THE PENTATEUCH PART I: GENESIS
LESSON 2
THE CREATION OF HEAVENS AND EARTH

• [Lesson 1](http://www.agapebiblestudy.com/genesis/Lesson_1.htm)  • [Genesis Lessons List](http://www.agapebiblestudy.com/genesis/Genesis_Menu.php)  • [Lesson 3](http://www.agapebiblestudy.com/genesis/Lesson_3.htm)

My Lord and my God,
We acknowledge, Lord, that You are the author of Creation.  You created the cosmos.  You fixed the earth upon its foundation and clothed the earth with mountains and oceans.  You brought forth life upon the earth and then You created Your masterpiece'man. You created man in Your image and likeness'created in the image of grace and holiness and blessed with an immortal soul.  You placed man in the Sanctuary of Eden as a being who was destined to live eternally in Your fellowship.  Help us to be ever mindful, Father, that Jesus Christ and the Sacraments of Your Church are the bridge by which we are promised our return to You in the heavenly Eden.  Send your Holy Spirit, Father, to guide us in our study. We ask this in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.  Amen.

+ + +

*Lord, you have been our refuge from age to age. Before the mountains were born, before the earth and the world came to birth, from eternity to eternity you are God.*
[Psalms 90:1-2](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/john/john12.htm#v12)

*...ever since the creation of the world, the invisible existence of God and his everlasting powers have been clearly seen by the mind's understanding of created things.*
[Romans 1:20](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/romans/romans1.htm#v20)

SUMMARY OF GENESIS

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| --- | --- |
| **BIBLICAL PERIODS**  | **CREATION AND HISTORY OF THE EARLY WORLDAGE OF THE PATRIARCHS**  |
| **FOCUS**  | **FOUR MAJOR EVENTS**  | **FOUR PATRIARCHS**  |
| **THE COVENANTS**  | Adamic--------------------Noahide----------Abrahamic--------------------------------  |
| **SCRIPTURE**  | 1:1--------3:1-------6:1------10:1-------12:1----------25:19--27:19----37:1--50:26  |
| **DIVISIONS**  | Creation  | Fall  | Flood  | Nations  | Abraham  | Isaac  | Jacob  | Joseph  |
| **TOPIC**  | **FAMILY OF ADAM**  | **FAMILY OF ABRAHAM**  |
| **HISTORICAL ACCOUNT**  | **BIOGRAPHICAL ACCOUNTS**  |
| **LOCATION**  | **FERTILE CRESCENT**  | **HARAN and CANAAN[Syria-Palestine]**  | Canaan-Egypt  |
| **TIME**  | **Pre-history to 2000BC?**  | **281 years**  | 81 years  |
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Year?                                                   Year ?                          Year?                    c. 2000BC?

|  |
| --- |
| Creation:---------------------------------The Flood----------Tower of Babel--------the Nations  |
| Adam--------------10 generations\*---------Shem------------10 generations\*---------Abraham  |

**\***the ancients did not have the 0 mathematical place value and therefore, every series is counted with the first in the series as #1.

Genesis
B' r'shiyt [Be re'siyth]

Genesis begins with a prologue ([Gen 1:1- 2:4a](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v1)) that provides an overview of Creation in a six part division, climaxing in God's pronouncement of the completion of the Creation event on "the seventh day."  It is through God's divine will and His pronouncement ("God said") that the universe and our planet came into being.  It is His presence, His will, and His divine purpose that continues to sustain the cosmos and the world in which we live.

**Please read** [**Genesis 1:1- 2:4a**](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v1)**: The Prologue of the Creation of "Heaven and Earth."**
As you read through the prologue, please note the word repetitions.  For example, "God said" is repeated eleven times in [1:3](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v3), [6](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v6), [9](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v9), [11](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v11), [14](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v14), [20](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v20), [22](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v22), [24](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v24), [26](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v26), [28](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v28), and [29](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v29).

[**Genesis 1:1-5**](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v1)**: 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 means "formless and empty").

