viz., 6581 = ISΘΠA, 6583 = ISΘΠΓ. It is obvious that they can be considered as abbreviations of the following expanded formulas, viz., "Jesus God Pope Augustus" (here IS = Jesus, Θεου = God, Π = pope, A = augustus) and "Jesus God Pope Gregory (or Hildebrand)", "Γ" meaning Gregory in the latter case.

Thus, both word-dates are perfectly meaningful and are related to the activity of Hildebrand and two central events in his "biography". We can now suggest the following hypothetical re-construction of how the date of 5508 B.C. might have arisen. The two above events could serve as basic reference points for counting years "since Pope Gregory" in certain documents, i.e., A.D. (see above). Writing the exhibited formulas expanded above in abbreviated form (or only the first of them), the chronicler meant their original meaning, and started counting years. Since the letter A means 1 (unity), the year count began with the natural figure, e.g., "since Jesus the God Pope's year One" = ISΘΠA [275]. Subsequently, the letter B = 2 appared instead of A = 1, etc., and the word-date started varying, whereas the original word got distorted, and the sense of the initial abbreviation was soon forgotten. Subsequent word-dates were understood only as a set of letter-figures for writing dates.

The later chronologists substituted the corresponding figures for letters and obtained, e.g., the number 6581 for the word ISΘΠA. Along with the documents making use of this way of writing dates, there existed others in which the same date, the year 1073, was written as I.073, i.e., the "73rd year since Jesus". For the later chronologists, the letter I already possessed the meaning of "1,000", and the whole date was read as "the year 1073". The question then arose regarding the comparison of these two calendars. Juxtaposing two different ways of writing the same date, i.e., ISΘΠA = 6581 and I.073=1073, and substracting the second number from the first, the chronologist just obtained the value 5508 = 6581 − 1073. He thereby "recognized", or "computed", the date of the creation of the world in terms of the calendar "since the birth of Christ". It is obvious that the same result, 5508 B.C., could have been obtained by making use of the second date ISΘΠΓ = 6583, and subtracting I.075, or 1075, from it. Moreover, the same result could have been derived by comparing the two dates ISΘΠA + T and I.073 + T, where T is any number of years that have passed since Gregory's election in 1073. In other words, to carry out the described computation, it is not at all necessary to base it upon the "original word-dates" from which counting the years had started.

It is probable that the other dates of the creation of the world were "computed" in the same way, viz., 5872 (Septuagint), 5551 (Augustine), 5515 (Theophilus), 5493 (Alexandrian date), and 3761 (Jewish date), etc. These are quite different from each other, namely by an oscillation amplitude of *c.* 2,100 years. The reason for the discrepancies might be the use of different abbreviations, or "word-dates" by different chronologists.