

That interval, according to the chronology calculated from the Hebrew copy of the Bible, was 1656 years; according to the Greek translation usually called the Septuagint, it was 2262; but according to the estimate in the "Analysis of Chronology" of the late Dr. William Hales of Dublin, the period was 3155 years.

1. The first thought that strikes our minds, on a survey of the inquiry, is this; that the materials, of which the advocates of this theory have framed it, are what they have derived from the labours of the very men who hold the opposite doctrine. The men whose persevering toils have brought to light the great facts of Geology, who have traced them through their vast extent, and who have described them with careful precision by their pens and pencils, are represented by this hypothesis as the worst interpreters of those facts; either incapable of drawing logical inferences from their own observations, or unwilling to declare what the honest inferences are. Upon the former supposition, it must appear a strange thing that the persons, who have given such distinguished proofs of their general ability, and of their acuteness of penetration in this particular department of scientific study; who possess the resources of those auxiliary sciences which are the best guides in physical inquiry, and the most stern checks upon sanguine minds, to guard them against precipitance or inaccuracy in drawing conclusions;—it must appear a strange thing, that such persons should labour under an obliquity of judgment so peculiar and so obstinate that they cannot see the just conclusion from premises which they have obtained by so much expense of time and fortune, of mental and of bodily toil. It should also not be omitted that, of these persons, some, probably the larger number, had the prepossessions of education originally fixed in their minds in favour of the very opinion which they are now rebuked for rejecting. Could we