1:1*In the beginning God [Elohim] created heaven and earth.* 2 *Now the earth was a formless void [toho ra 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.*

Our English title, "genesis" was adopted from St. Jerome's Latin Vulgate translation (*Liber Genesis*).  The Latin title came from the Septuagint translation (the Greek translation of the Old Testament made about 300 years before Christ).  "**Genesis" is a transliteration of the Greek word *geneseos*, a word that translates the Hebrew word *toledoth*, which means "generations."**  The Hebrew word is a key word in identifying the structure of Genesis.  Translators have usually rendered the Hebrew word *toledoth* as "account" or "generations" ([Genesis 2:4](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis2.htm#v4); [5:1](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis5.htm#v1); [6:9](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis6.htm#v9): [10:1](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis10.htm#v1); [11:10](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis11.htm#v10), [27](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis11.htm#v27): [25:12](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis25.htm#v12), [19](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis25.htm#v19); [36:1](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis36.htm#v1), [9](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis36.htm#v9); [37:2](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis37.htm#v2)).  **However  the Hebrew title of the book of Genesis is plucked from the first two of the seven Hebrew words of the first sentence that begins the Genesis prologue: "In [the] beginning."** The definite article "the" is not present in the Hebrew text (*Hebrew-English Old Testament*), nor is it present in the Greek Old Testament Genesis translation (*The Septuagint with Apocrypha: Greek and English*).  Our English title, "genesis" comes from the Greek word meaning origin, source, birth, or beginnings.  The first two Hebrew words in [Genesis 1:1](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v1) are *b're'shiyt* [be re'siyth], pronounced "bay-ray-sheet," which means "in beginning" or "in first."  The Hebrew prefix "b" [be] can be translated as "in," "for," "through," or "with;" while the Hebrew word "re'shiyt," from the Hebrew root *rosh* [as in *Rosh Hashanah*, the Jewish feast which means "head (start) of the year"], is defined as "the first in place, time, order or rank; specifically a first fruit; beginning, chief, first, principal thing" (*Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*; *Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*).

As the only begotten "firstborn" Son of God the Father, Jesus merited the Father's power and authority ([Jn 1:14](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/john/john1.htm%22%20%5Cl%20%22v14); [Mt 28:18](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/matthew/matthew28.htm#v18); [Jn 17:1](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/john/john17.htm#v1)).

**Question:** What is Jesus' connection to Creation "in [the] beginning?" St. Peter professed Jesus' selection as the means for man's salvation before the Creation event when he wrote: *He was marked out [chosen] before the world was made...* ([1 Pt 1:20](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/1peter/1peter1.htm#v20)).  Can you think of other New Testament verses that point to the pre-existence of Jesus Christ before the beginning of Creation and other verses that identify Jesus as the "first in power and rank," the first fruits, the "re'shiyt" of all Creation?  Please quote the significant passages and identify the connection to the opening verse of Genesis.
**Answer:** Two significant passages are [Colossians 1:15-20](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/colossians/colossians1.htm#v15) and the prologue of St. John's Gospel ([Jn 1:1-18](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/john/john1.htm%22%20%5Cl%20%22v1)).  These passages address the pre-existence of Christ and His pre-eminence in the Creation event.  In Colossians, St. Paul presents Jesus as the active power behind creation through which all things came into existence.  In St. John's Gospel, Jesus is the Word of God spoken to bring the universe into existence:

* St. Paul used the concept of the "firstborn" when he wrote about Christ as the "firstborn," meaning the head or first in rank, "of all Creation" and the "the Beginning, the firstborn from the dead," meaning that as the heir of the Father Jesus was the first in rank and in order in leading his brothers and sisters in the resurrection from the dead: *He is the image of the unseen God, the* ***first-born*** *of all creation, for in him were created all things in heaven and on earth: everything visible and everything invisible, thrones, ruling forces, sovereignties, powers-- all things were created* ***through*** *him and* ***for*** *him.  He exists before all things and* ***in*** *him all things hold together, and he is the Head of the Body, that is the Church.  He is* ***the Beginning****, the* ***first-born*** *from the dead, so that he should be supreme in every way...*  ([Colossians 1:15-18](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/colossians/colossians1.htm#v15)).  The connection to the opening words of the Creation prologue in Genesis are found in Paul's choice of words identified in the bold type in the passage above: note that the Hebrew word "be" means: "through, for, and "beginning."([1](http://www.agapebiblestudy.com/genesis/Lesson_2.htm%22%20%5Cl%20%22end1))
* St. John spoke of Jesus' pre-existence in [John 1:1-2](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/john/john1.htm#v1): *In (the\*) beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God.  He was with God in the beginning.* St. John also spoke of Jesus' pre-existence in [verse 15](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/john/john1.htm#v15):  *John witnesses to him.  He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me has passed ahead of me because he existed before me* (repeated in [John 1:30](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/john/john1.htm#v30)).  St. John identified Jesus as the force behind Creation in [John 1:3-5](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/john/john1.htm#v3) and [verse 10a](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/john/john1.htm#v10): *Through him all things came into being, not one thing came into being except through him.  What has come into being in him was life, life that was the light of men; and light shines in darkness, and darkness could not overpower it. [..]. He was in the world that had come into being through him...*In this passage St. John repeats the themes of [Genesis 1:1-5](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v1). (The\*) indicates that this word is not in the Greek text.

