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# Chronology of the Silmarillion

By clotho123

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This was put together as a potentially useful guide rather than a rigid framework and I would not regard anything here as set in stone. Tolkien did quite a bit of work on the legends after drawing up his final chronologies and might very well have changed many of the dates if he'd ever reached the point of publishing *The Silmarillion*. It was compiled from three of Tolkien's chronological writings:

*The Annals of Aman*, published in *The History of Middle-earth: Morgoth's Ring*, Part Two

*The Grey Annals*, published in *The History of Middle-earth: The War of the Jewels*, Part One with final section and revisions in Part Three, section I

*The Tale of Years*, published in *The History of Middle-earth: The War of the Jewels*, Part Three, section V

## The Beginning of Time

These dates are from the *Annals of Aman*. How precisely you think they should be interpreted is up to the individual. They are all in Valian years, which according to Tolkien's opening description, were each roughly equivalent to ten Sun years (strictly 9.582 Sun years, if you want to be exact). At other times he had other views on the relationship between elven years and mortal years, but I will not go into those here as he did not have them in mind when compiling the *Annals*.

1 Valar first enter Arda  
1500 Tulkas enters Arda  
1900 Valar set up the great Lamps  
3400 Melkor begins to make Utumno  
3450 Melkor destroys the Lamps  
3500 The Two Trees are created ([1](#))

## The Ages of the Trees

These annals also are all in years of the Valar. This section is largely from The Annals of Aman (including Tolkien's later additions and amendments recorded in Christopher Tolkien's notes), but some of the Beleriand entries are from The Grey Annals. Year 1 was marked by Tolkien as equivalent to Year 3501 of the old reckoning, which slightly contradicts the previous annal.

Incidentally I think the early sections of this chronology would certainly have been revised if Tolkien had returned to them, since the text titled Quendi and Eldar (published in *The History of Middle-earth: The War of the Jewels Part Four*) implies a much longer gap between the Awakening of the Elves and the Great Journey than appears here. The later section might also have been compressed – fifty odd Sun years seems an inordinately long time for the Noldor to

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be wandering around Northern Aman, and Tolkien seems to have been partly influenced by the need to give Morgoth time to build Angband, a problem he later solved by making Angband an already existing fortress he repaired.

I've placed the coming of Orcs into Beleriand under the Grey Annals date as that is part of the main text, whereas the one in the Annals of Aman (1320) is a later addition that could have been a mistake by Tolkien; however the chronological position is the same under either date.

- 1 The Two Trees are created
- 1000 Varda begins to make the great constellations (1)
- 1050 Elves awaken (1, 2)
- 1085 Oromë meets the Elves
- 1090 Valar attack Morgoth
- 1099 Breaking of Utumno (1)
- 1100 Binding of Melkor (1, 2)
- 1101 Valar summon the Quendi to Valinor (1)
- 1102 Ingwë, Finwë and Elwë brought to Valinor (1, 2)
- 1104 Ingwë, Finwë and Elwë return to Cuiviénen
- 1105 Elves set out on the Great Journey
- 1115 Nandor abandon the March
- 1125 Vanyar and Noldor reach Beleriand (1)
- 1128 Teleri reach Beleriand
- 1130 Elwë meets Melian (1, 2)
- 1132 Vanyar and Noldor leave Middle-earth
- 1133 Vanyar and Noldor reach Valinor (1)
- 1140 Tirion completed. Ingwë leaves Tirion
- 1150 Olwë and other Teleri leave Middle-earth (1, 2)
- 1151 Grounding of Tol Eressëa (1)
- 1152 Elwë returns to the Sindar (1, 2)
- 1161 Teleri reach Valinor
- 1165 The last Vanyar leave Tirion (1)
- 1169 Birth of Fëanor
- 1170 Death of Míriel (3)
- 1185 Marriage of Finwë and Indis (4)
- 1190 Birth of Fingolfin (1)
- 1200 Birth of Lúthien (2)
- 1230 Birth of Finarfin (1)
- 1250 Dwarves enter Beleriand. Fëanor creates a new alphabet for the Elves. (1, 2)
- 1280 Marriage of Finarfin and Eärwen (1)
- 1300 Thingol builds Menegroth. Daeron invents the Runes. Birth of Turgon and of Finrod.
- 1330 Orcs enter Beleriand
- 1350 Nandor enter Beleriand (2)
- 1362 Births of Aredhel and of Galadriel (5)
- 1400 Melkor released (2)
- 1449 Fëanor begins work on the Silmarils
- 1450 Fëanor completes the Silmarils
- 1490 Banishment of Fëanor
- 1492 Melkor visits Formenos
- 1495 Darkening of Valinor. Death of Finwë and flight of the Noldor. First Kinslaying. (1, 2)

