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## Sunday School Banner.

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W. H. WITHEROW, D.D., Editor.

TORONTO, MAY, 1885.

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### Canadian Normal Class Work for 1885.

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BY THE REV. ALFRED ANDREWS.

NORMAL CLASS OUTLINE LESSON, No. 4.

PART I.—Subject: BIBLE CHRONOLOGY.

*Definition.*—"Chronology is the science of computing and adjusting dates."

Bible chronology enables us to know when events occurred that are recorded in the Bible.

The recognized system of chronology, by which we reckon backwards from Christ to Adam, and yet read history from Adam to Christ, is clumsy and very confusing.

Still, we must submit to it, at least until proper authority is obtained for an alteration. The most natural way is to begin with the creation of Adam, calling that date A.M., or the year of the world 1. Then Christ born, A.M. 4,000, etc.

But we must do the best we can for the present.

We begin with the creation of Adam, B.C. 4,004, that being the first event of which we have definite knowledge as to when it occurred.

We do not begin with the creation of the world, for that is not chronologically defined,

Gen. 1. 1., "In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth," etc., or, as the Hebrew, literally rendered, says, "In a beginning," etc. It may be a million, or ten million years before Adam was created. Then the six days—were they days of twenty-four hours duration, as our present day, or were they geological periods of 1,000 years each, we know not. The Book is silent—"a day is with the Lord as a thousand years," etc.

Adam's creation is fixed, as a study of the Bible shows. Then, the writing of the Gospel of John and the Book of the Revelation, which were the last of the books of Scripture, were written about A.D. 78. Thus giving us 4,082 years covered by Bible history.

To obtain a knowledge of so long a period, we shall find it best to break it up into four periods of 1,000 years each. Show this on a black-board by a long line, divided into four even sections, then a cross at each division line may represent—say Adam, 4,000 years before Christ, Methuselah, 3,000; Abram, 2,000; Solomon, 1,000; then, under the line, put the Bible epochs down in large figures.

*Definition.*—"An epoch is a point of time rendered remarkable by some historic event, from which dates are subsequently reckoned."

Of these we have 13.

- (1) Creation of Adam, B.C. 4004.
- (2) Flood, B.C. 2348.
- (3) Call of Abraham, 1921.
- (4) Descent into Egypt, 1706.
- (5) Exodus, 1491.
- (6) Crossing the Jordan, 1451.
- (7) Monarchy established, 1095.
- (8) Division of the Kingdom, 975.
- (9) Destruction of Jerusalem, 587.
- (10) Close of Old Testament period, 397.
- (11) Birth of Christ, B.C. 4.
- (12) Crucifixion, A.D. 30.
- (13) Close of New Testament Records, A.D. 78.

By frequently calling attention to these dates, and filling in the various periods with the events occurring therein, teachers will greatly aid their scholars in securing a satisfactory idea of Bible chronology.

P. S.—A chart, published by the writer, called "Bible Epochs," beautifully lithographed in colours by Copp, Clark & Co., Toronto, nine feet long, and two feet four inches wide, with an outline lesson and small chart with explanations; will help better than anything yet published to teach Bible chronology in a popular and effective way. Price reduced to \$1.00 each on canvas, and 50 cents each unmounted. This offer is only for a limited time.

LESSON, No. 5.

PART II.—Subject: THE ART OF SECURING ATTENTION.

*Attention.*—Literally, a stretching forward—a condition of mental expectancy, leading to the application of the mind upon a subject.

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