There are other passages that can be cited which point to the pre-existence of Jesus including [Hebrews 1:2-3](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/hebrews/hebrews1.htm#v2); [11:3](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/hebrews/hebrews11.htm#v3); [John 1:15](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/john/john1.htm#v15), [30](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/john/john1.htm#v30); [8:58](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/john/john8.htm#v58); and [17:5](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/john/john17.htm#v5); [1 John 1:1](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/1john/1john1.htm#v1).

The New Testament, therefore, reveals that God authored Creation through the creative force of the eternal Word, God the Son ([Jn 1:1-3](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/john/john1.htm%22%20%5Cl%20%22v1)), through whom all creation flowed: *...for in Him were created all things in heaven and on earth: everything visible and everything invisible, ..[...]* *all things were created* ***through*** *him and* ***for*** *him.  He exists before all things and* ***in*** *him all things hold together.* See CCC# [291](http://www.scborromeo.org/ccc/p1s2c1p4.htm#291).([2](http://www.agapebiblestudy.com/genesis/Lesson_2.htm%22%20%5Cl%20%22end2))

In the first sentence of the Prologue of the Gospel of St. John, the Greek text begins with the same words that in Hebrew begin the Prologue of [Genesis 1:1](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v1): "In (the) beginning."  Like the Hebrew text in Genesis, the first words of St. John's Prologue begin without the definite article "the:" in Greek, *en arche*, "In beginning"'the same Greek words that begin the Genesis Prologue in the Greek Septuagint Old Testament translation, also without the article "the."  In the 3rd century AD, Origen of Alexandria, revered head of the Christian school of theology in Alexandria, Egypt, wrote: *What is the beginning of all things except our Lord and "Savior of all," Jesus Christ "the firstborn of every creature?"  In this beginning, therefore, that is, in his Word, "God made heaven and earth" as the evangelist John also says in the beginning of his Gospel* (*Origen: Homilies on Genesis, 1:1*). Origen is using the word "firstborn" in the sense of "first in rank."  He is **not** saying that Jesus was the first creature that was created, a heresy embraced by some who misinterpret what St. Paul wrote in [Colossians 1:15](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/colossians/colossians1.htm#v15).

**Please read the Gospel of** [**John 1:1-5**](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/john/john1.htm#v1) **and** [**verses 9a & b**](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/john/john1.htm#v9)**.**

The Gospel of St. John identifies Jesus in [verse 1](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/john/john1.htm#v1) as "The Word."

**Question:** What other word does the Gospel of St. John associate with Jesus in addition to Jesus the "Word" and the "Life?"  Please see [verses 4-5](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/john/john1.htm#v4) and [9](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/john/john1.htm#v9).
**Answer:** Jesus is the "Light."

Jesus will identify Himself as "the Light" on the Feast of Tabernacles during the last year of His ministry: *Jesus spoke to the people again, he said: I am the light of the world; anyone who follows me will not be walking in the dark but will have the light of life* ([Jn 8:12](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/john/john8.htm%22%20%5Cl%20%22v12)).

