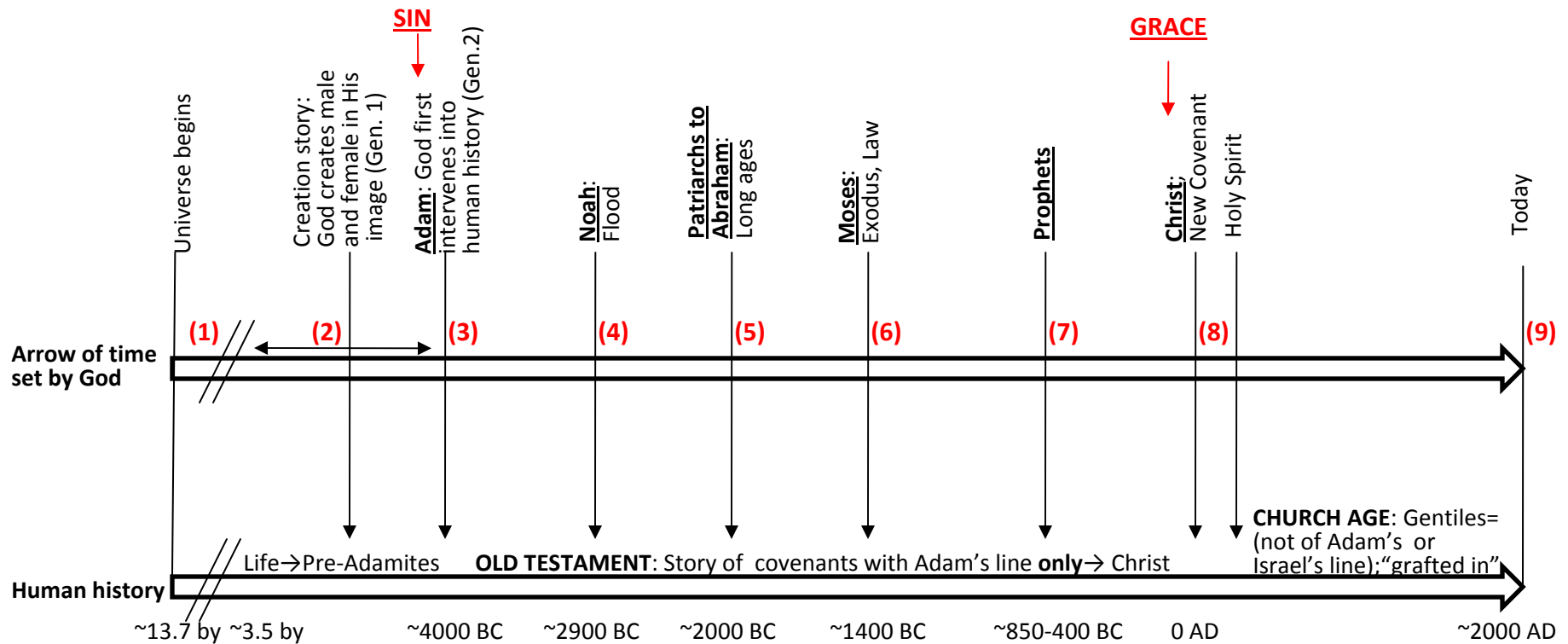
**WE ARE GOING TO SEE HOW THIS DUAL NATURE “WORKS” IN PRACTICE**



### **WORLDVIEW APPROACH TO EVOLUTION (1) AND GENESIS 1 CREATION STORY (2):**

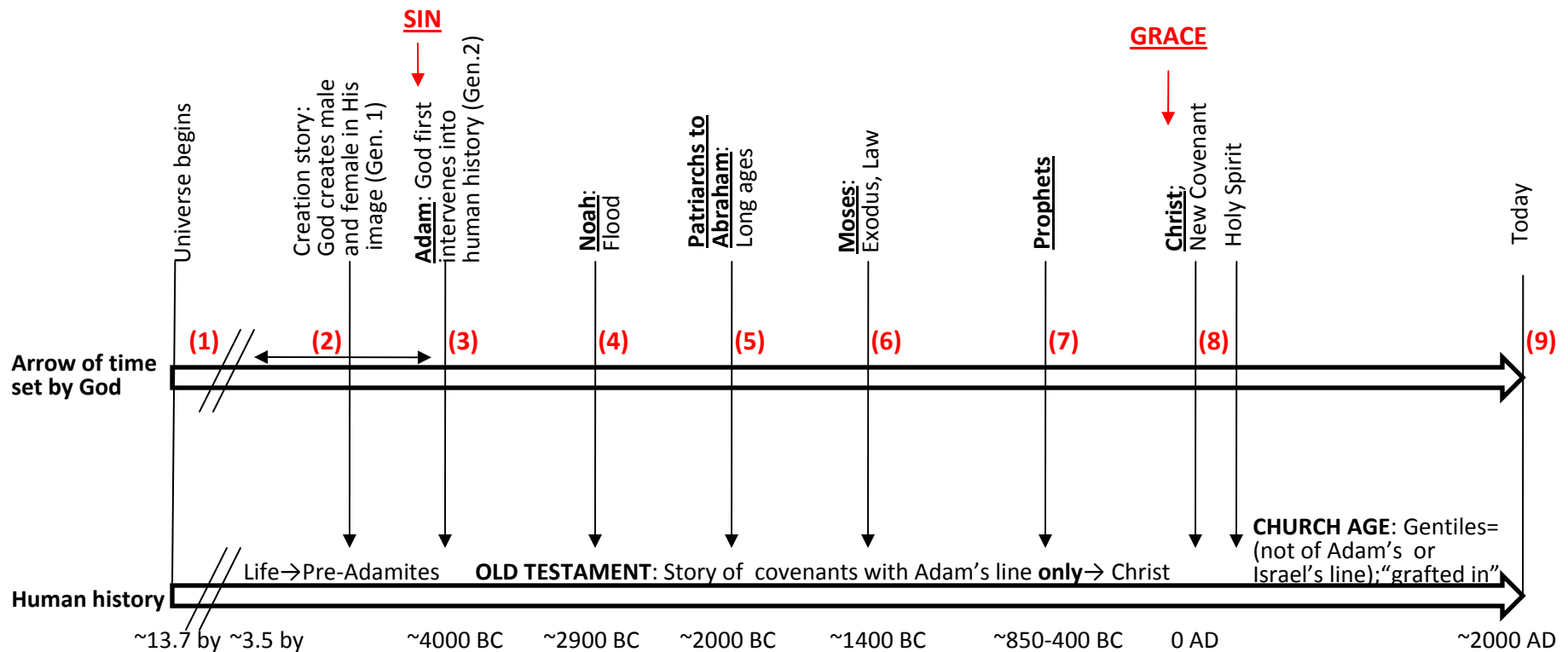
- Creation of the physical world and humans could have taken place by a long process of God-directed evolution.
- “Seven days” of Gen. 1 are *not* literal days. The number 7 was basic to the numerological worldview of the ancient Mesopotamians. God’s revelation was written down following the literary narrative style of the Mesopotamians: work was done in 6 days (broken down into 2 triads); rest was on the 7<sup>th</sup> day.

Table 1. A “Literary” Approach to Genesis 1		
Day 1. Light	Day 2. “Waters”; sea and heaven	Day 3. Earth or land; vegetation
Day 4. Light emanating from luminaries (sun, moon, stars)	Day 5. Fish (whales) and fowl	Day 6. Land creatures that eat vegetation; man
Day 7. Rest		



### WORLDVIEW APPROACH TO (2): PRE-ADAMITES

- Pre-Adamites hinted at in Gen. 4:17 (Cain's wife) ; Gen. 6:2 ("daughters of men"); "land of Nod" (Nodites), etc.
- Pre-Adamites are the "male and female" of Gen. 1 that were created in God's image. All humans have a spiritual awareness and innate capacity to see God in His creation (Rom. 1:19-20).
- Did pre-Adamites sin (murder, etc.)? Yes, because all humans have a sin nature. But were they judged by God for that sin? No, because sin is not imputed where there is no (knowledge of the) law (Rom. 5:13). God did not spiritually confer the "knowledge" of good and evil to humans until Adam.



