

The Jesse tree: an alternative timeline

Rich Heffern | Dec. 16, 2010 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

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

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