**Question:** As the "Light" of the world, what power does Jesus, "the Light," overcome?  What is the connection to [Genesis 1:4-5](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v4)?  Note: in the New Jerusalem Bible the translation reads "there was darkness over the deep" ([Gen 1:2](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v2)).  A better translation is "there was darkness over the abyss." The abyss is the *Tehom* in Hebrew and the *Abyssos* in Greek, the bottomless and unfathomable deep of the underworld and perhaps the part of the universe set in opposition to the heights of the heavens (*Anchor Bible Dictionary, vol. 1, page 49)*.
**Answer:** Jesus, the "Light of the world," overcame (was victorious over) the "darkness" of sin and despair ([Jn 1:4-5](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/john/john1.htm%22%20%5Cl%20%22v4), [9](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/john/john1.htm#v9),  [8:12](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/john/john8.htm#v12)) as in [Genesis 1:4-5](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v4) the "Light" overcame the "darkness."  Jesus is goodness and righteousness.  His goodness, represented as "light," cannot be imprisoned by the darkness of the forces that stand in opposition to the goodness of God.

The revelation of the Most Holy Trinity was a mystery that was not revealed to the Old Covenant Church but which was made known to the New Covenant Church by Jesus the promised Redeemer-Messiah.  Jesus is identified in the New Testament as the Son of God ([Mt 16:16](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/matthew/matthew16.htm#v16); [Mk 1:1](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/mark/mark1.htm#v1); [Lk 1:35](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/luke/luke1.htm#v35); [Jn 1:14](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/john/john1.htm#v14), [34](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/john/john1.htm#v34)); He spoke of Himself as the Son of God who is His Father ([Mt 10:32-33](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/matthew/matthew10.htm#v32); [Mk 14:36](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/mark/mark14.htm#v36); [Lk 10:21-22](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/luke/luke10.htm#v21); [Jn 14:6-10](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/john/john14.htm#v6)), and He promised He would send God the Holy Spirit as the counselor who would come to teach and guide the Church ([Jn 14:26](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/john/john14.htm%22%20%5Cl%20%22v26)).  Also please note that in Hebrew as well as in Greek, the words "wind," "spirit" and "breath" are the same word: *ruah* is the word in Hebrew, which is *pneuma* in Greek.  In [Genesis 1:2](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v2) it is God's holy wind/spirit/breath [*ruah*] that hovers [*rahap*] above the waters of Creation just as God's Spirit hovered over the waters of the Jordan River at Jesus' baptism ([Mt 3:16-17](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/matthew/matthew3.htm#v16); [Mk 1:9-11](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/mark/mark1.htm#v9); [Lk 3:21-22](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/luke/luke3.htm#v21)).

The Fathers of the Church (the disciples of the Apostles and their disciples in the first 3-4 centuries of the Church) taught that although the mystery of the Trinity was hidden from us in the Old Testament, the promise of that mystery was revealed in Scripture from the very first account of Creation.

**Question:** Recalling St. John, St. Paul, and St. Peter's revelation of the pre-existence of Christ and His role in Creation, can you see the hidden promise of the Trinity in the first three verses of Genesis? Please identify the key words in the passage (see [Jn 1:1-5](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/john/john1.htm#v1); [Col 1:15-17](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/colossians/colossians1.htm#v15); and [1 Pt 1:20](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/1peter/1peter1.htm#v20)).
**Answer:** In the beginning **God** [Elohim] created heaven and earth.  Now the earth was a formless void, there was darkness over the deep, with a **divine wind** [ruah] *sweeping* [more literally *=hovering*] *over the waters. God [Elohim]* ***said****, 'Let there be* ***light****, and there was* ***light****.'*

* God in the plural (Elohim): God the Father
* Divine wind (ruah): God the Holy Spirit
* God said: the creative force of God's spoken word; the Word of God = God the Son.  God's Word is the "Light" = Christ according to [John 1:3-5](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/john/john1.htm#v3) and [9](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/john/john1.htm#v9): [verses 3-5]*...in Him was life, life that was the light of men; and light shines in the darkness, and darkness could not overpower it.* Verse 9*: The Word was the real light that gives light to everyone...*

**Question:** What is the order of the Godhead as revealed in [Genesis 1:1-3](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v1)?
**Answer:** God the Father, God the Holy Spirit, and the spoken word of God in the Creation event is the "Living Word," God the Son.([3](http://www.agapebiblestudy.com/genesis/Lesson_2.htm%22%20%5Cl%20%22end3))

The Church teaches that the Creation event was the unified work of the Most Holy Trinity: *The Old Testament suggests and the New Covenant reveals the creative action of the Son and the Spirit, inseparably one with that of the Father.  This creative cooperation is clearly affirmed in the Church's rule of faith: "There exists but one God... he is the Father, God, the Creator, the author, the giver of order.  He made all things by himself, this is, by his Word and by his Wisdom," "by the Son and the Spirit" who, so to speak, are "his hands."  Creation is the common work of the Holy Trinity* (CCC# [292](http://www.scborromeo.org/ccc/p1s2c1p4.htm#292)).