### WORLDVIEW APPROACH TO ADAM AND EVE (3):

- God's first intervention into human history. The story of Adam & Eve is told from the worldview of the creation narratives of that day, but differs significantly because of the revelation of God to the line of Adam.
- Adam: First human to be given a "soul" (spirit) (Gen. 2:7).
- Sin *dispensationally* conferred on the human race through Adam (Rom. 5:12); similarly, grace conferred on human race through Christ (Rom. 5:15). Grace not *biologically* passed down because Christ is not the biological father of any of us; similarly, sin is not passed down biologically from Adam. Therefore, all humans (from Adam's line or not from his line) fall under the dispensations of sin and grace.
- First covenant with humanity set up in the Garden of Eden initiated the following chain of events: sin, judgment of sin, blood-sacrifice atonement for sin, spiritual death and spiritual (eternal) life.

## ADAM AND EVE: HOW DOES THE WORLDVIEW APPROACH WORK?

### DUAL NATURE OF TEXT:

- (1) Historical: Adam and Eve were real historical people.
- (2) Figurative: But the text reflects worldview of biblical author; “play on words” typical of early narrative writing.
  - adam (“man” = humanity in Gen. 1); Adam (“Man” = 1 man in Gen. 2).
  - God formed man (Adam) from the “dust (or clay) of the ground” (Gen. 2:7). Poetic figure of speech, one used by the culture of that time.
  - Eve formed from Adam’s rib (Gen. 2:21). Another “play on words.” Sumerian for rib = *ti*, which could alternately mean “life” in Sumerian; “lady of the rib” = “lady who makes live”, or Eve was the “mother of all living” (Gen 3:20).

### HOW THE STORY WAS TRANSMITTED (?):

~5000 B.C.

ADAM & EVE

God directly interacts with A&E

Creation myths

Biblical (Gen. 2-3). Passed down orally; narrative writing not invented until <2500 B.C.

Biblical author(s) (~2300-2000 B.C.?)  
Inspired by God?

## THE WORLDVIEW APPROACH DOES NOT AGREE WITH PROGRESSIVE CREATIONISTS ON THE DATE FOR ADAM & EVE

**PROGRESSIVE CREATIONIST POSITION:** Adam and Eve were the first humans, who lived ~>50,000 YBP.  
(*Homo Sapiens* found in fossil record back to ~200,000 YBP)

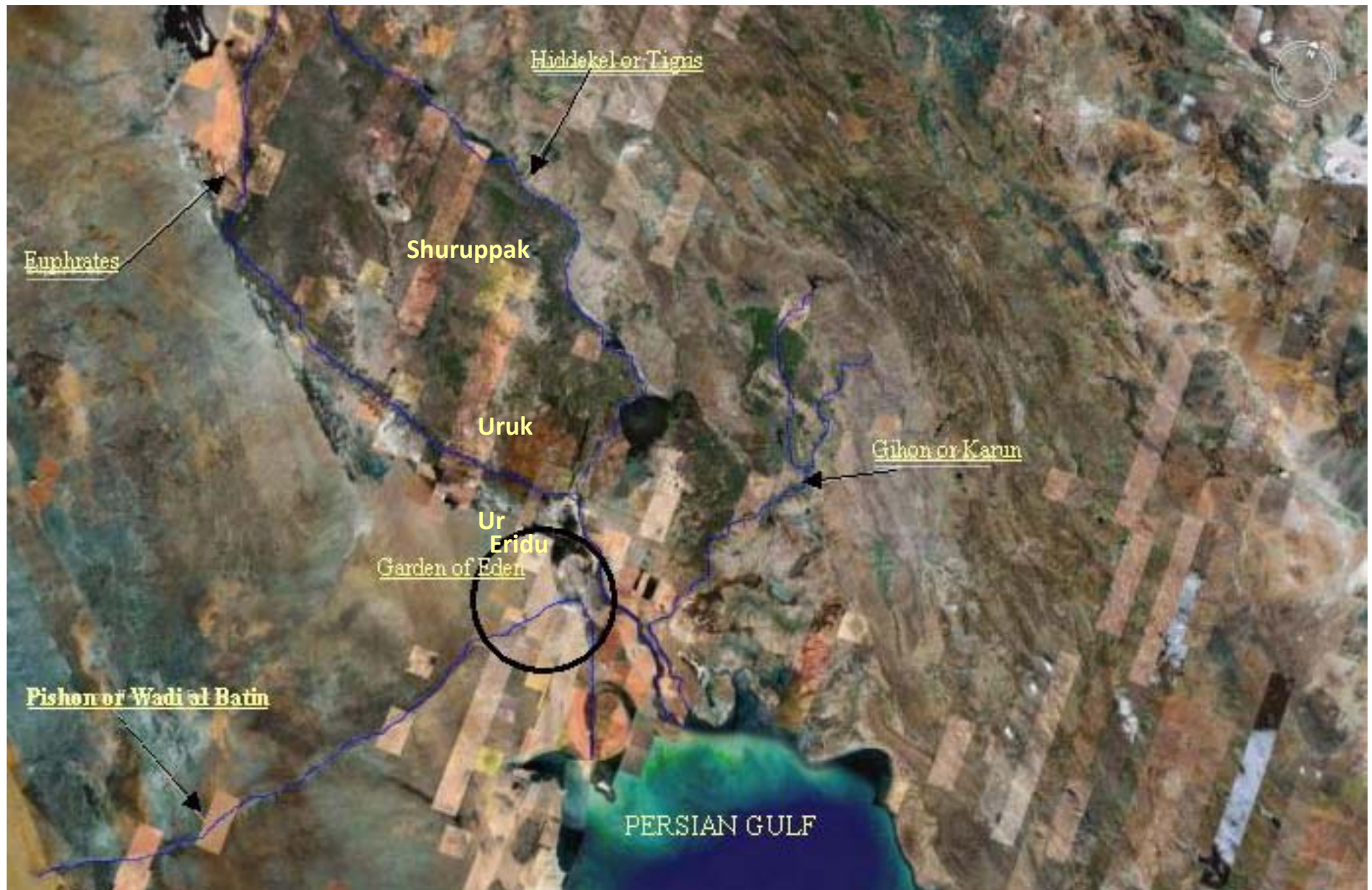
**WORLDVIEW POSITION:** Adam and Eve lived ~4000-5500 B.C. in the “Ubaid” archeological period.

**WHY THIS DIFFERENCE?:** Because Bible doesn’t put them there in place or time.

### **PLACE:**

- Southern Mesopotamia (Sumer), not Africa where *Homo Sapiens* lived >50,000 YBP.
- 4 rivers of Eden (Gen. 2:10-14), places the Garden of Eden near the Persian Gulf.
- Eridu = most likely place where Adam and Eve went to after being expelled from the Garden of Eden. Eridu is one of the oldest archeological sites in Southern Mesopotamia .  
    The Sumerian King List says:  
    “When the Kingship was lowered from heaven, the Kingship was in Eridu. In Eridu Alulim became King.”
- Noah’s “home town” = Shuruppak (Gilgamesh Epic).







