1757 birth in London, 28 Broad Street, son of Catherine & James Blake, hosier.
1761 Aged 4, has a vision of God, & a vision of a tree full of angels in Pecham Rye.
1767 Birth of brother Robert.
1772 Apprenticed to James Basire, engraver.
1773 Engraves earliest picture: "Joseph of Arimathea."
1780 First exhibit at Royal Academy. Caught up in the Gordon Riots. Taken prisoner during a trip on the Medway under suspicion of being a French spy.
1782 Marries Catherine Boucher (b. 1762). Teaches Catherine to read, write, make prints.
1783 Poetical Sketches printed but not sold. Blake sings his songs to tunes composed by himself.
1784 Death of father. - Parker & Blake print shop at 27, Broad Street. - Writes unpublished An 1st of the Moon (prose satire).
1785 Print shop fails; Blake moves to Polk Street.
1787 Death of Robert, aged 19; Blake sees Robert's spirit ascending through the ceiling, clapping its hands for joy. Starts using Robert's sketchbook as notebook. Acquaintance with Fuseli.
1789 Songs of Innocence - The Book of Tell.
1791-2 Illustrates Wollstonecraft's Original Stories from Real Life, etc.

1793 Notebook entry: "I say I shan't live five years, & if I live one it will be a wonder." - Visions of the Daughters of Albion - America: A Prophecy - meets his patron Thomas Butts.
1794 Songs of Innocence & of Experience - Europe: A Prophecy - The First Book of Urizen.
1795 The Song of Law - The Book of Law - The Book of Ahania - Is "mocked & robbed."
1796-78 Starts working on illustrated edition of Young's Night Thoughts, then uses the material for Vana, revised over 10 years as The Four Zoas. - reads Watson's An Apology for the Bible & Reynolds's Discourses.
1799-1800 Unemployed as an engraver - Commissioned by Butts for temperas.
1800-3 Moves to Felpham (near Chichester, on the Channel) - patronage of William Hayley. - Works on The Four Zoas by night. - Studies Greek, Latin & Hebrew.
1803-04 Blake evicts from his garden drunken soldier Seafoul, who accuses him of uttering seditious threats against the King. - Trial for sedition, acquitted. - Dated title page of Milton & Jerusalem.
1805 Loses contracts in competition with engraver Schiavonetti, esp. on Cranbury Pilgrims. - Blake defends Fuseli in Bell's Weekly Messenger.
1807 Milton: first copies probably completed.
1809-11 First & only one-man show exhibition, including painting The Ancient Britons. - Painting An Allegory of the Spiritual Condition of Man.
1812 Specimens of Jerusalem exhibited.
1815 The Lament
1818 The Everlasting Gospel drafted.
1820 First copy of Jerusalem.
1821 Sells prints for money. Moves to small apartment at 3 Fountain Court, the Strand.
1822 The Ghost of Abel. - donation of £25 from Wollstonecraft. - First copies probably completed.
1823-6 Illustrations of Job, The Pilgrim's Progress, The Characters of Spenser's Faerie Queene, Paradise Regained, etc. - Reads Wordsworth's The Excursion (1814) & Poems (1815).
1827 Dies, aged 66, on Aug. 12, singing about what he saw in heaven.
1831 Death of Catherine Blake,