

## **APPENDIX A**

### **The Birth of Shem**

Some old chronology charts are written so that it might appear that Noah was 500 years old when Shem was born. Genesis 5:32 could be misunderstood to imply this. According to Genesis 8:6, Noah was 600 years old when the flood was upon the earth. This would mean that (according to Genesis 5:32) Shem was 100 when the flood came. This is contradicted by Genesis 11:10 which shows Shem's being 100 years old TWO YEARS AFTER THE FLOOD. If we were to write Genesis 5:32 for clarity, it would say something like, "When Noah was 500 years old, he began his family of three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth." One of these sons was born when Noah was 500, but it clearly was not Shem. Shem probably has the preeminence because he is the chronological link and the seed through whom the promises would be traced. The same out-of-order listing occurs (probably for the same reason) for the sons of Terah in Genesis 11:26. Shem was born in 2570 BC when Noah was 502 years old. Fortunately in both of these cases, the Lord provides additional information so that the chronology is secure.

## **APPENDIX B**

### **The Birth of Abraham**

As is the case with the birth of Shem (above), the birth of Abraham is clouded by the generic family history in Genesis 11:26. While Terah obviously began his family at age 70, Abram (later Abraham) was not the firstborn. Since Abraham is a key link in the Biblical chronology and in the promises, it is necessary to go beyond the generic information in Genesis 11:26.

To begin with the conclusion: Terah was 130 years old when Abraham was born. To confirm this, the Lord has graciously let the first Christian martyr, Stephen, summarize Jewish history. In Acts 7:4 we find it clearly taught that Abraham moved from Haran to the promised land upon the death of his father, Terah. Genesis 11:32 informs that Terah died at age 205. Genesis 12:4 states that at this time Abraham was 75 years old, and was born, therefore, when his father was 130.

In Genesis 11:26, Haran is apparently the first-born. His son was Lot, a companion of Abraham. Nahor's grand-daughter was Rebekah, the wife of Abraham's son, Isaac (Genesis 24:67).