## THE WORLDVIEW APPROACH DOES NOT AGREE WITH THE PROGRESSIVE CREATIONIST POSITION ON THE TIME OR PLACE FOR ADAM & EVE

### PLACE:

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### TIME:

- **Gen. 4:2.** Cain and Abel. Abel= keeper of sheep, Cain = tiller of ground. Both husbandry and agriculture have been documented for the Near & Middle East = ~10,000 B.C.
- **Gen. 4:17.** Cain built a city. First cities in Mesopotamia = ~3400 B.C.
- **Gen. 4:20.** Lamech-Adah→ Jabel, “father” of those who dwell in tents and have cattle. Cattle domesticated ~6500 B.C.; Nomads documented ~3000 B.C. for Negev (Israel).
- **Gen. 4:21.** Lamech-Adah → Jubal, “father” of pipe and harp. Harp = ~3100 B.C.
- **Gen. 4:22.** Lamech-Zillah → Tubal-cain, “father of bronze and iron.” Bronze age started ~3200 B.C.

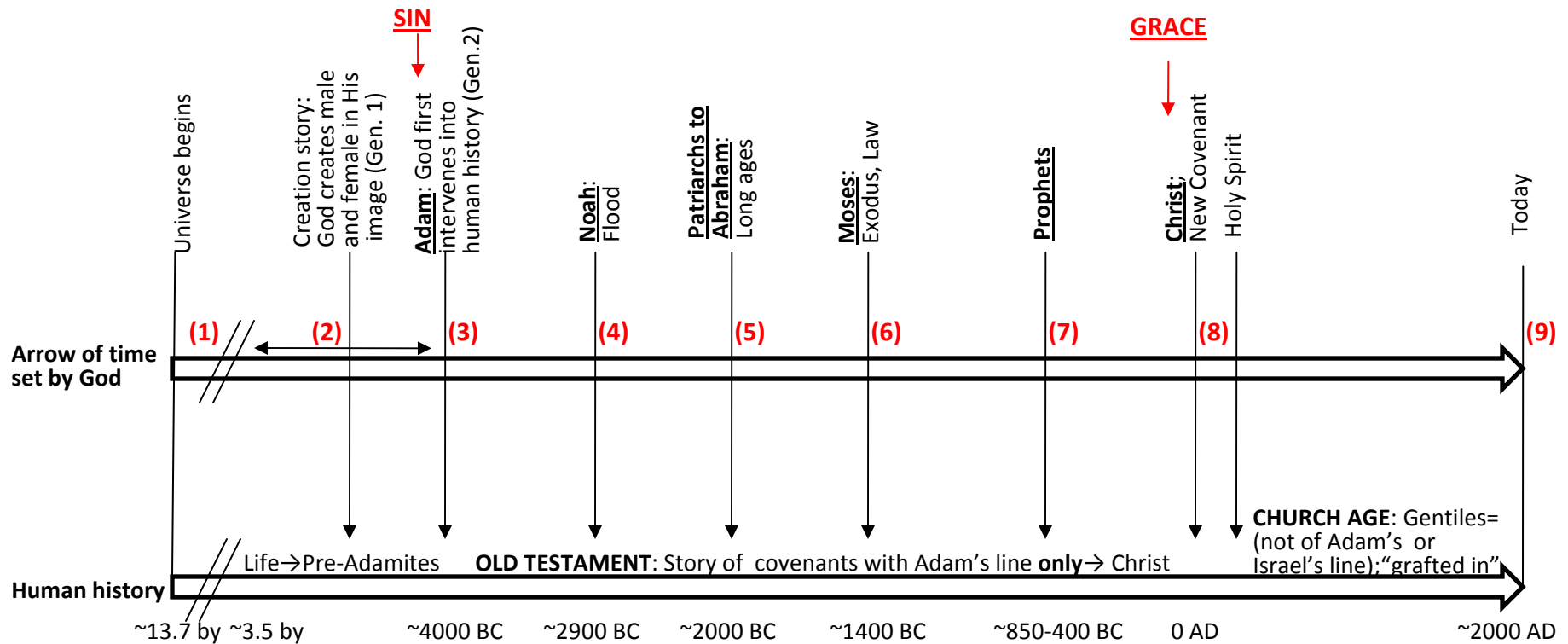
**ALL OF THIS INFORMATION PLACES ADAM AND EVE IN SOUTHERN MESOPOTAMIA AT ~4000-5500 B.C.**

## ADAM AND EVE PROBABLY LIVED SOMETIME IN THE UBAID PERIOD

<b>Archeological Period</b>	<b>Archeological Assigned Age</b>	<b>C-14 dates (calibrated)</b>	<b>Biblical Person/Event</b>
Ubaid	~5500-3800 B.C.	<span style="border: 1px solid red;">~5020 B.C.</span>	Adam and Eve?
Uruk	~3800-3100 B.C.	~4000-3350 B.C.	Tubal-Cain, Jabal, Jubal?
Jemdet Nasr	~3100-2900 B.C.	3350-2960 B.C.	Noah and the Flood?
Early Dynastic I	~2900-2750 B.C.	2960-2760 B.C.	Nimrod?
Early Dynastic II	~2750-2600 B.C.	2760-2655 B.C.	Tower of Babel?
Early Dynastic III	~2600-2350 B.C.	2655-2240 B.C.	
Dynasty of Akkad	~2350-2150 B.C.	2240 - ?	
Third Dynasty of Ur	~2150-2000 B.C.		
Old Babylonian	~2000-1600 B.C.		Abraham = ~2000 B.C. Joseph = ~1800 B.C.

Archeological Periods of Mesopotamia, and their possible correlation with people and events in Genesis. If Adam was the first human to live in southern Mesopotamia, where the Bible says the Garden of Eden was located, then he would have lived sometime in the Ubaid Period.

\*The radiocarbon (calibrated C-14) dates are from Hasson and Adams.



### **WORLDVIEW APPROACH TO NOAH'S FLOOD (4):**

- Noah's Flood was a flood local to Mesopotamia because in the worldview of the biblical author(s) that was the entire *known* world.
- Noah's Flood historically agrees in time and place with other ancient Middle East flood narratives.
- Bible never claims that all sedimentary rock formed in Noah's Flood.
- Sign of rainbow in Noachian covenant does not imply no more floods on Planet Earth because Noah's Flood was not worldwide and because covenant given only to line of Adam and not to all people then on Earth.

**\*Note:** Refer to my one *PSCF* article on the Garden of Eden, and my 3 *PSCF* articles on Noah's Flood for details.

## NOAH AND THE FLOOD: HOW DOES THE WORLDVIEW APPROACH WORK?

### DUAL NATURE OF TEXT:

- (1) Historical: Noah = real person, Noah's Flood = real flood (but local to Mesopotamian hydrologic basin). occurred at end of Jemet Nasr Period at ~2900 B.C.
- (2) Figurative: Text is based on numerological (sacred) numbers **7, 10, 40, 60**, not on real numbers.
  - Noah = 600 (**60 x 10**) when flood started. Sexagesimal # **600** used only for very important persons.
  - Noah waited **7** days inside the ark for the flood to start (Gen. 7:7).
  - It rained for **40** days and **40** nights (Gen. 7:4).
  - The land was flooded until the **7<sup>th</sup>** month, **17<sup>th</sup>** (**10 + 7**) day (Gen. 7:24).
  - The ark rested on the mountains of Ararat on the **7<sup>th</sup>** month, **17<sup>th</sup>** (**10 + 7**) day (Gen. 8:4).
  - The waters decreased until the **10<sup>th</sup>** month.
  - In **40** more days Noah opened the window of the ark (Gen. 8:6).
  - In **7** more days Noah sent forth a dove (Gen. 8:10).
  - Noah sent out the dove again in another **7** days (Gen. 8:12).

