

One of the most glaring instances of this is the widespread idea that the Bible teaches that the world was created in 4004 B. C. Actually the Bible does not give us data for an exact chronology, [?] And when we get further back there are long periods regarding which we have no data at all. There is absolutely no way, as far as the Biblical data are concerned, to tell whether man was created at 4000 B. C. or at 400,000 B. C. As far as creation of the material universe is concerned, the suggestion that it may have occurred billions of years prior to the creation of man is not contradicted by anything in the Scripture.

A most interesting chapter in the Book of Genesis is Genesis 10 with its table of the nations, showing the descent of various peoples from the three sons of Noah. It has often been assumed that this list is complete. Nothing could be further from the fact. The list here is not intended to give us an understanding of the background of all of the people of the earth, but only to show the development of those nations which came into important contact with the history of Israel in ancient times.

Thus there is nothing in the chapter to give the slightest indication as to which of the three sons was the ancestor of the English, the Scotch, the Germans, or the French. As far as Biblical evidence is concerned, they may equally well have been descended from Shem, from Ham, or from Japheth.

It is often assumed that Ham is the ancestor of the Negroes, but there is not a word in the chapter to suggest that this is the case. The Negroes are as completely unmentioned in the chapter as are the English and the Scotch.