[Genesis 1:3](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v3) reveals that God's Spirit was *sweeping over the waters*.  In commenting on this passage in Genesis, St. Ephraim (303-363/73) wrote: *It was appropriate to reveal here that the Spirit hovered in order for us to learn that the work of creation was held in common by the Spirit with the Father and the Son.  The Father spoke.  The Son created.  And so it was also right that the Spirit offered its work, clearly shown through its hovering, in order to demonstrate its unity with the other persons.  Thus we learn that all was brought to perfection and accomplished by the Trinity* (Ephraim, *Commentary on Genesis I*).

In the event of Jesus' baptism, the Holy Trinity is also present: in God the Son who receives St. John the Baptist's baptism of repentance in order to sanctify the waters of Christian baptism, in God the Father, whose voice is heard from heaven, and in God the Holy Spirit who opens the heavens and descends in the form of a dove ([Mt 3:16-17](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/matthew/matthew3.htm#v16); [Mk 1:9-11](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/mark/mark1.htm#v9); [Lk 3:21-22](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/luke/luke3.htm#v21)), hovering above what will become the waters of a new creation for believers baptized into the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ Jesus ([Rom 6:3-6](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/romans/romans6.htm#v3)).  Connecting the action of the Holy Spirit in the Creation event to Jesus' baptism, St. Jerome wrote: *In the beginning of Genesis, it is written: "And the Spirit was stirring above the waters."  You see, then, what it says in the beginning of Genesis.  Now for its mystical meaning'"The Spirit was stirring above the waters"'already at that time baptism was being foreshadowed.  It could not be true baptism, to be sure, without the Spirit* (St. Jerome, *Homilies 10, Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture, vol. I, page 6*)*.*

The word which Jerome translated as "stirring" is rendered "sweeping" in the New Jerusalem Bible. The word which describes the action of God's Spirit above the waters, is the Hebrew verb *rhp* [with vowels *= rahap,* also spelled *rachaph*]. *Rahap* can also be translated as "hovering" or "moved" (*Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*).  This Hebrew word is used only three times in Old Testament:

* Twice in the Pentateuch (in [Genesis 1:3](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v3) and [Deuteronomy 32:11](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/deuteronomy/deuteronomy32.htm#v11))
* Once in [Jeremiah 23:9](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/jeremiah/jeremiah23.htm#v9).

Jewish Bible scholars, both ancient and modern, have seen a connection between the limited use of this Hebrew word in the birth of Creation as we know it and in the birth of the nation of Israel.  In [Deuteronomy 32:11](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/deuteronomy/deuteronomy32.htm#v11) the verb *rahap* is used to express Yahweh's divine activity in leading the newly created nation of Israel, separated out from the chaos of the pagan world, through "the howling expanses of the  wastelands" ([Dt 32:10](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/deuteronomy/deuteronomy32.htm%22%20%5Cl%20%22v10)) on way to Canaan.  Referring to Israel personified as "Jacob" (Jacob, renamed Israel was the physical father of the twelve tribes of Israel), the passage reads: *...Yahweh's portion was his people, Jacob was to be the measure of his inheritance.  In the desert he finds him, in the howling expanses of the wastelands [tohu].  He protects him, rears him, guards him as the pupil of his eye.  Like an eagle watching* [literally "stirring"] *its nest, hovering [rahap] over its young, he spreads out his wings to hold him, he supports him on his pinions* ([Dt 32:9-11](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/deuteronomy/deuteronomy32.htm%22%20%5Cl%20%22v9))*.*

The word which Jerome translated as "stirring" is rendered "sweeping" in the New Jerusalem Bible. The word which describes the action of God's Spirit above the waters, is the Hebrew verb rhp [with vowels = rahap, also spelled rachaph]. Rahap can also be translated as "hovering" or "move/moving" (Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon). The Hebrew word rahap is found only three times in Sacred Scripture:

* Twice in the Pentateuch (in [Genesis 1:3](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v3) and [Deuteronomy 32:11](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/deuteronomy/deuteronomy32.htm#v11))
* Once in [Jeremiah 23:9](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/jeremiah/jeremiah23.htm#v9) ("all my bones shake [rahap]").