**Total duration of Flood = 365 days or exactly one solar year.**

**THE FLOOD IS A SACRED STORY TOLD  
FIGURATIVELY FROM A HISTORICAL BASE.**

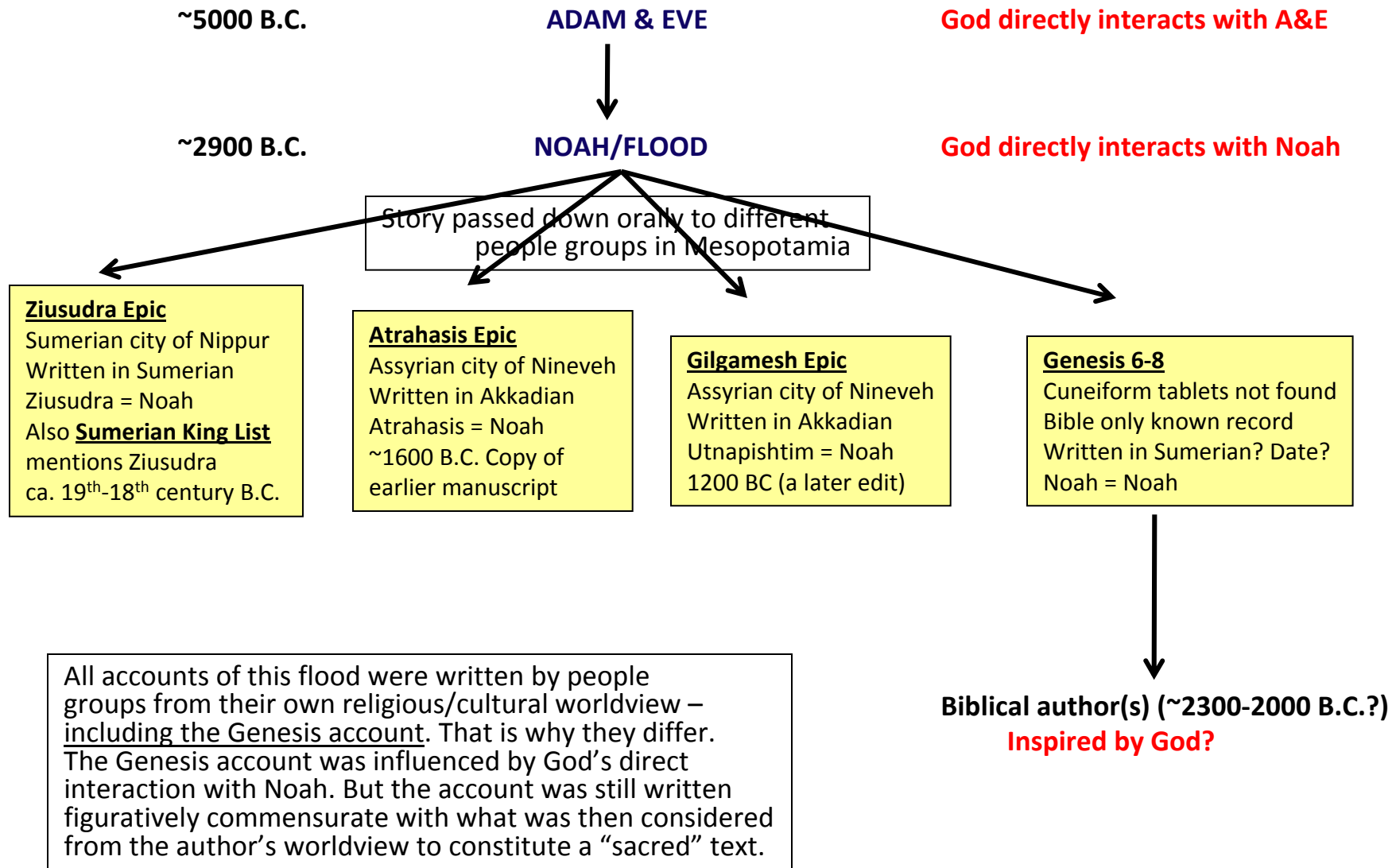
#### **Mt. Ararat, eastern Turkey.**

The Bible does not claim that the ark landed on Mt. Ararat, but on the "mountains" of Ararat, which in Noah's time was the province of Urartu. The more likely landing site of the ark was in the Jabel Judi, Cizre area.\*

- Refer to my PSCF article "The Noahian Flood: Universal or Local?"



## HOW THE STORY WAS TRANSMITTED (?):



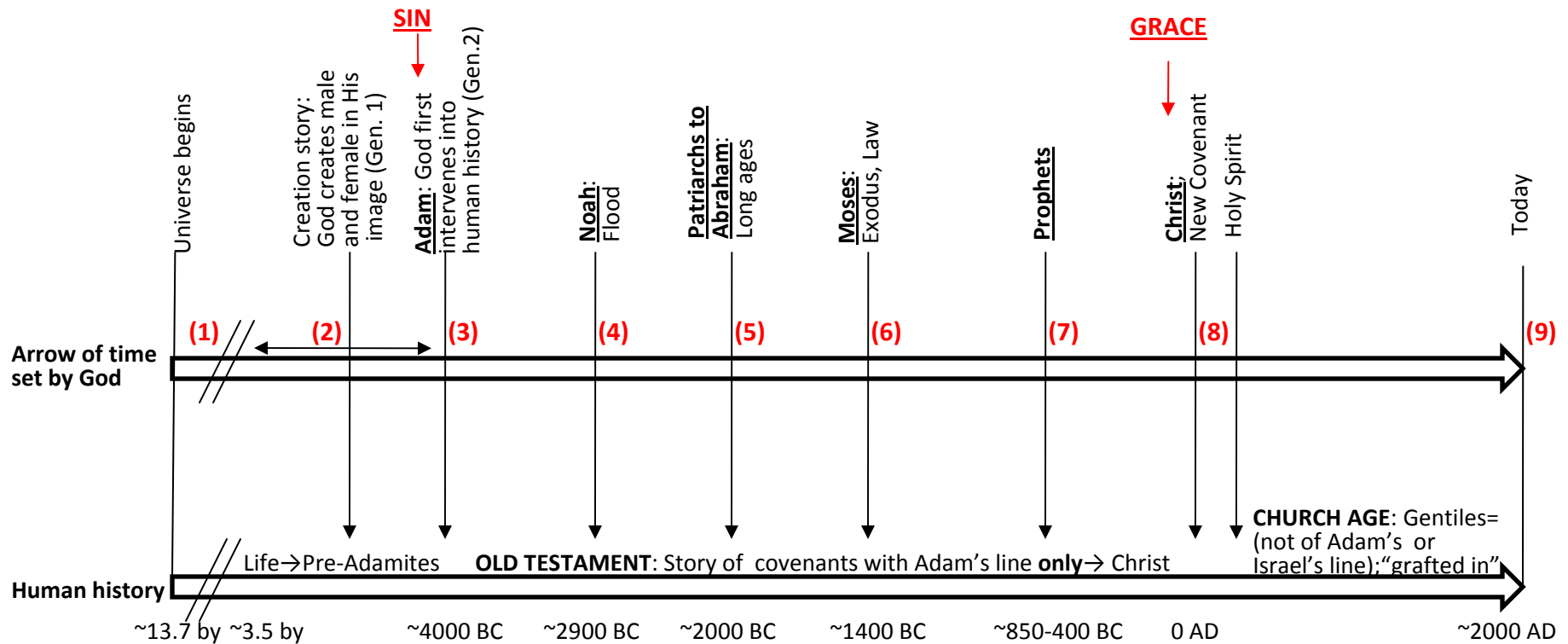
## MOST PROBABLE DATE OF NOAH'S FLOOD = ~2900 B.C.

Archeological Period	Archeological Assigned Age	C-14 dates (calibrated)	Biblical Person/Event
Ubaid	~5500-3800 B.C.	~5020 B.C.	Adam and Eve?
Uruk	~3800-3100 B.C.	~4000-3350 B.C.	Tubal-Cain, Jabal, Jubal?
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Third Dynasty of Ur	~2150-2000 B.C.		
Old Babylonian	~2000-1600 B.C.		Abraham = ~2000 B.C. Joseph = ~1800 B.C.

