

3. **The Flood:** As humanity multiplied, sin also multiplied until God destroyed the human race with the exception of Noah and his family. After the Flood, God made a covenant with Noah and all Creation. The sign of the Noahide covenant was the rainbow. The covenant and the line of the “promised seed” continued with Noah’s righteous son Shem. The Flood became the prophetic promise of new life in Christ and the forgiveness of original sin through baptism into the family of God.
4. **The Nations:** Though we are all children of Adam through Noah, God fragmented the single culture and language of the post-flood world and scattered the people over the face of the earth. According to Scripture, all the nations of the earth are descendants of the 3 sons of Noah.

Summary of the Importance of the Family of Abraham in Genesis

Abrahamic Covenant: God initiated His covenant with Abram when he was living in Ur of the Chaldeans in Mesopotamia. God promised a 3-fold blessing of land, descendants, and a world-wide blessing if Abram would have faith and be obedient to God. Abram’s faith and obedience resulted in the ratification of a 3-fold covenant and his name was changed to Abraham. This covenant was renewed with Abraham’s descendants Isaac, Jacob (Israel), and Joseph. The covenant sign was the rite of circumcision and the hope of the “promised seed” continued through Abraham’s righteous son Isaac and Isaac’s son Jacob/Israel, father of the twelve tribes of Israel.

Handout 2: Genesis chapter 1

Genesis 1:1-5: The First “Day.” The significant Hebrew words that we will be discussing are in brackets; “formless-void” is underlined to indicate the Hebrew word in brackets represents both English words; the second word in the English text (the) is in parenthesis because it is not present in the Hebrew text.

1:1 *In (the) beginning God [Elohim] created heaven and earth.* 2 *Now the earth was a formless void [toho wa bohu], there was darkness over the deep, with a divine wind [ruah] sweeping [rahap] over the waters.* 3 *God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light.* 4 *God saw that light was good, and God divided light from darkness.* 5 *God called the light ‘day’ and the darkness he called ‘night.’ Evening came and morning came: the first day.*

THE FRAMEWORK HYPOTHESIS

In this view of Creation, for the first 3 days God creates time, space, and life. In the next set of 3 days, God fills the first 3 days with that which will rule or govern:

Realms Created	Filled With Rulers
TIME [light from darkness] Genesis 1: 3-5	SUN, MOON, STARS, PLANETS Genesis 1: 14-19
SPACE [heaven and the seas] Genesis 1: 6-10	FISH, BIRDS Genesis 1: 20-23
LAND/ LIFE [dry land and vegetation] Genesis 1: 11-13	BEASTS AND MAN Genesis 1: 24-31

[this view of Creation is known as the “framework hypothesis.” It was developed by Biblical scholar Meredith Kline]

Another way to look at the Creation event is in the formation of a two-part division of three empty resources which become useful reservoirs of activity/life.

Unfilled Resource/ Empty space	Filled Useful Reservoir
1. Cosmos of light and darkness (Gen 1:3:5)	1. Lights of sun, moon, stars, planets(Gen 1:14-19)
2. Sky/ water (Gen 1:6-8)	2. Birds, fish (Gen 1:20-23)
3. Dry land/ vegetation (Gen 1:9-13)	3. Land creatures and man (Gen 1:24-31)

Adapted from a chart by Bruce Waltke, *Genesis*, page 57

Repetitions in the Genesis Prologue 1:1-2:4a (3 or more times in Hebrew text)	
Word/ phrase	Number of repetitions and verses
1. “God said”	Eleven times: 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 26, 28, 29
2. “___ was good”	Seven times: 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31 = (very good)
3. “Evening and morning came ...”	Six times: 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31
4. “to divide” (“separate)	Five times: 1:4, 6, 7, 14, 18
5. “created”	Seven times: 1:1, 21, 27 (3 times), 2:3, 4a
6. Commands (i.e. “let the/ let us...”)	2 x 7 times (14): 1:3, 6 (twice), 9 (twice), 11, 14 (twice), 15, 20, 22, 24, 26 (twice).
7. “the seventh day”	Three times: 2:2 (twice), 3
8. God’s “work” of Creation	Three times: 2:2 (twice), 3

