

HERITAGE CHRONOLOGY PRESS

10 HISTORICAL SYNCHRONISMS

*from Adams' Chart
You Didn't Know*



*A free guide to the Synchronological Chart
by Sebastian C. Adams*

Heritage Chronology Press

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WHAT IS A SYNCHRONISM?

A *synchronism* is two events, or two lives, set side by side at the same moment in time. Sebastian C. Adams built his whole chart that way. In his “Explanation of the Plan of the Chart,” printed on the chart itself, he writes:

“The stream of time is represented by the long black line flowing from left to right. ... The Nations and Kingdoms are represented by parallel streams and each brought into the same divisions of time, as the stream of time. When conquered or absorbed into another government, its stream terminates.”

The chart reproduced at adamschart.org is the edition described on its title panel as “Third Edition and Twelfth-Thousand, carefully and critically revised and brought down to 1878.” Beneath the title, Adams adds:

“It is fondly hoped, that all friends of education and knowledge, will duly appreciate the years of toil and study, spent in arranging, from the fragmentary and disconnected records of the worlds history, this instructive and beautiful panorama. Its plan is simple, its utility obvious, and its value, as you estimate knowledge.”

The ten synchronisms in this guide are taken from the chart. The words in quotation marks are Adams’ own, as he printed them, spelling and capitals included; the dates are his dates. Under each one, the panel tells you where to find it on the chart, where more than 13,000 entries can be searched free at adamschart.org.

THE SYNCHRONISMS

1

1493–1491 B.C.

THE EXODUS, AND LETTERS REACH GREECE

At the top of the panel, Adams prints: “THE EXODUS 1491, B.C. FROM EGYPT AND LAW GIVEN AT SINAI.” In the pictures of Egypt below, he labels one figure “MENEPTAH” and writes beneath it “THE SUPPOSED PHARAOH OF THE EXODUS,” followed by the name “BIRCH.” Lower on the same panel, beside the stream of Thebes, he writes: “Cadmus is said to have brought the 15 Phoenician letters into Greece 1493. They gradually changed in form, till they became the ground of the Roman letters, now used in Europe and America.”

Panel 5

2

1194–1155 B.C.

THE TROJAN WAR AND SAMSON

Above the stream of Troy, Adams prints “TROJAN WAR, 1194 to 1184” and “10 YEARS WAR.” In the stream of Israel, the judge “SAMSON, 20.” follows, his band ending at 1155, under the picture captioned “SAMSON CARRYING OFF THE GATES OF GAZA.” A note on Greece reads: “From the earliest accounts of Greece, to the Trojan war (1184 B.C.) is termed ‘The Fabulous age.’ From the fall of Troy, to the death of Homer, is called the ‘Heroic Age,’ ...”

Panels 4 and 5

3

1048–1040 B.C.

DAVID TAKES JERUSALEM, AND HIRAM OF TYRE

Where David’s reign begins, Adams prints “JEBUSITES SUBDUED.” and “JERUSALEM TAKEN BY DAVID”. Just above, the stream of Tyre carries the name “HIRAM.” with the line “For Hiram was ever a lover of David,” the words of 1 Kings 5:1. Nearby: “1043. WAR WITH THE PHILISTINES SYRIANS MOABITES AND AMALEKITES, DAVID VICTORIOUS.” and, on the stream of Syria, “CONQUERED BY DAVID 1040.”

Panels 5 and 6

4 1012–950 B.C.

SOLOMON AND HOMER

Here Adams states a synchronism in his own words: “Solomon was cotemporary with Homer, and Elisha with Lycurgus and the founding of Carthage by Dido.” Beside his picture of the Temple: “1012, B. C., foundations laid; 1004, dedicated” Beside a portrait of Homer he quotes the old lines: “Seven Grecian cities strove for Homer dead, Through which the living Homer begged his bread.” and adds “About 950. B.C.” A little earlier on the chart, a note on India begins: “‘SANSKRIT’ was the language of the Brahmins of India, spoken at the time of Solomon.”

Panels 5 and 6

5 554–538 B.C.

DANIEL IN BABYLON, BUDDHA IN INDIA

Adams prints “554. DANIEL CAST INTO THE LIONS DEN.” Lower down, in three stacked lines: “GARI-TA-MA”, “SAKYA MUNI”, “BUDDHA, ABOUT 550 B.C.” The picture of Belshazzar’s feast is captioned “DANIEL READS THE WRITING ON THE WALL” and ends “KING SLAIN AND BABYLON FALLS.” In his explanation of the plan, Adams dates it: Cyrus “slays Belshazzar 538.” In the Bible, the lions’ den comes in the reign of Darius, after Belshazzar is slain (Daniel 5:30–31; 6:16).

Panels 6 and 7

6 536–522 B.C.