### WHY?

- (1) From our previous discussion on Adam and Eve we found that Genesis 4 puts them sometime in the Ubaid Period. Jabel, Jubal, and Tubal-cain (5 generations from Cain) thus probably lived in the Uruk Period. Noah was 8 generations from Seth (Cain) → Noah = ~Jemdet Nasr Period.
  - (2) Gilgamesh Epic says the the “home town” of Noah was Shuruppak = the modern day mound of Fara. At Shuruppak a flood stratum was found directly above a polychrome jar, seal cylinder, and stamp seals from the Jemet Nasr Period and directly below plano-convex bricks from the Early Dynastic I Period. C-14 dates put the boundary between the Jemdet Nasr and Early Dynastic I periods at ~2900 B.C.
- While the numbers in Genesis are numerological and not numerical, the ancients still seemed to have a rough idea of how long before them their ancestors lived. That is, their genealogies put Adam at about 4000 B.C. or in the Ubaid Period and Noah's Flood about 3000-2900 B.C.





### WORLDVIEW APPROACH TO PATRIARCHAL AGES & ABRAHAM (5):

- The patriarchs (Adam → Abraham) were real historical people.
- The extremely long ages of the patriarchs can be explained by understanding the numerological worldview of the Mesopotamians. These are not real (numerical) numbers, they are sacred (numerological) numbers.
- Gen. 1-11 contains an amazing numerological structure – from Gen. 1 to Noah's Flood to patriarchal ages. The scribe(s) that wrote the text must have known mathematics.
- The rest of the Bible uses the preferred numbers 3, 7, 10, 12, and 40 over and over again.
- A 6000 year-age of the universe and Earth cannot be constructed from the patriarchal ages because these ages do not represent real absolute numbers.

**\*Note: Refer to my PSCF article on "Making Sense of the Numbers of Genesis" for details.**

## **PATRIARCHIAL AGES: HOW DOES THE WORLDVIEW APPROACH WORK?**

### **DUAL NATURE OF TEXT:**

- (1) Historical: Patriarchs (Adam to Abraham) = real people.
- (2) Figurative: All of the patriarchial ages are numerological (sacred) not numerical (real).

### **TABLE OF PATRIARCHIAL AGES**



Patriarch	Age (yrs) when first son born	Sexagesimal and Preferred Numbers	Re-main-ing years of life	Sexagesimal and Preferred Numbers	Total years	Sexagesimal and Preferred Numbers
Adam	130	60x2yrs + 60x2mos	800	60x10x10mos + 60x60mos	930	60x3x5yrs(60mos) + 6x5yrs(60mos)
Seth	105	60x10x2mos + 60mos	807	60x10x10mos + 60x60mos + 7yrs	912	60x3x5yrs(60mos) + 5yrs(60mos) + 7yrs
Enosh	90	(6+6+6) x 60mos	815	60x10x10mos + 60x60mos + 60x3mos	905	60x3x5yrs(60mos) + 5yrs(60mos)
Kenan	70	7x2x5yrs(60mos)	840	60x10x10mos + 60x60mos + 60x8mos	910	60x3x5yrs(60mos) + 2x5yrs(60mos)
Mahalalel	65	60yrs + 5yrs(60mos)	830	60x10x10mos + 60x60mos + 60x6mos	895	60x3x5yrs(60mos) – 5yrs(60mos)
Jared	162	60x6x5mos + 5yrs(60mos) + 7yrs	800	60x10x10mos + 60x60mos	962	(60+60+60+6+6)x60mos – 5yrs(60mos) + 7yrs
Enoch	65	60yrs + 5yrs(60mos)	300	60x5yrs(60mos)	365	60x6yrs + 5yrs(60mos) = 1 solar year
Methuselah	187	60x3yrs + 7yrs	782	60x10x10mos + 60x60mos – 6x3yrs	969	(60+60+60+6+6)x60mos – 5yrs(60mos) + 7yrs + 7yrs
Lamech	182	60x7x5mos + 7yrs	595	60x10yrs – 5yrs(60mos)	777	7x10x10 + 7x10 +7yrs
Noah	500	60x10x10mos	450	40x2x5yrs(60mos) + 10x5yrs(60mos)	950	60x3x5yrs(60mos) + 10x5yrs(60mos)
Flood						
Shem	100	60x10x2mos	500	60x10x10mos	600	60x10yrs
Arphaxad	35	7x5yrs(60mos)	403	40x2x5yrs(60mos) + 3yrs (6x6mos)	438	40x2x5yrs(60mos) + 60x6 + 60 + 6x6mos
Shelah	30	60x6mos	403	40x2x5yrs(60mos) + 3yrs (6x6mos)	433	40x2x5yrs(60mos) + 6x(60+6)mos
Eber	34	60x6mos + 6x8mos	430	40x2x5yrs(60mos) + 6x60mos	464	40x2x5yrs(60mos) + 60yrs + 6x8mos
Peleg	30	60x6mos	209	40x5yrs(60mos) + 5yrs(60mos) + 6x8mos	239	40x5yrs(60mos) + 6x6yrs + 6x6mos
Reu	32	60x6mos + 6x4mos	207	40x5yrs(60mos) + 5yrs(60mos) + 6x4mos	239	40x5yrs(60mos) + 6x6yrs + 6x6mos
Serug	30	60x6mos	200	40x5yrs (60mos)	230	40x5yrs(60mos) + 60x6mos
Nahor	29	60x6mos – 6x2mos	119	60x2yrs – 6x2mos	148	60x10x2mos + 6x8yrs
Terah	70	7x2x5yrs(60mos)	135	60x2yrs + 60x2mos + 5yrs(60mos)	205	40x5yrs(60mos) + 5yrs(60mos)
Abraham	100	60x10x2mos	75	5yrs(60mos) x 3x5yrs(60mos)	175	60x10x2mos + 15x5yrs(60mos)

## TRENDS:

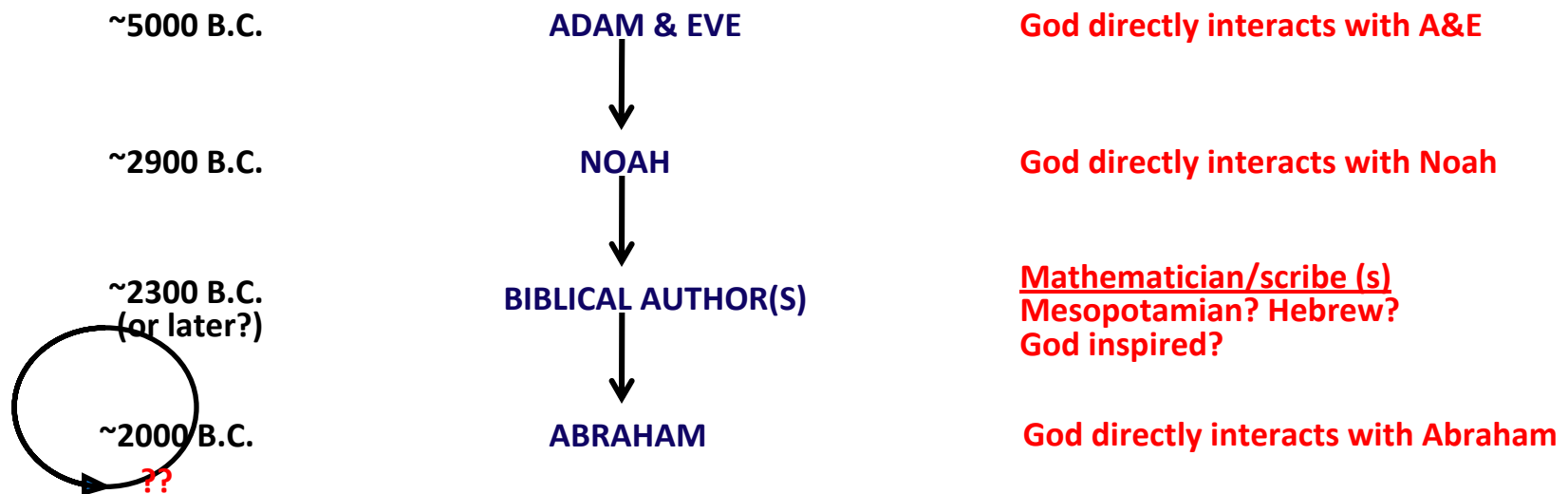
- The generations are broken up into 2 series of 10. This was typical for ancient Middle Eastern texts.
  - The generations from Adam to Noah are based primarily on 60; this was typical of ancient Mesopotamia.
  - The generations from Shem to Abraham also included the #40. The use of the preferred # 40 extended all the way through the OT to the time of Christ.
  - The ages get progressively younger because the concept of sacred ages waned over time. By the time of the monarchy (~800 B.C.) the use of numerological numbers was over. \*
- \*This is but one reason why the authorship of Genesis cannot be assigned to the monarchy as per Wellhausen. (To be discussed later)
- The biblical author(s)/scribe(s) had to have been mathematicians. Genesis 1-11 has an amazing amount of mathematical symmetry, harmony, and complexity intricately interwoven into the text.