Handout 3 Genesis chapter 1: The Different Theories of Creation

1. **Literal interpretation:** The theory that the earth was created in a literal 6 days, composed of 6 twenty-four hour periods, holds that God created the universe and all life in six sequential natural days marked by evenings and mornings. According to this view, God created the universe and all life in approximately 144 hours in the sequence presented in Genesis 1.
2. **Day / Age Theory:** The day-age theory agrees that the events recorded in Genesis 1 are sequential. However, this view parts company with the 24-hour view regarding the length of the creation days. According to the day-age theory, God did not create the universe and all life in 6 twenty-four hour days, but in 6 sequential ages of unspecified, though finite, duration. Each of the six days represents a geological age covering millions of years. (Unfortunately for this theory, geologists have been unable to find a match between the geologic evidence and the creations of each of the 6-day periods).
3. **The Gap Theory:** Allows a form of evolution by accepting a gap between Gen. 1:1 and 1:2. Proponents of this theory suggest that perhaps Satan's fall from heaven to earth produced such chaos on earth that God destroyed creation and started over.
4. **Symbolist Interpretation:** Each day is a symbol of some spiritual reality. Some ancient Christian and Jewish scholars saw the 6 days of creation as symbols of the different periods of Salvation history.
5. **The Framework Hypothesis:** The Framework view was developed by Biblical scholar Meredith G. Kline and proposes that the days of Genesis form a figurative framework in which the divine works of creation are narrated in a topical, rather than sequential, order. This view presents the picture of God completing His work of creation in two sets of three days and resting on the seventh was not intended to reveal the sequence or duration of a literal six-day creation, but to proclaim an eschatological theology of creation.
6. **Mythical View:** All of the creation account is myth and none of it is history. The Biblical account was completely invented by the Hebrew people to explain their world and their early history much like the Egyptian mythological account of creation. **The Catholic Church does not accept this view.**

For Catechism references affirming God as the author of Creation see CCC#s 290-301

The Magisterium of the Catholic Church has set these guidelines for what Catholic Christians must believe about Creation

1. The creation by God of all things at the beginning of time.
2. The special creation by God of man.
3. The formation of woman from man.
4. The unity of the human family.
5. The original happiness of our first parents in a state of justice and grace.
6. The divine command given to man by God to prove obedience.
7. The transgression of that command at the instigation of the devil in the form of a serpent.
8. The fall of our original parents from their primitive state of innocence.
9. The promise of a future redeemer.

[see *Pascendi Dominici Gregis*, Pope Pius X; *Humanae Generis*, Pope Pius XII; also see CCC#s 279, 296-98, 343, 355-58, 369-73, 374-79, 390-95, 397, 410-11].

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YAHWEH'S EIGHT COVENANTS

But Yahweh's faithful love for those who fear him is from eternity and for ever; and his saving justice to their children's children; as long as they keep his covenant, and carefully obey his precepts. Palms 103:17-18

COVENANT	SIGN	SCRIPTURE
1. Adam -fertility -dominion over the earth	Tree of Life	Genesis 1:28-30; Genesis 2:15-17; Hosea 6:7 <i>But they, like Adam, transgressed the covenant; there they betrayed Me. (Ho 6:7)</i>
2. Noah and the earth -The earth will never be destroyed by flood waters again (water will become a sign of salvation)	Rainbow	Genesis 6:18; 9:9-17; Sirach 44:17-18.
3. Abraham = 3-fold, (continues with Isaac, Jacob & descendants) -land, nation (descendants) & world wide blessing	Circumcision On the 8 th day	Genesis 12:3; 15:1-18; 17: 1-27; 18:18 & 22:13-18; 26:3-5; 28:10-14; Exodus 2:24; Psalm 105:8-11; Sirach 44:19-20
4. Moses & Israel -Sinai Covenant establishing divine liturgy & covenant sacraments	Ark of the Covenant Tabernacle 10 Commandments	Exodus 19-24; 34:10, 27, 28; Deuteronomy 5:2-3; 29:12.
5. Aaron & Sons -perpetual ministerial priesthood of the Levites	Salt	Exodus 40:15; Leviticus 2:13; Numbers 18:19; Sirach 45:7; Jeremiah 33:21.
6. Phinehas -perpetual priesthood in Covenant of Peace (prefigures Christ)	Seamless robe & miter	Numbers 25:11-15; Sirach 45:24.
7. David & descendants -dynasty and throne forever secure	Throne/ Temple	2 Samuel 7:11-17; 23:5; 2 Chronicles 31:5; Psalm 89:3-4; Sirach 45:25.
8. Jesus (<i>Yah'shua</i> = <i>Yahweh saves or I save</i>) also written Yehosua = Joshua. He is the fulfillment of all the covenantal promises	The Cross, the true "Tree of Life"	Isaiah 55:3; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Matthew 26:28; Mark 14:24; Luke 22:20; 1 Corinthians 11:25; Hebrews 12:24.
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* There are more Scripture passages referring to Yahweh's 8 Covenants than those listed in the chart. Some additional Scripture references for the various covenants are listed below:

- Adam: Most English Bible translations include in their footnotes that Hosea 6:7 can be translated "They have broken the covenant like Adam..." The word "adam" can mean the first man "Adam", or "man", or even "ground" or "earth"]. The Jewish Tanach translates Hoses 6:6-7: *For I desire kindness, not sacrifice; and knowledge of God more than burnt-offerings. But they, like Adam, transgressed the covenant; there they betrayed Me.* In Genesis 6:18: the Hebrew word "quwm" can also be translated "restore", "continue", or "maintain" which is why most scholars assume the first covenant was established with Adam and then continued with Noah. If there was no covenant there would be no covenant obligations or violations of the covenant.
- Noah: Genesis 6:18; 9:9, 11, 12 (twice), 13, 15, 16, 17; Sirach 44:17-18; Isaiah 24:5
- Abraham (and descendants): Genesis 15:18; 17:2, 4, 7 (twice), 9, 10 (twice); 17:11, 13 (twice), 14, 19 (twice), 22:13-18; 28:13-14; 31:44; Exodus 2:24; 6:2-5; Leviticus 26: 42-45; 2 Kings 13:23; 17:15, 35, 38; 18:12; 23:2, 3 (three times), 21; 1 Chronicles 16:15-17; Sirach 44:19-23; Psalm 105:9; Acts 3:25; 7:8.
- Mosaic Covenant with Israel: Exodus 19:5; 24:7, 8; 31:16; 34:10, 27, 28; Leviticus 24:8-9; 26:9, 15, 25, 42 (3 times), 44, 45; Deuteronomy 4:13, 23, 31; 5:2-3; 7:9,12; 8:18; 9:9, 11, 15; 17:2; 29:1, 9, 12 (twice), 14, 21, 25 (twice); 31:16, 20; 33:9; Joshua 7:11, 15; 23:16; Judges 2:1, 20; 1 Kings 8:9, 21, 23; 19:10-11; 2 Chronicles 6:11, 14; 34:30, 31 (twice), 32; Psalm 105:8-11; 106:45; Isaiah 42:6; 54:10.
- Aaron and sons: Exodus 40:15; Leviticus 2:13; 18:19; Numbers 18:19; Nehemiah 13:25; Sirach 45:7, 15; Jeremiah 33:21; Malachi 2:4-9.
- Phinehas: Numbers 25:11-13; Sirach 45:24; Psalm 106:30-31 (an example of righteousness for the ages).
- David: 2 Samuel 7:11-17; 23:5; 23:5; 1 Kings 2:4; 11:9-20; Sirach 45:25; 47:11; 2 Chronicles 7:18; 13:5; 21:7; Psalm 89:3, 28, 34, 132: 1-18; Psalm 132; Jeremiah 33:21; Acts 2:30.
- Jesus: Isaiah 59:20-21 [Romans 11:26-27]; Matthew 26:28; Mark 14:24; Luke 22:20; 1 Corinthians 11:25; 2 Corinthians 3:6-14; Galatians 4:24; Hebrews 7:22; 8:6-13; 9:15-20; 10:14-29 (quoting Jeremiah 31:31-34); 12:24; 13:20.

Covenants involve oath-swearing: Genesis 21:23-24 (Abimelech and Abraham); 22:16; Exodus 17:16; Deut. 6:13; 7:7-11; 13:18-19 (17-18); 29:11-14 (12-15); Joshua 2:17

(Rahab's covenant with Israelite soldiers); 1 Sam 20:17 (covenant between Jonathan and David); 24:21-22 (David and Saul); 2 Sam. 3:9; 2 Chronicles 15:12-15; Nehemiah 10:30 (29); Psalm 89:3; 105:8-9; 110:4; Sir. 44:21 (22); Luke 1:73; Acts 2:30; Hebrews 6:13; Latin word *sacramentum* = oath

Conditional covenants: ("if" cause) Blessings for obedience; curses for disobedience

- Adamic: blessings = Gen. 1:28-30; conditions: Gen. 2:15-17; curse: Gen. 3:15-19
- Abrahamic: conditional for Abraham's descendants: Gen 17:19-22 (only through Isaac)
- Davidic: conditional for descendants = 1 Kings 2:3-4; 1 Kings 2:4; 11:11-20
- Sinai: Deut. 13:18-19; Covenant treaty = book of Deut.; covenant lawsuit in Hosea; covenant blessings = Deut. 28:1-14; covenant curses = 28:25-69.
- New covenant: (Covenant treaty: Book of Revelation covenant lawsuit); Blessings = Matt. 5:1-12 & curses Matt. 23:13-30; 25:31-46. Conditional covenant with baptized believers.

Non-conditional covenants:

- Noahide: Sir 44:17-18
- Abrahamic: Gen 12:1-3
- Aaronic: for lineal descent but conditional on individuals: Sir 44:7 (8), 15 (19)
- Phinehas' covenant of peace: Num 25:13; Sir 45:24; by linear descent; same restrictions as above on individuals
- Davidic: 2 Sam. 7:14; 1Ch 17:14; 2 Ch 3:1; Sir. 45:25 (by linear descent); 47:11 (13); restrictions on individuals
- New Covenant: Hebrews 7:21-28 (God's covenant with Christ is non-conditional and eternal)