Calculating the Date of Creation

How do we arrive at a date of 4004 BC for the creation of the world? Genealogies in Genesis 5 and 11 follow the pattern: “And [father] lived [years] and begat [son].” Adding up those years shows that Abraham was born about 2,000 years after God created Adam.

Archbishop James Ussher is well-known for applying several historical and biblical clues to align these dates with the Julian calendar. While many have disputed or revised his calculations, it remains the predominant source among those who believe Genesis is an accurate record of history.