## ABRAHAM: HOW DOES THE WORLDVIEW APPROACH WORK?

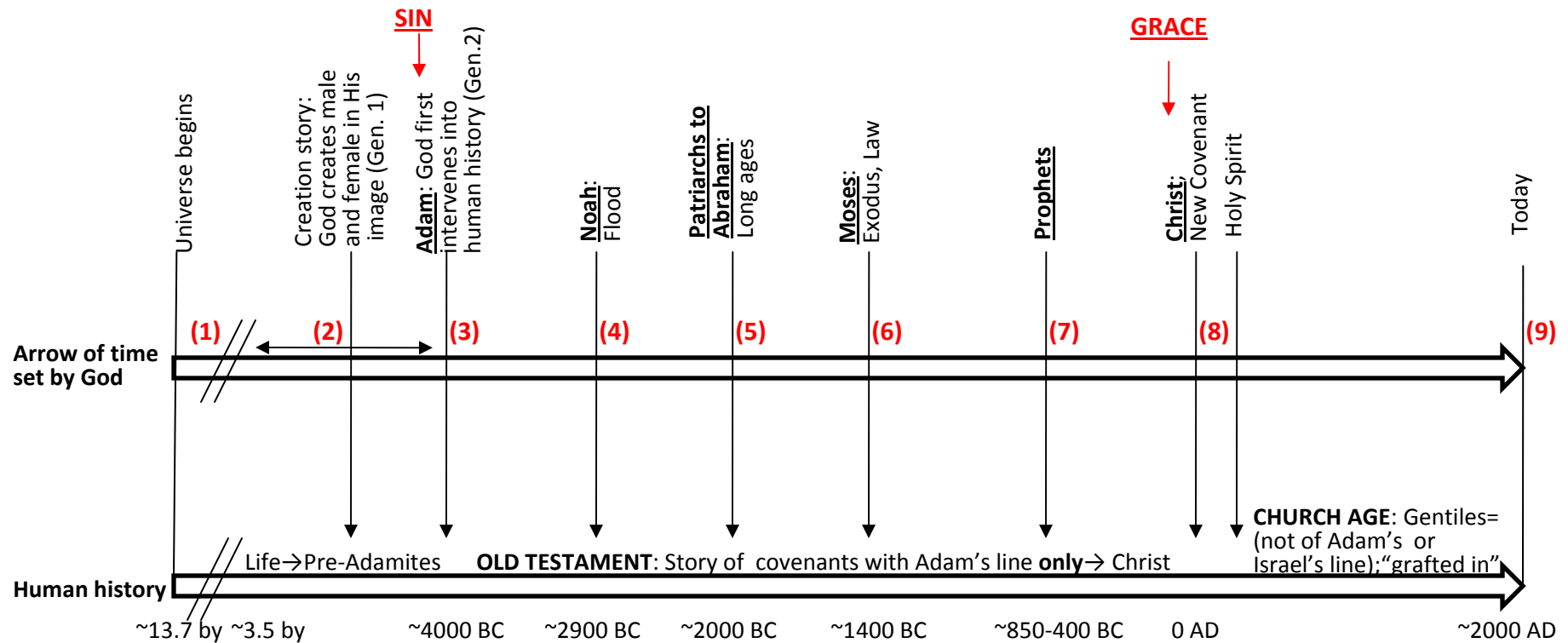
### DUAL NATURE OF TEXT:

- (1) Historical: Abraham was a real person who lived ~2000 B.C.
- (2) Figurative: By Abraham's time, stories are more believable because the Mesopotamian's use of figurative language and sacred numbers was waning. But still the numbers **3, 7, 10, 12, and 40** are used preferentially in the Old Testament up until the time of Christ.

### HOW THE STORY WAS TRANSMITTED (?):



- Abraham lived around 2000 B.C. and by this time narrative writing on cuneiform tablets had been well established, so Abraham could have taken the Genesis 1-11 stories with him when he left Ur – either orally or more likely in written (cuneiform) form, as “This is the book of the generations of Adam” (Gen. 5:1) implies a written genealogy.



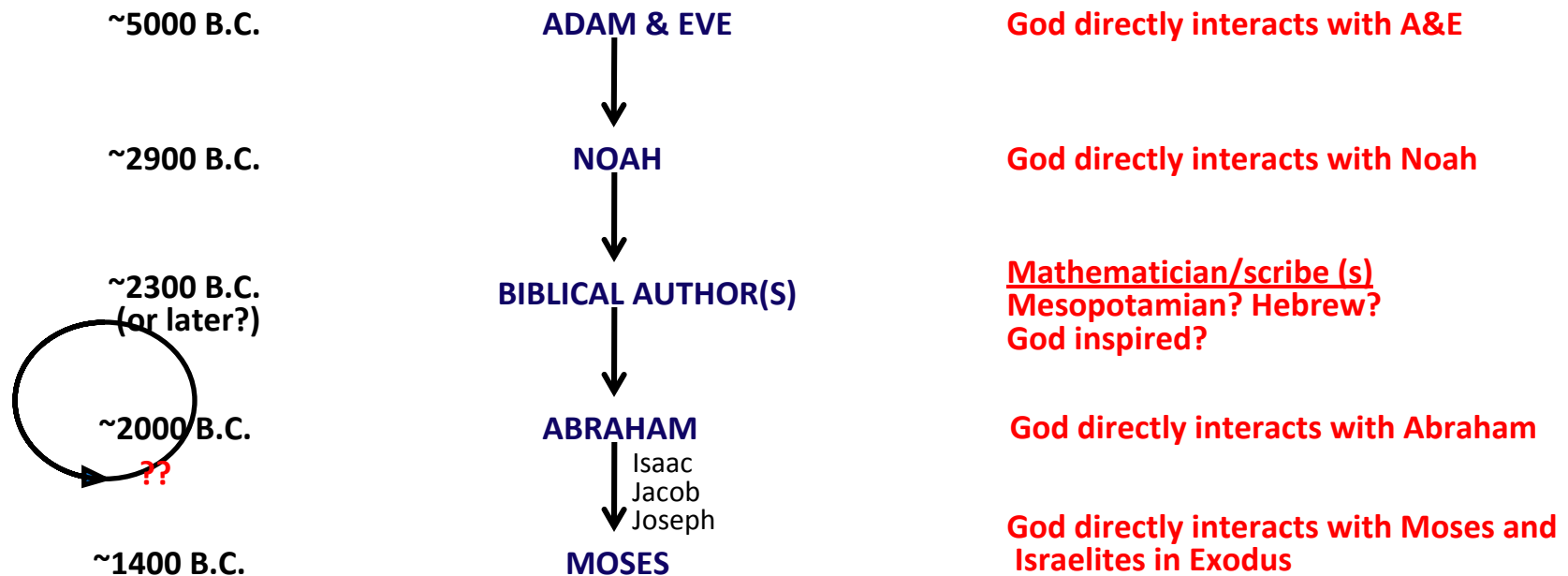
### WORLDVIEW APPROACH TO MOSES/EXODUS/LAW (6):

