

Published on *National Catholic Reporter* (<https://www.ncronline.org>)

December 16, 2010 at 9:50am

---

## The Jesse tree: an alternative timeline

by Rich Heffern

Eco Catholic

In my parish at every Christmas Eve Mass, the genealogy of Jesus is read. It traces his lineage through David to Abraham. It begins by proclaiming that these early ancestors were around just a few thousand years after the Creation. Its the beginning of a very beautiful and inspirational liturgy celebrating the birth of Christ. A beautiful Catholic Advent devotion is the Jesse Tree which also describes Jesus' lineage. I would prefer this alternative timeline though.

*13.7 billion years ago* The universe begins as stupendous energy. Time and space are created.

*10 billion years ago* The first elements are forged in stars

*5 billion years ago* A disc-like clouds floats in the Orion Arm of the Milky Way Galaxy

*4.5 billion years ago* The Sun is born

*4.45 billion years ago* Earth brings forth an atmosphere, oceans and continents

*2.5 billion years ago* Continents stabilize

*2.0 billion years ago* The first prokaryotic cell emerges

*1 billion years ago* Sexual reproduction is invented

*570 million years ago* Cambrian extinctions: 80-90 percent of species eliminated

*510 million years ago* Vertebrate animals appear

## Advertisement

*415 million years ago* Development of the fin

*350 million years ago* Land-worthy seeds developed in conifers

*313 million years ago* Reptiles show up

*35 million years ago* First cats and dogs

*24 million years ago* Grass spreads across the land

*5 million years ago* First proto-humans, australopithecus

*3.3 million years ago* Current Ice Ages begin

*2.6 million years ago* First real humans, homo habilis

*1.5 million years ago* First hunters, homo erectus

*72,000 years ago* First polar bears

*500,000 years ago* Clothing, shelter, fire, hand axes

*100,000 years ago* First ritual burials

*32,000 years ago* First musical instruments

*18,000 years ago* The first cave paintings

*10,600 years ago* Settlements in the Middle East; wheat and barley cultivated

*10,000 years ago* First dogs tamed in North America

*6,400 years ago* Horses tamed in Eastern Europe

*3,000 BC* Civilization develops in the Nile Valley in Egypt; advances in technology

*600 BCE* Beginnings of Greek philosophy

*450 BCE* Alexander invades the Indus Valley

*32 BCE* Caesar Augustus rules Rome

*1 BCE* Birth of Jesus

---

**Source URL (retrieved on 02/19/2018 - 4:55am):** <https://www.ncronline.org/blogs/eco-catholic/jesse-tree-alternative-timeline>

### **Links:**

[1] <https://www.ncronline.org/donate?clickSource=article-end>

[2] <https://www.ncronline.org/node/160616>