The Hebrew words tohu wabohu (lit. = wasteland formless) are only found twice in Sacred Scripture:

* [Genesis 1:3](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v3)
* [Jeremiah 4:23](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/jeremiah/jeremiah4.htm#v23)

Jewish Bible scholars, both ancient and modern, have seen a connection between the limited use of these Hebrew words in the birth of Creation as we know it and in the birth of the nation of Israel. In [Deuteronomy 32:11](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/deuteronomy/deuteronomy32.htm#v11) the verb rahap is used to express Yahweh's divine activity in leading the newly created nation of Israel, separated out from the chaos of the pagan world, through "the howling expanses of the wastelands" ([Dt 32:10](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/deuteronomy/deuteronomy32.htm%22%20%5Cl%20%22v10)) on way to Canaan. Referring to Israel personified as "Jacob" (Jacob, renamed Israel was the physical father of the twelve tribes of Israel), the passage reads: ...Yahweh's portion was his people, Jacob was to be the measure of his inheritance. In the desert he finds him, in the howling expanses of the wastelands [tohu]. He protects him, rears him, guards him as the pupil of his eye. Like an eagle watching [literally "stirring"] its nest, hovering [rahap] over its young, he spreads out his wings to hold him, he supports him on his pinions ([Dt 32:9-11](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/deuteronomy/deuteronomy32.htm%22%20%5Cl%20%22v11)).

In this passage God's "hovering" over Israel is compared to an eagle hovering over its young'spreading out protective wings to guard and support the children of Israel as God led them in the visible manifestation of Yahweh's *Shekinah* (in Hebrew the manifestation of God's glory) in the Glory Cloud.  The Glory Cloud (pillar of cloud and fire), which led Israel on her Exodus journey, was a manifestation of the Spirit of God.

**Question:** What are the functions of the Glory Cloud that are attributed to the Holy Spirit?  See [Nehemiah 9:19-20](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/nehemiah/nehemiah9.htm#v19); [Isaiah 63:11-14](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/isaiah/isaiah63.htm#v11); and [Haggai 2:5](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/haggai/haggai2.htm#v5).
**Answer:** Functions of Glory Cloud attributed to the Holy Spirit:

1. [Nehemiah 9:19-20a](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/nehemiah/nehemiah9.htm#v19): *... you, in your great compassion, did not abandon them in the desert; the pillar of cloud did not leave them, leading them on their path by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, lighting the way ahead of them by which they were to go.  You gave them your good spirit to instruct them...*
2. [Isaiah 63:11-14a](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/isaiah/isaiah63.htm#v11): *But he called the past to mind, Moses his servant.  Where is he who saved them from the sea, the Shepherd of his flock?  Where was he who put his holy spirit among them, whose glorious arm led the way by Moses' right hand?  Who divided the waters before them to win himself everlasting renown, who led them through the depths as easily as a horse through the desert?  They stumbled as little as cattle going down to the plain.  Yahweh's Spirit led them to rest.*
3. [Haggai 2:5-7](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/haggai/haggai2.htm#v5): *...and my spirit is present among you.  Do not be afraid!  For Yahweh Sabaoth says this: A little while now, and I shall shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land.  I shall shake all the nations, and the treasures of all the nations will flow in, and I shall fill this Temple with glory\*, says Yahweh Sabaoth.* (A reference to when the Glory Cloud, as a visible manifestation of God's presence, filled the Temple of Solomon in [1 Kings 8:10-11](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/1kings/1kings8.htm#v10)).