- Moses was the *historian* author of Genesis; the much earlier Genesis text was passed down to him orally or as a written text (cuneiform tablets) . This is evident from the literary style and numerological nature of the text, as well as Mesopotamian root words used in the text.
- The Exodus was a real event that happened ~1400 -1200 B.C.
- One of the main reasons for the law is that the Israelites needed to become more convicted of their sin: *For by the law is the knowledge of sin* (Rom. 3:20). The law made judgment for sin justifiable .

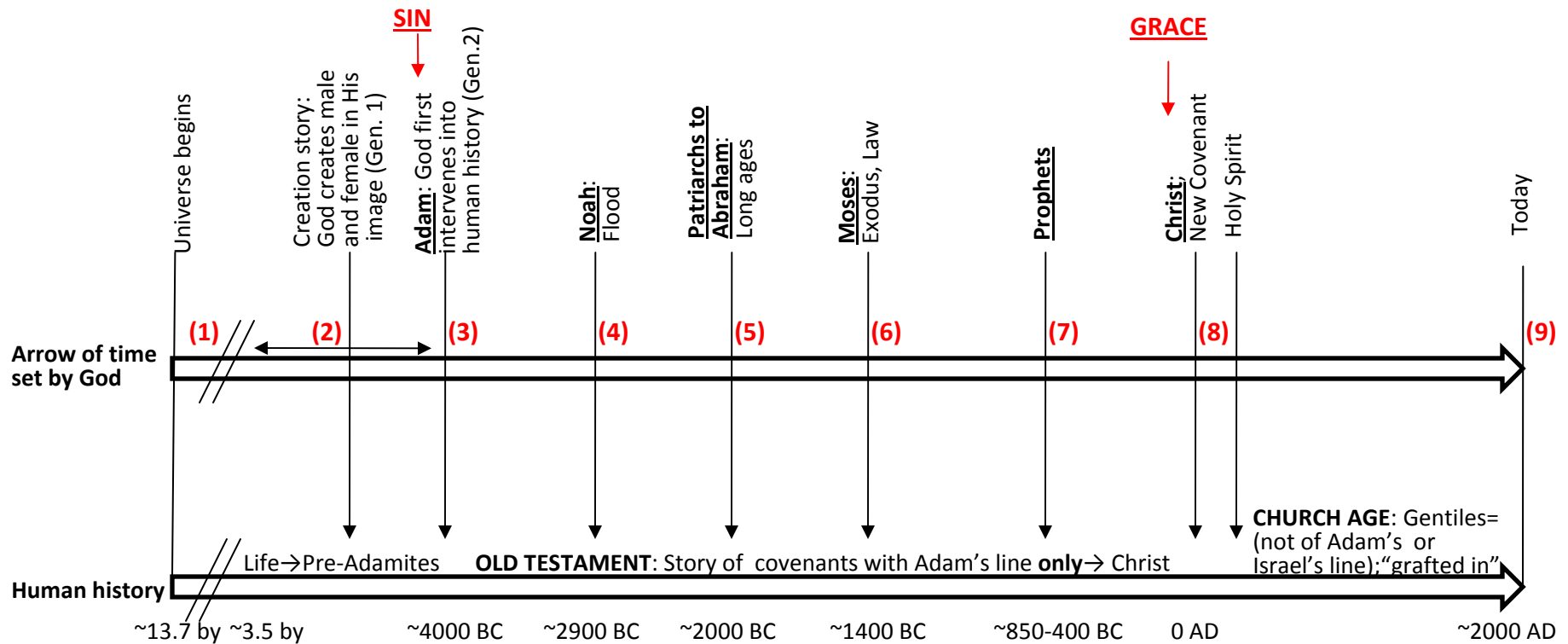
## MOSES: HOW DOES THE WORLDVIEW APPROACH WORK?

DUAL NATURE OF TEXT: Mostly gone, except for some use of preferred numbers.

HOW THE STORY WAS TRANSMITTED (?):



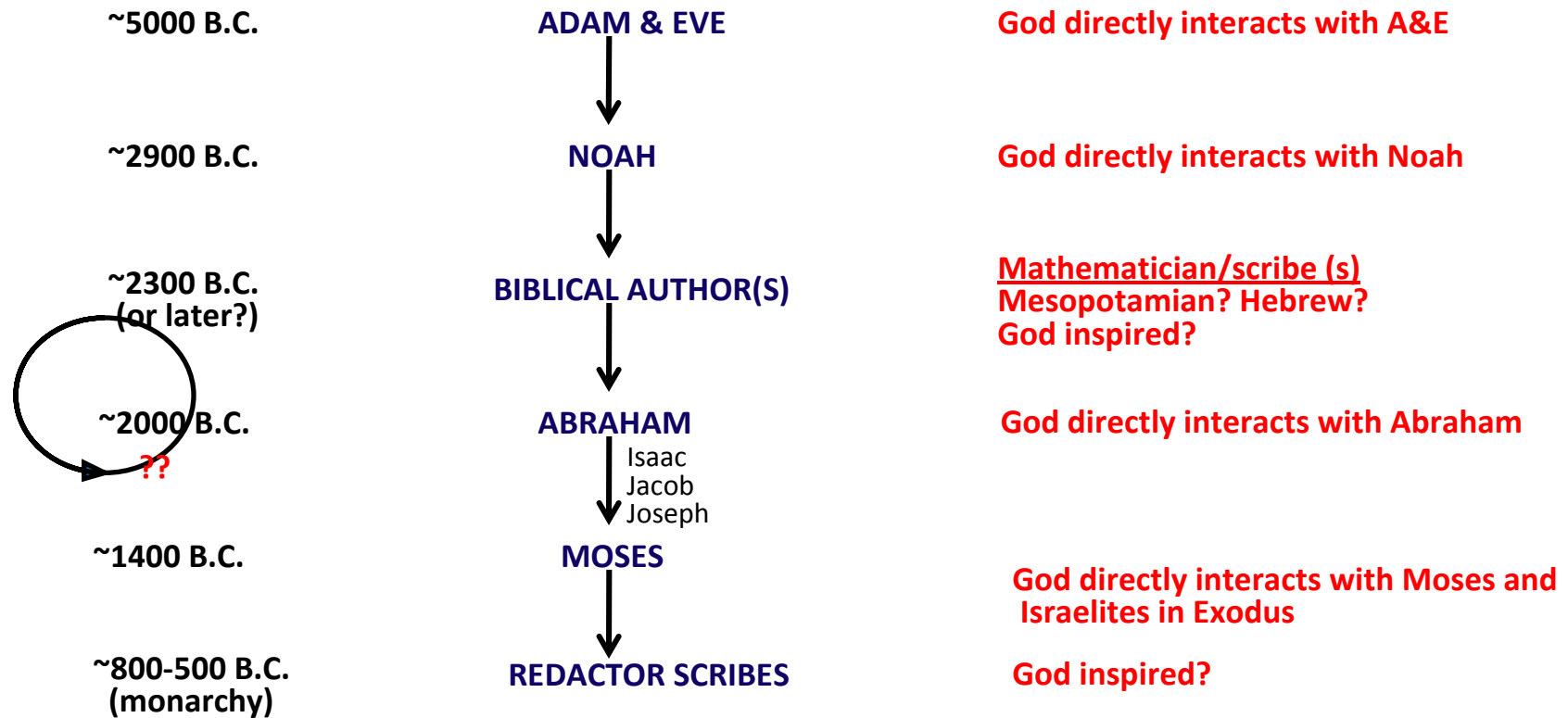
- It was typical of sons to write down the life stories of their fathers and to keep these genealogical stories in the family; e.g. Isaac wrote about Abraham, passed it down to Jacob, etc. → Moses.
- Moses was the historian author (compiler) of Genesis + the author of the other 4 books of the Pentateuch.
- Moses kept original text intact: hence “old” words, sexagesimal numerology of Mesopotamians, + ancient historical memories (e.g., 4 Rivers of Eden).
- Some preferred, symbolic numbers still used; e.g., 40 years in wilderness = long time; 120 (40 x 3) age for Moses = epitaph for an exceptionally righteous person; 110 age for Joshua and Joseph = Egyptian epitaph for outstanding persons: **these are ideal numbers, not real numbers.**