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- 1496 Doom of Mandos. Finarfin turns back. (1)
  - 1497 Morgoth attacks Beleriand. Fëanor reaches Middle-earth and burns the ships. Death of Fëanor. Capture of Maedhros. (1, 2)
  - 1498 Maedhros sent to Thangorodrim (2)
  - 1500 Rising of the Moon and the Sun. Hiding of Valinor. Fingolfin reaches Middle-earth. (1, 2)

### From *The Grey Annals*

These are years of the Sun. The first is equivalent to the last year in the Annals of Aman (or presumably to the tail end of it, given what Tolkien said about years of Aman, although it's not entirely clear how time was calculated between the death of the Trees and the rising of the Sun). After writing *The Grey Annals*, Tolkien revised his chronology to put the first appearance of Men further back, and I've followed that revision here. (7)

The early dates on the history of the Edain are therefore taken from Tolkien's chronological notes on his own writing, extracted from Christopher Tolkien's notes in *The History of Middle-earth: The War of the Jewels, Part Two, Section 14*. One annal ended up rootless; initially dated 402, it recorded an Orc attack on the Pass of Aglon repelled by Maedhros, Maglor and the sons of Finarfin "and Bëor was with them". Since this was two years after Finrod met Bëor, the new chronology dating would be around 312, but Tolkien failed to relocate this annal.

- 1 Rising of the Moon and the Sun. Fingolfin reaches Middle-earth.
- 2 Fingolfin arrives in Mithrim
- 5 Fingon rescues Maedhros and the Noldor are reunited.
- 7 Sons of Fëanor leave Mithrim.
- 20 Fingolfin holds the Feast of Reuniting
- 52 Finrod begins to build Nargothrond
- 53 Turgon discovers the site of Gondolin
- 60 Dagor Aglareb. Morgoth invades Beleriand and is defeated.
- 64 Turgon begins the building of Gondolin
- 67 Thingol bans Quenya from Doriath
- 102 Nargothrond is completed
- 116 Gondolin is completed
- 150 Caranthir makes contact with the Dwarves
- 155 Morgoth attempts to attack Hithlum and is driven off
- 260 Glaurung invades Ard-galen and is repelled by Fingon (2)
- 310 Finrod meets Bëor (7)
- 312 Haladin enter Beleriand
- 313 People of Marach enter Beleriand
- 316 Aredhel encounters Eöl
- 320 Birth of Maeglin
- 355 Death of Bëor
- 369 Bereg leads some of the Edain back to the East
- 375 Haleth becomes chief of the Haladin
- 376 Haladin settle in Estolad
- 390 Haladin leave Estolad
- 400 Aredhel and Maeglin ride to Gondolin. Deaths of Aredhel and Eöl.
- 410 Boromir of the House of Bëor becomes lord of Ladros in Dorthonion
- 416 Fingolfin gives Durlómin to Hador

