

of a thousand years of life for man would begin in the year 1997 C.E.*

* Since the time of Ussher intensive study of Bible chronology has been carried on. In this

* *The New Jewish Encyclopedia*, of 1962, by D. Bridger and S. Wolk, under the heading of "Chronology, Jewish," says, on page 91: "It is not definitely known when the counting of time from Creation began. Some believe that it started in the second century C.E. The accepted differential between Jewish and general chronology is 3,760 years. By adding this figure to the current secular year one arrives at the year of the Jewish calendar. Thus the year 1960 C.E. is equivalent to the Jewish year 5,720. In Jewish chronology it is customary to mark the year before One as 'b.c.e.' (before common era), and the year after the year One, as 'c.e.' (common era)."

According to this Jewish calculation the year of man's creation would be 3760 B.C.E. However, it must be said that the Jewish chronologers reject the chronological help that is given in the last twenty-seven books of the Holy Bible known as "The New Testament" or "The Christian Greek Scriptures," as, for instance, in Acts 13:20, 21.—See the article "Why the Jewish Count of Time Differs," as published in *The Watchtower* under date of May 15, 1958, pages 297-300.

In the edition of the Holy Bible with "A Commentary and Critical Notes," by Adam Clarke, LL.D., F.S.A., of the year 1836, Volume 1, page 41, gives the date of man's creation as "A.M. 1, B.C. 4004."

In the Murphy edition of The Holy Bible, *Douay Version*, containing the Approbation of James Cardinal Gibbons, Archbishop of Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A., the footnote on Genesis 1:1 reads: "A.M. 1; Ante C. 4004". That is to say, Anno Mundi 1; Ante Christum 4004 (Year of World 1; Before Christ 4004).

In the new French edition of 1940 of La Sainte Bible, by J. N. Darby, the chronological data give the time as 4,000 years from Adam's creation to the birth of the Messiah (Christ). In agreement with this is the German Lutheran clergyman, Abraham Calovius (Calov), born 1612 in Prussia, died 1686. See Chronological data in the *Swedish Biblia* Thet är All then Heliga Skrift På

41. (a) A careful study of Bible chronology made in this twentieth century points to what year for man's creation? (b) So, according to that chronology, when will six thousand years of human history end?

twentieth century an independent study has been carried on that does not blindly follow some traditional chronological calculations of Christendom, and the published timetable resulting from this independent study gives the date of man's creation as 4026 B.C.E.† According to this trustworthy Bible chronology six thousand years from man's creation will end in 1975, and the seventh period of a thousand years of human history will begin in the fall of 1975 C.E.

⁴² So six thousand years of man's existence on earth will soon be up, yes, within this generation. Jehovah God is timeless, as it is written in Psalm 90:1, 2: "O Jehovah, you yourself have proved to be a real dwelling for us during generation after generation. Before the mountains themselves were born, or you proceeded to bring forth as with labor pains the earth and the productive land, even from time indefinite to time indefinite you are God." So from the standpoint of Jehovah God these passing six thousand years of man's existence are but as six days of twenty-four hours, for this same psalm (verses 3, 4) goes on to say: "You make mortal man go back to crushed matter, and you say: 'Go back, you sons of men.' For a thousand years are in your eyes but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch during the night." So in not many years within our own generation we are reaching what Jehovah God could view as the seventh day of man's existence.

Swensko, published in Lund, Sweden, in 1862 (pages CXXI-CXXVIII). This differs from Ussher's Chronology by four years.

† See "Chart of Outstanding Historical Dates" on page 292, in the chapter entitled "Measuring Events in the Stream of Time," of the book "*All Scripture Is Inspired of God and Beneficial*," published in 1963 by the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society of Pennsylvania.

42. From the standpoint of Jehovah God, how long has man's existence been?