

In the beginning God created Heaven and Earth, *Gen. 1. v. 1.* which beginning of time, according to our chronologie, fell upon the entrance of the night preceding the twenty third day of *Octob.* in the year of the Julian [Roman] Calendar, 710 [= 4004 BC].

Upon the first day therefore of the word, or *Octob. 23.* being our sunday, God, together with the highest Heaven, created the Angels. Then Having finished, as it were, the rooffe of the building, he fell in hand with the foundation of this wonderfull fabrick of the world, he fashioned this lowermost Globe, consisting of the Deepe, and of the Earth; all the Quire of Angels singing together, and magnifying his name therefore. . . . And when the Earth was void and without forme, and darknesse covered the face of the Deepe, on the very middle of the first day, the light was created; which God severing from the darknesse, called the one day, and the other night.

James B. Ussher (1658) calculated the age of the Earth from the oldest historical document of his time, the Bible. Ussher was the Anglican Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of Ireland. He suggested that:

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Upon the first day therefore of the word, or *Octob. 23.* being our Sunday, God, together with the highest Heaven, created the Angels. Then Having finished, as it were, the rooffe of the building, he fell in hand with the foundation of this wonderfull fabrick of the world, he fashioned this lowermost Globe, consisting of the Deepe, and of the Earth; all the Quire of Angels singing together, and magnifying his name therefore. . . . And when the Earth was void and without forme, and darknesse covered the face of the Deepe, on the very middle of the first day, the light was created; which God severing from the darknesse, called the one day, and the other night.”

Problems—

- Biblical history of Israel not complete from Ezra/Nehemiah to Christ
- Has to be tenuously cross-linked to other cultural records from Persia, Chaldea, and the Romans.
- Jewish Chronology based on lunar months
- Leap year problems had led to abandonment of older Julian calendar for new Gregorian calendar in 1582.
- Ussher as archbishop wanted nothing to do with a “pope-based” calendar, although he was forced to use it and it was later accepted by protestant scholars and even put inside editions of the King James translation of the Bible (e.g. 1701).