

HERITAGE TIMELINES

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THE FIRST GENERATIONS

Creation and the First Patriarchs



PANEL 01

HERITAGE CHRONOLOGY PRESS

The First Generations

Creation and the First Patriarchs

Heritage Timelines · Study Edition · Panel 1

Sebastian C. Adams' Synchronological Chart of Universal History

Original English inscriptions, historical illustrations and explanations with biblical and historical sources.

Heritage Chronology Press

Digital edition 1.1 · October 2026

This is a digital PDF guide. No printed chart is shipped.

About this edition

Using the edition

Use the clickable contents and PDF bookmarks to open a section. Body page numbers begin at 1 after the Roman-numbered opening pages. The chart can be explored at adamschart.org. This is a digital PDF guide. No printed chart is shipped.

Reading the original

Adams' original inscriptions retain his historical spelling, dates and judgments. Square brackets identify editorial additions or uncertain letters. KJV means King James Version. A.M. means anno mundi, "year of the world," counted from Creation in Adams' chronology of 4004 B.C. Other chronological systems are identified in the commentary.

Sources and images

The chart's imprint names a third edition revised to 1878; this copy contains notices dated 1881 and was printed in 1881 or later. Its exact year is unknown. Which copies Adams himself used is not known. Comparisons with other books identify parallels and differences. The archival images include traditional religious art, violence, historical stereotypes and occasional nudity. They are reproduced for historical study. Original image detail varies; readable inscriptions are typeset separately.

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Version and corrections

Digital edition 1.1, October 2026. For corrections: contact@heritagechronologypress.com; identify the panel and its body page.

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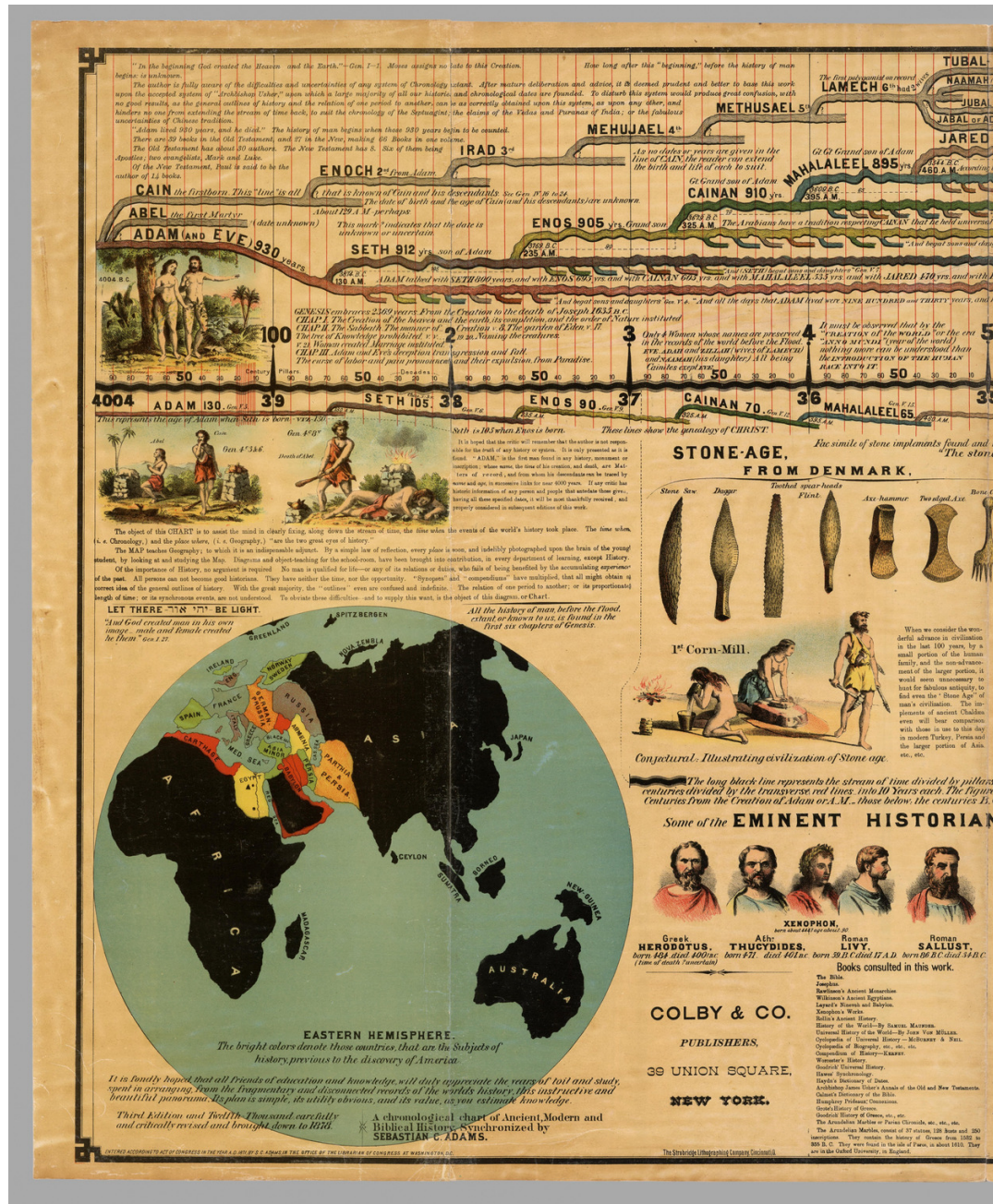
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The story and the chart