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- 420 Death of Haleth
  - 432 Birth of Beren
  - 441 Birth of Húrin
  - 443 Birth of Morwen
  - 444 Birth of Huor
  - 455 Dagor Bragollach. Deaths of Angrod and Aegnor.
  - 456 Death of Fingolfin
  - 458 Morgoth attacks Brethil and is driven off with help from Doriath. Húrin and Huor visit Gondolin.
  - 460 Death of Barahir
  - 462 Morgoth attacks Hithlum and is driven off with help from Círdan
  - 463 Easterlings enter Beleriand
  - 464 Beren enters Doriath. Birth of Túrin
  - 465 Beren comes to Nargothrond. Death of Finrod.
  - 466 Beren and Lúthien take the Silmaril
  - 467 First deaths of Beren and Lúthien
  - 468 Maedhros begins to construct the Union against Morgoth
  - 469 Maedhros retakes Dorthonion. Beren and Lúthien return briefly to Doriath.
  - 470 Birth of Dior Eluchíl
  - 472 Nirnaeth Arnediad. Death of Fingon. Capture of Húrin. Birth of Tuor. Morwen sends Túrin to Doriath.
  - 473 Birth of Nienor. Túrin reaches Doriath. Morgoth attacks and devastates the Havens of Círdan.
  - 484 Túrin leaves Doriath
  - 487 Beleg joins Túrin's band
  - 488 Tuor captured by Easterlings
  - 489 Death of Beleg
  - 490 Túrin comes to Nargothrond
  - 491 Tuor escapes from the Easterlings
  - 494 Morwen and Nienor come to Doriath
  - 495 Fall of Nargothrond and deaths of Orodreth and Finduilas. Orcs attack Brethil. Tuor leaves Hithlum.
  - 496 Tuor comes to Gondolin. Morwen and Nienor leave Doriath. Túrin meets Nienor.
  - 498 Túrin and Nienor marry
  - 499 Deaths of Glaurung, Nienor and Túrin
  - 500 Morgoth releases Húrin
  - 501 Death of Morwen
  - 502 Marriage of Tuor and Idril. Húrin kills Mîm. Húrin comes to Doriath. (2)

### **From *The Tale of Years***

This section was particularly difficult. The Grey Annals end abruptly, and the last years of the First Age are chronicled only in a series of brief and often altered listings. This is my best interpretation of Tolkien's last intentions.

- 503 Death of Thingol. Birth of Eärendil. Birth of Elwing.
- 504 Dior becomes king of Doriath
- 506 Second Kinslaying and death of Dior
- 509 Maeglin captured by Morgoth

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- 510 Fall of Gondolin and death of Turgon
  - 511 Survivors of Gondolin reach Sirion
  - 532 Birth of Elros and Elrond
  - 538 Third Kinslaying
  - 542 Eärendil reaches Valinor
  - 545 Host of Valinor lands
  - 587 Destruction of Angband. Maedhros and Maglor seize the Silmarils. Death of Maedhros.
  - 590 Morgoth thrust into the Void. End of the First Age. (6)

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## Works Cited

1. *The Silmarillion*, "Of Eldamar and the Princes of the Eldalië"; Orodreth who appears as a son of Finarfin in the published *Silmarillion* is one of those endlessly changing characters, at one point a son of Finrod, another his brother, and also identified as the son of Angrod. See *The Shibboleth of Fëanor* to trace part of the history of the various changes of names and identity of Orodreth, this occasionally second eldest son of Finarfin.
2. *The Peoples of Middle-earth, The Shibboleth of Fëanor*.
3. Ibid.
4. *The Lost Road and Other Writings, The Later Annals of Valinor*.
5. *The Peoples of Middle-earth, The Shibboleth of Fëanor*.
6. *The Silmarillion*, "Of Eldamar and the Princes of the Eldalië."
7. *The Silmarillion*, "Of the Flight of the Noldor."
8. *The Lost Road and Other Writings, The Later Annals of Valinor*.
9. Ibid.
10. *The Book of Lost Tales I, The Cottage of Lost Play* (note by Christopher Tolkien).
11. *The Peoples of Middle-earth, The Shibboleth of Fëanor*.
12. Ibid.
13. *Unfinished Tales, The History of Galadriel and Celeborn and of Amroth King of Lórien*.
14. Ibid.
15. *The Peoples of Middle-earth, The Shibboleth of Fëanor*.
16. *The Silmarillion*, "Of Beleriand and Its Realms."
17. Ibid.
18. *The Silmarillion*, "Of the Ruin of Beleriand and the Fall of Fingolfin."
19. Ibid.
20. Ibid.
21. *The War of the Jewels, The Grey Annals*.
22. *The Silmarillion*, "Of the Ruin of Beleriand and the Fall of Fingolfin."
23. Ibid.
24. Ibid.
25. Ibid.
26. *The Lord of the Rings, The Fellowship of the Ring*, "The Mirror of Galadriel."
27. See the [Character Biography of Finrod Felagund](#), "Wisdom among The Elves," on this site for a discussion of the concept of the Wise among the Eldar and specifically how this term applies to Aegnor's eldest brother.
28. *Morgoth's Ring, Athrabeth Finrod ah Andreth*.
29. Ibid.
30. Ibid.