

Cornelis J. Schilt

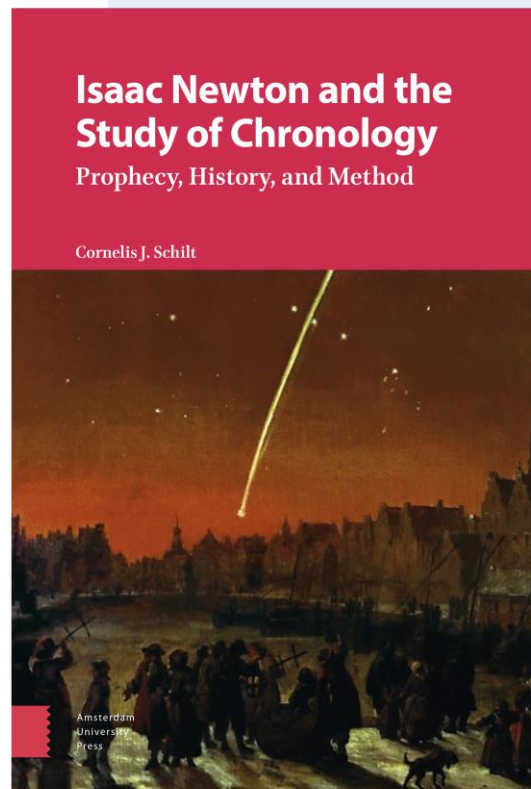
Isaac Newton and the Study of Chronology

Prophecy, History, and Method

Isaac Newton (1642-1727) is best known for his natural philosophical and mathematical works. Yet he devoted ample time to the study of ancient chronology, resulting in the posthumously published *The Chronology of Ancient Kingdoms Amended* (1728). Here, Newton attempted to show how the antiquity of Greece, Egypt, Assyria, Persia, and other Mediterranean nations could be reinterpreted to fit the timespan allowed for by Scripture. As the hundreds of books from his library and the thousands of manuscript pages devoted to the topic show, the Chronology was long in the making. This volume provides the first comprehensive analysis of the genesis and evolution of Newton's studies of ancient history and demonstrates how these emerged from that other major scholarly project of his, the interpretation of the apocalyptic prophecies in Scripture. A careful study of Newton's reading, note-taking, writing, and ordering practices provides the key to unravelling and reconstructing the chronology of Newton's chronological studies, bringing to light writings hitherto hidden in the archives.

BIOGRAPHY

Cornelis J. (Kees-Jan) Schilt is a historian of early modern knowledge making based at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, and an editor with the Oxford-based Newton Project. He was educated at Utrecht, Sussex, and Oxford University, and specializes in the life and writings of Isaac Newton.



October 2021
310 pages, 1 b/w, 29 colour illustrations
Hardback
156 x 234 mm
€105.00 / £96.00 / \$124.00
€104.99 / £95.99 / \$123.99

ISBN 9789463721165
e-ISBN 9789048554287
BISAC HIS037040 / LIT024020 / REL067080
BIC HBLH / 3J / DSBD

KEYWORDS

Isaac Newton, Chronology, Prophecy, Early
Modern Scholarship

To order this book visit www.aup.nl

Distribution Rest of World via Ingram Publisher Services UK (formerly NBNI Ltd.) | www.distribution.nbni.co.uk
Distribution North America via Baker & Taylor Publisher Services | www.btpubservices.com

Amsterdam University Press
Nieuwe Prinsengracht 89
1018 VR Amsterdam

T +31 (0)20 420 00 50
info@aup.nl
marketing@aup.nl

www.aup.nl
facebook.com/AUPAcademic
twitter.com/AmsterdamUPress



Amsterdam
University
Press

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Illustrations

Abbreviations

Acknowledgements

Conventions

Introduction

I Past, Present, Future

1 Chronology as an Early Modern Discipline

2 The Four Monarchies

3 Isaac Newton ... Chronologist?

II Reading Classics

1 Reading for the 'Origines'

2 Notes and Records

3 An Independent Scholar

III Chaos and Order

1 The Origins of the 'Origines'

2 'Originals'

3 Ordering Words and Worlds

4 Lost in Space and Time

III Sacred Chronology

1 Methodising the Apocalypse

2 Rooted in Scripture

3 Critical Readings

Some Concluding Remarks

Appendices

Appendix A: The Evolution of the 'Origines'

Appendix B: From 'Origines' to *Proto-Chronology*

Bibliography

Index

To order this book visit www.aup.nl

Distribution Rest of World via Ingram Publisher Services UK (formerly NBNI Ltd.) | www.distribution.nbni.co.uk
Distribution North America via Baker & Taylor Publisher Services | www.btpubservices.com

Amsterdam University Press
Nieuwe Prinsengracht 89
1018 VR Amsterdam

T +31 (0)20 420 00 50
info@aup.nl
marketing@aup.nl

www.aup.nl
facebook.com/AUPAcademic
twitter.com/AmsterdamUPress