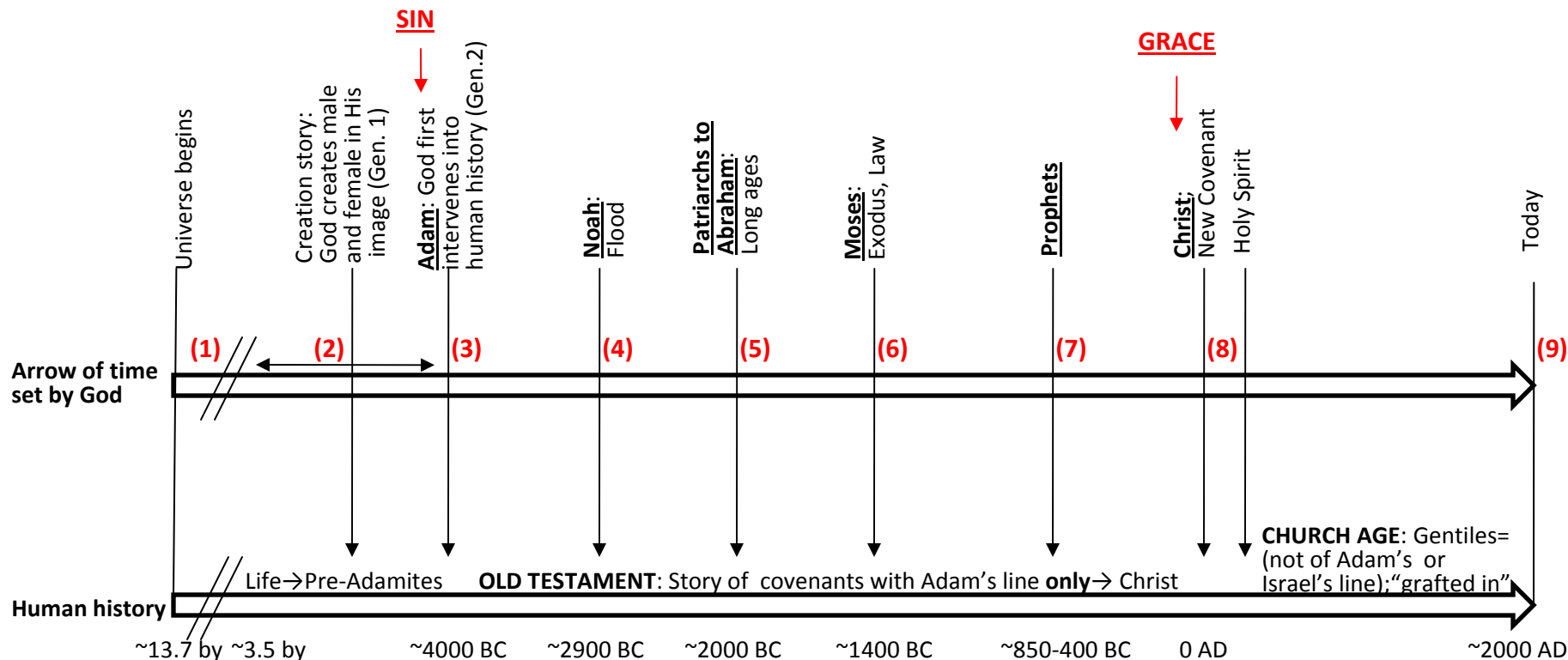
### WORLDVIEW APPROACH TO PROPHETS (7).

- God has foreknowledge of future events, but has only hinted at these events through His Prophets.
- God usually gave his revelation to the Prophets in the form of dreams and visions. These may have been visions of the future, but the Prophets *described* these visions in their own language and from their own knowledge base and worldview.
- Ezekiel, Daniel, John (Revelation), and other of the prophets probably did not understand their prophecy ; they were simply writing down, as best they could from their own worldview perspective, what God had revealed to them.

## PROPHETS/MONARCHY: HOW DOES THE WORLDVIEW WORK?



- Redactor scribes converted the ancient text into Classical Masoretic Hebrew – a form of Hebrew language that did not even exist in Moses’ time. These scribes could have added “tidbits” of information to the original text, but basically the Genesis text remained unchanged.
- The “Wellhausen” hypothesis is not supported by the sexagesimal (base 60) ages of the patriarchs; sexagesimal numbers were used only by the ancient Mesopotamians, not in the time of the Israelite monarchy.
- The Worldview Approach agrees with Kenneth Kitchen in his *On the Reliability of the Old Testament*:  
 “Entirely false is the nineteenth-century “evolutionary” scheme (of Wellhausen)...Pumped into generations of students, both future and practicing biblicists, it is and (alas!) always was, pure unadulterated fantasy.”



### WORLDVIEW APPROACH TO CHRIST (8) AND CHURCH AGE TO TODAY (9):

- If no dispensation of sin was imparted to humanity via a historical Adam, then why would a historical Christ ("the 2<sup>nd</sup> Adam") have to die for our sins and impart grace to humanity?
- God included all of humanity in his Grace by grafting in the Gentiles (people from the pre-Adamite line + non-Israelite line).

### TIME LINE:

- God lets humans evolve physically (evolution) and spiritually ("Progressive Revelation") along this time line. Thus the worldviews of succeeding generations change continually; i.e., we have a much different worldview than the Near/Middle Eastern biblical authors of 4000 years ago.

**TODAY:** It is a mistake to try and impose our 21<sup>st</sup> Century scientific worldview on the Bible. This is the main reason why there is so much confusion/contention in Scripture-Science interpretation.



## CONCLUSIONS

- The Worldview Approach is a new way of interpreting Scripture in the Science/Origins debate.
- It is similar to “Accommodation” (SA) in that it incorporates the pre-ingrained scientific worldview of the biblical author(s) into the text. However, it differs from Accommodation in important ways.
- It is theologically important that Adam be a historical person through whom sin was conferred on humanity, just as a historical Christ (the “second Adam”) conferred grace on humanity and the forgiveness of sins. The doctrine of “Accommodation” rejects this historical and theological connection, and thus cuts into the very heart of the gospel message.
- If a “literal” view of Genesis is taken, instead of the “dual” view of the Worldview Approach, then the text becomes *mythological* and thus unbelievable. This applies to all three of the other positions of biblical interpretation (YEC, Progressive Creationist, Accommodation).

### Conrad Hyers:

“Unwittingly, ‘literal’ or ‘concordist’ views are secular rather than sacred interpretations of the text. To faithfully interpret Genesis is to be faithful to what it really means as it was originally written, not to what people living in a later time (or coming from a different worldview) desire it to be.”