The First Generations

The complete first panel: original English, enlarged details and the books behind the chart.



The opening of Adams' chart: family bands above, biblical scenes and a hemisphere below; tools, historians and the source list at the right.

A guide to this volume

The first part follows Genesis, the families and the measure of time. The documentary companion then presents the map, the objects, Adams' complete explanatory notices and all twenty-two entries in his source list. Continuations across the panel boundary are identified where they complete a sentence or a family branch.

Guide to the sections

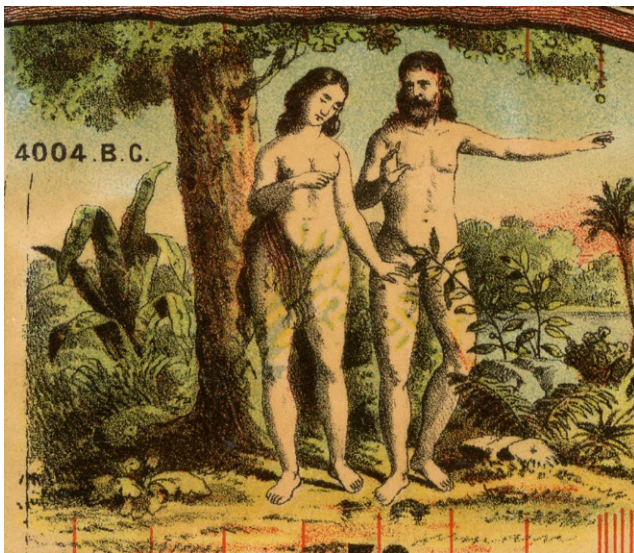
The biblical narrative opens the book; the surrounding notices follow in their own part.

Reading the original

Each source passage carries its attribution; Adams' words and direct biblical quotations are identified separately. Captions describe what appears in the original image; the surrounding prose explains the relationships between image, text and source. Small inscriptions are reset beside the facsimiles.

At the beginning

The opening words and the first scene establish the starting point of Adams' history.



Adam points outward beside Eve, beneath a tree, with palms, water and vegetation behind them. The scene carries "4004.B.C.".

ADAMS' ORIGINAL WORDING

"In the beginning God created the Heaven and the Earth."—Gen. I—1. Moses assigns no date to this Creation. How long after this "beginning," before the history of man begins: is unknown.

ADAMS' ORIGINAL WORDING

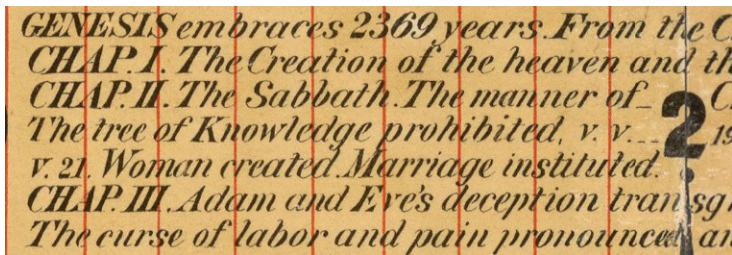
"Adam lived 930 years, and he died." The history of man begins when those 930 years begin to be counted.

The beginning of the life band

Adams follows Archbishop Ussher's chronology for the start of Adam's 930 years. He distinguishes that starting point from the undated "beginning" in his opening note. Genesis 5:5 supplies the lifespan; the B.C. date comes from the chronology.

The first three chapters

Adams places a compact reading of Genesis immediately above the centuries.



ADAMS' ORIGINAL WORDING

CHAP. II. The Sabbath. The manner of Creation. v. 8. The garden of Eden, v. 17. The tree of Knowledge prohibited, v. v. 19. 20, Naming the creatures. v. 21. Woman created. Marriage instituted.