PYTHAGORAS AND CONFUCIUS

Adams names “THE GREAT PHILOSOPHER PYTHAGORAS,” and on the band of his life writes “PYTHAGORAS of MAGNAGRÆCIA, VISITS EGYPT 536.” Lower on the same panel he prints “522, CONFUCIUS REMODELS THE SACRED BOOKS.”

Panel 6

7 338–323 B.C.

PHILIP, ALEXANDER AND THE PTOLEMIES

Adams uses Macedon to explain how his streams work: “Philip II., King of Macedon conquers the whole of Greece 338, reigns 24 years and is succeeded by his son ‘Alexander the Great’ 336. In his short reign of 13 years, all the kingdoms are absorbed in the Macedonian Empire, except Syracuse, Rome, Carthage, and China. On his death in 323, his Empire is divided and Ptolemy Lagus (or Soter) becomes King of Egypt and reigns 38 years to 285 and so on to Cleopatra.”

Panel 7, “Explanation of the Plan of the Chart”

8 47–27 B.C.

CAESAR, CLEOPATRA AND IMPERIAL ROME

Adams writes of the “ALEXANDRIAN LIBRARY 284.B.C. BY PTOL. PHILADELPHUS 700,000. VOLS. PARTLY BURNED BY JULIUS CÆSAR, 47 B.C.” Of Caesar: “J. CÆSAR IS SLAIN BY BRUTUS, CASSIUS IN THE SENATE-HOUSE MARCH 15th 44, B.C.” Of Cleopatra: “AFTER THE DEFEAT OF CLEOPATRA AND MARK ANTONY ... AT ACTIUM, SEP. 2. 31. B.C. SHE PUT HERSELF TO DEATH, BY THE BITE OF AN ASP, 30. B.C.” And of Rome: “‘IMPERIAL ROME’ BEGINS 27, B.C.”

Panel 7

9 6 B.C. – A.D. 1

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST, UNDER AUGUSTUS

At the head of the Christian era Adams prints “4004, A.M. CHRISTIAN ERA BEGINS,” and below: “IT IS NOW HELD THAT CHRIST WAS BORN FROM 4 TO 6 B.C.” Lower on the panel: “THE ‘CHRISTIAN ERA’ BEGINS IN THE 30th YEAR OF THE REIGN OF AUGUSTUS CÆSAR.” On the same panel are the bands of two Roman poets: “VIRGIL 51, POET.” and “HORACE, 57. POET.”

Panel 7

10

A.D. 64–70

NERO, PLUTARCH AND THE FALL OF JERUSALEM

Of Seneca, Adams writes: "TUTOR OF NERO, PUT TO DEATH BY NERO," his band ending at 65 A.D. Of Plutarch: "PLUTARCH'S AGE UNKNOWN, HE WAS A STUDENT AT DELPHI, WHEN NERO PASSED THROUGH GREECE A.D. 66." Beside a cross marked "NERO 64 TO 68" is the picture captioned "MARTYRDOM OF PAUL." Then: "70. A.D. TITUS APPROACHES JERUSALEM WITH AN ARMY OF 60,000, MOST HORRIBLE SUFFERING SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN. 1,100,000, MISERABLY PERISH. MEN ARE CRUCIFIED TILL WOOD FOR CROSSES IS NO LONGER FOUND." And: "JERUSALEM taken & destroyed BY TITUS. SEP. 8, 70. A.D."

Panel 7

Find each of these synchronisms on the chart at
adamschart.org

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

FOR HOMESCHOOL FAMILIES

Take one synchronism a week. Read it aloud, then open adamschart.org, go to the panel and find Adams' words together. Then ask: *"What else did Adams put on this part of the chart?"* The search box finds any name or date on the chart.

FOR HISTORY STUDENTS

Each synchronism gives the panel where Adams printed it. Find the entry, then read up and down the same column of the chart: every stream at that point is at the same date. Compare Adams' dates with your textbook and note where they differ.

FOR BIBLE STUDY

Adams follows Archbishop Ussher's chronology and sets the biblical record beside the history of other nations. Open your Bible to the passage, then look across the same column of the chart: who else does Adams place there? Where Adams' order differs from the order of the biblical text, as with Daniel in synchronism 5, read the passage itself.

EXPLORE THE CHART

adamschart.org

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ABOUT THE CHART

The chart's title reads: "A chronological chart of Ancient, Modern and Biblical History, Synchronized by SEBASTIAN C. ADAMS." At its foot: "ENTERED ACCORDING TO ACT OF CONGRESS IN THE YEAR A.D. 1871, BY S. C. ADAMS, IN THE OFFICE OF THE LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS AT WASHINGTON, D. C."

A FREE, INDEPENDENT PROJECT

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THE STUDY EDITION

*One illustrated PDF book for each of the ten panels,
with the panel to print at home.*

adamschart.org/study-edition

FREE: A LOOK INSIDE PANEL I

To see how the books are made before buying anything, ask for the free sample of Panel 1 at adamschart.org/panel-1-companion.

Spotted an error? Tell us at contact@heritagechronologypress.com, and we will correct it.