**Question:** What were the actions of the Holy Spirit in the Creation event in [Genesis 1:1-31](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v1), and what does the action of the God the Son and God the Holy Spirit reveal about Creation?  See CCC# [292](http://www.scborromeo.org/ccc/p1s2c1p4.htm#292).
**Answer:**

1. The Holy Spirit was present bringing light into the darkness
2. The Spirit divided the waters and made dry land appear
3. The Spirit regulated the day and night sequence
4. The Spirit presided over the creation of life
5. Creation is the unified work of the Most Holy Trinity

**Question:** How does God's Spirit in the Glory Cloud protect Israel in the Exodus compared to the mission of the Holy Spirit in the Creation event?

1. The Glory Cloud led Israel out of the darkness of slavery into the light of freedom.
2. The Glory Cloud presided over the parting of the waters of the Red Sea for the children of Israel to cross the chaos of the waters on dry land.
3. The Glory Cloud guarded Israel day and night.
4. The Glory Cloud protected the lives of the children of Israel and presided over the birth of Israel as a nation.

[**Genesis 1:2**](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v2)**:** *Now the earth was a formless void [toho ra bohu], there was darkness over the deep, with a divine wind [ruah] sweeping [rahap] over the waters.*

[Verse 2](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v2) of the Creation event, presents the earth as already having been formed and completely covered by water.  It is possible that there were other periods of creation and de-creation on earth between verses 1 and 2.  Our Creation event begins with God's spirit hovering over the waters of chaos.

[**Genesis 1:3-5**](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v3)**:** 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.*

Verse three begins a repeated sequence of God's announcement: "God said," followed by God's command: *"Let the/ there,"* which results in a creation event.

**Question:** On the first day God created "light."  How can there be light in the cosmos before the creation of the sun, moon, and stars, which doesn't occur until [Genesis 1:14](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v14)?
**Answer:** Galileo Galilei wrote: *The Bible tells us how to go the Heaven, not how the heavens go.*  The Bible is not a scientific text book.  What the inspired writers received was what they would be able to put into words that could be understood by their contemporaries and future generations.

The passage tells us that after the earth was created, God created light as a force or a concept in the universe. ([4](http://www.agapebiblestudy.com/genesis/Lesson_2.htm%22%20%5Cl%20%22end4))St. Augustine made the distinction between the light born from God and the light made by God: *The light born from God is one thing; the light that God made is another.  The light born from God is the very Wisdom of God, but the light made by God is something mutable, whether corporeal or incorporeal* (*On the Literal Interpretation of Genesis*, 5.20). God created "light," separating the light out of the darkness of the cosmos and pronounced it was "good" ([Gen 1:4](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v4)), as He will continue to judge each act of creation as "good."

Since the sun and the moon had not been fixed in the heavens, the day and night referred to in verse five cannot be day and night as we known them.  It is interesting to note that the Hebrew text of [Genesis 1:5](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v5) does not have the definite article "the" as it does in the English translation.  It will not be until day six that "day" will be defined as "*the* sixth day."([5](http://www.agapebiblestudy.com/genesis/Lesson_2.htm%22%20%5Cl%20%22end5))

[**Genesis 1:5b**](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v5)**:** *Evening came and morning came: the first day.* It was from the repetition of this phrase indicating that the "day" progressed from the night that the Hebrew people began and ended each day at sunset, in ancient times and a practice Jews continue to observe today.

**Please read** [**Genesis 1:6-13**](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v6)**:** The progression of the Creation event, days 2-3.
1:6*God said, 'Let there be a vault through the middle of the waters to divide the waters in two.'  And so it was.* 7 *God made the vault, and it divided the waters under the vault from the waters above the vault.* 8*God called the vault 'heaven.'  Evening came and morning came: the second day.* 9*God said, 'Let the waters under the heaven come together into a single mass, and let dry land appear.'  And so it was.* 10*God called the dry land 'earth' and the mass of waters 'seas', and God saw that it was good.* 11*God said, 'Let the earth produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants, and fruit trees on earth, bearing fruit with their seed inside, each corresponding to its own species.' And so it was.* 12*The earth produced vegetation: the various kinds of seed-bearing plants and the fruit trees with seed inside, each corresponding to its own species.  God saw that it was good.* 13*Evening came and morning came: the third day.*

**Question:** On the days designated (in the Hebrew text) "a second day" and "a third day" in verses 8-10, where are the waters in relation to the land?  See [Genesis 7:11-12](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis7.htm#v11); [8:22](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis8.htm#v22)
**Answer:** The waters are in the rivers, seas, and oceans.  There is also water above the earth's atmosphere, perhaps creating a "greenhouse" effect, a climate without seasons.  The vault of waters above the earth will be pierced in the event of the Great Flood ([Gen 7:11-12](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis7.htm#v11)) and God will establish seasons after the Flood ([Gen 8:22](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis8.htm#v22)).