ADAMS' ORIGINAL WORDING

CHAP. III. Adam and Eve's deception transgression and fall. The curse of labor and pain pronounced, and their expulsion, from Paradise.

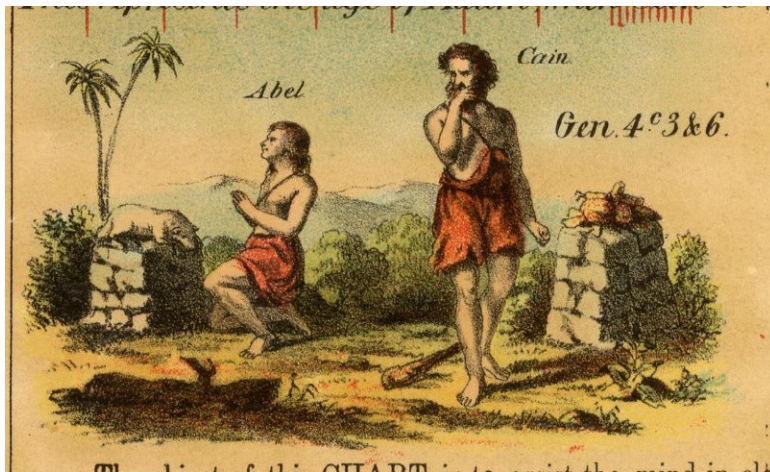
From creation to Joseph

The three chapter summaries concern creation, Eden, marriage, disobedience and departure from Paradise. The opening "2369 years" looks ahead to the end of Genesis. Ussher's *Annals*, p. 11, also assigns 2369 years to the book; $4004 - 2369 = 1635$ B.C. Genesis 50:26 records Joseph's age at death as 110.

Adams, panel 1; King James Version, Genesis 1–3 and 50:26; James Ussher, *The Annals of the World* (1658), p. 11.

The offerings of Cain and Abel

Two brothers bring the fruits of their different work before God.



Abel kneels with joined hands before an altar bearing a lamb. Cain stands beside fruit on a second altar. A club lies on the ground. Adams prints "Abel," "Cain" and "Gen. 4c 3 & 6."

Genesis 4:3 · KJV

And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.

Genesis 4:4 • KJV

And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:

The account and the illustration

Genesis 4:2 names Cain as a tiller of the ground and Abel as a keeper of sheep. The altars, joined hands and club belong to the way the engraver pictures the account. The chapter does not specify those details.

Adams, panel 1, offerings vignette; King James Version, Genesis 4:2–7.

The death of Abel

The second vignette follows the first in the biblical narrative.



Cain stands over the fallen Abel, a club in his hands.

The lamb, fire and smoke remain at the altar; fruit is scattered at the left. The scene is labeled "Death of Abel." and "Gen. 4c 8v."

Genesis 4:8 • KJV

And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

A scene in its sequence

The verse identifies the field and the killing. Adams' artist supplies the weapon and the continuity of the altar setting. Genesis 4:25 places Abel's death before Seth's birth. Adams' approximate date is examined in the documentary notes.

Adams, panel 1, death-of-Abel vignette; King James Version, Genesis 4:8, 4:25 and 5:3.

Cain and his descendants

The colored branches carry names and relationships without a measured sequence of lifespans.

ADAMS’ ORIGINAL WORDING

CAIN the firstborn. This “line” is all that is known of Cain and his descendants. See Gen. IV. 16 to 24.

ADAMS’ ORIGINAL WORDING

The date of birth and the age of Cain (and his descendants) are unknown.

ADAMS’ ORIGINAL WORDING

As no dates or years are given in the line of CAIN, the reader can extend the birth and life of each to suit.

The line on Adams’ chart	Printed rank or description
Cain	The firstborn
Enoch	“2nd from Adam.”
Irada	“3rd”
Mehujael	“4th”
Methusael	“5th”
Lamech	“6th”; “had 2 wives”; “The first polygamist on record”

Reading the family

Genesis 4:17–19 provides the father-to-son sequence and names Lamech’s wives, Adah and Zillah. Abel does not belong in that descending chain. Adams’ ordinal labels are reproduced as printed; they are genealogical positions, not ages.

A sibling beside the line

Abel is Cain’s brother; he is not a link in Cain’s descending family line. Adams calls Cain “the firstborn.”

Adams, panel 1, Cain’s family bands; King James Version, Genesis 4:1–2 and 4:17–19.

The household of Lamech

The branches continue across the edge into the next panel.

ADAMS' ORIGINAL WORDING

JABAL OF ADAH — he was the father of such as dwell in tents, and have cattle. Gen. IV. 20.

ADAMS' ORIGINAL WORDING

JUBAL OF ADAH — he was the father of all such as handle the harp, & organ. Gen. IV. 21.

ADAMS' ORIGINAL WORDING

TUBAL-CAIN 7th — “A furbisher of every cutting instrument of copper & iron” Gen. IV. 22.
Smiths Bi. Dic. — The “VULCAN” of the Greeks.

ADAMS' ORIGINAL WORDING

NAAMAH (loveliness) — OF ZILLAH.

Two mothers, four names

Adah is the mother of Jabal and Jubal. Zillah is the mother of Tubal-cain, and Naamah is named as his sister. Adams' classical comparison calls Tubal-cain “VULCAN”; Genesis 4:22 supplies the metalworking association but does not use that Greek/Roman comparison.

Brass, copper and the dictionary

The KJV calls Tubal-cain “an instructor of every artificer in brass and iron” (Genesis 4:22, KJV spelling). Smith's 1863 Dictionary, vol. III, p. 1574, already prints Adams' furbisher, copper and iron wording. The same entry discusses the Vulcan comparison, citing Hasse and Buttmann.

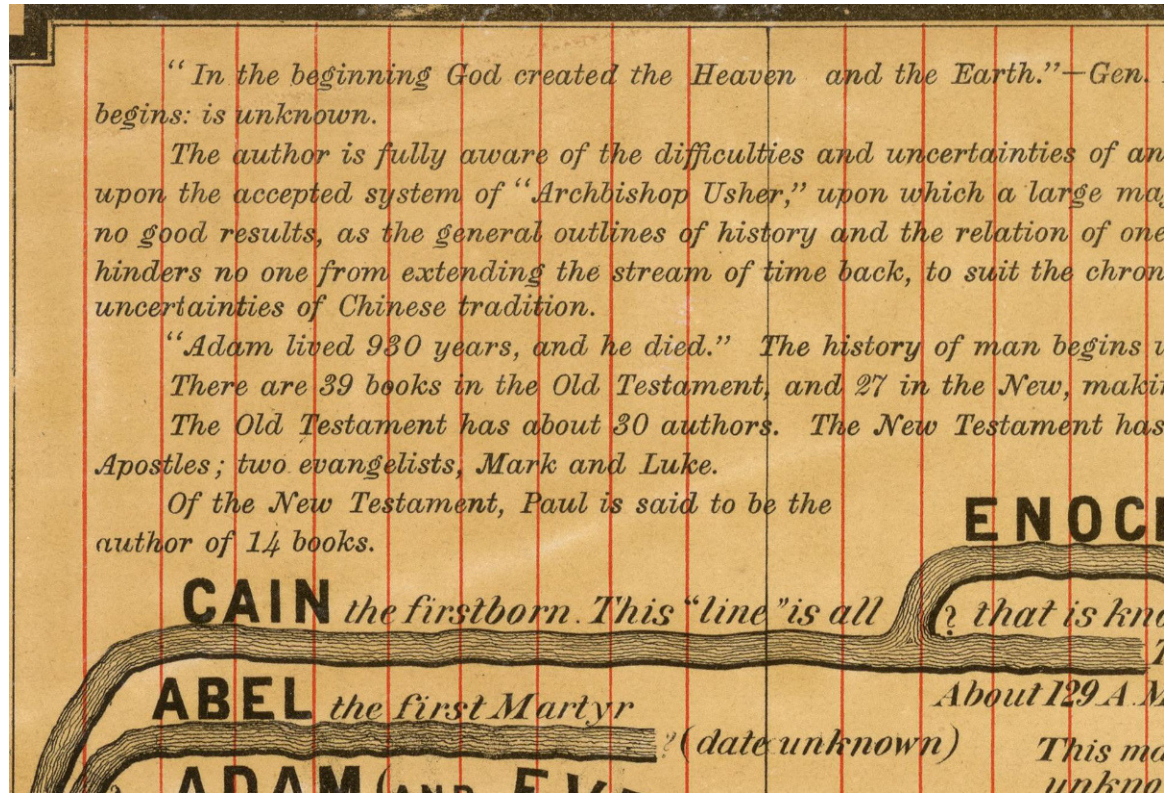
The classical comparison

Vulcan is the Roman smith-god; the corresponding Greek figure is Hephaestus.

Adams, panels 1–2; KJV, Genesis 4:20–22; Smith, Dictionary of the Bible (1863), III, p. 1574, “Tubal-cain”.

Following the upper branches

The family structure can be followed directly on the chart.



A continuous detail of the chart from Cain at the left through Lamech's household at the right. The far-right continuation belongs to panel 2; parallel bands below belong to Seth's line. Detail 1 of 5, left to right.