**Question:** What has transpired in the creation of the earth in the first three days?
**Answer:**

1. Light is created which is separate from the darkness.
2. The separation of the land from the water
3. Vegetative life (seed-bearing plants; no weeds) on earth

**Question:** What word repetitions are you noticing in the account to this point?
**Answer:** Repetition of the phrases "God said," "God saw it was good," "and so it was," and every sequence ends with the repeated phrase: "evening came and morning came: a \_\_\_ day."  The word of God is a creative force.  He has formed the cosmos out of nothing and He has "seen" and judged the Creation "good" (thus far, three times in verses [3](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v3), [10](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v10), and [12](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v12)).

**Question:** What then are the three repeated actions of the Most Holy Trinity in the process of the Creation event?
**Answer:**

* God announced (*God said*)
* He commanded (*Let the ...*)
* He judged the process of Creation (*God saw it was good*).

**Please read** [**Genesis 1:14-23**](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v14)**: Creation, days 4 through 5**

1:14*God said, 'Let there be lights in the vault of heaven to divide day from night, and let them indicate festivals, days and years.* 15*Let them be lights in the vault of heaven to shine on the earth.'  And so it was.* 16*God made the two great lights: the greater light to govern the day, the smaller light to govern the night, and the stars.* 17*God set them in the vault of heaven to shine on the earth,* 18*to govern the day and night and to divide light from darkness.  God saw that it was good.* 19*Evening came and morning came: the fourth day.* 20*God said, 'Let the waters be alive with a swarm of living creatures, and let birds wing their way above the earth across the vault of heaven.'  And so it was.* 21*God created the great sea-monsters and all the creatures that glide and teem in the waters in their own species, and winged birds in their own species.* 22*God saw that it was good.  God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the waters of the seas; and let the birds multiply on land.'* 23*Evening came and morning came: the fifth day.*

The same repetitions are present that were observed in the first three days of the Prologue.  The days are still designated as "a day."

**Question:** What was created on the 4th day?
**Answer:** God made the sun, moon, stars and the planets.

**Question:** Read [Genesis 1:14-19](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v14).  What is the reason given for the creation of the sun, moon, stars (and planets; the ancients thought the planets were wandering stars)?  There are four reasons given in this passage.
**Answer:** These heavenly objects were created to:

1. divide day from night
2. to date the annual Holy Days
3. to provide light for the earth
4. to rule or govern the day and night

Note: Holy Days would not be appointed until the formation of the Sinai Covenant ([Ex. 12](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/exodus/exodus12.htm); [Lev 23](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/leviticus/leviticus23.htm); [Num 28-29](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/numbers/numbers28.htm)).

**Question:** On what day was life created to fill the sky and fill the waters?
**Answer:** Life was created to fill the sky and the waters on the fifth day.

**Question:** What is special about the stage of creation on the fifth day?
**Answer:** God created creatures: animal life in the form of the birds and the sea creatures.  He blessed them and He willed them to perpetuate life by creating more of their own kind.

These creatures possess a soul (*nepesh/ nepes* in Hebrew).  In essence, *nepesh* means "passionate vitality."  Animal and plant souls differ from human souls; human souls are immortal, being set apart by the "breath" (Spirit) of God ([Gen 2:7](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis2.htm#v7)). The Old Testament understanding of *nepesh* differs from the New Testament concept of "soul" as expressed in the Greek word *psyche* (*Genesis,* Waltke, pages 70-71).

**Please read** [**Genesis 1:24-31**](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v24) **The Creation of the Beasts and Man on the Sixth day**

1:24*God said, 'Let the earth produce every kind of living creature' in its own species: cattle, creeping things and wild animals of all kinds.'  And so it was.* 25*God made wild animals in their own species, and cattle in theirs, and every creature that crawls along the earth in its own species. God saw that it was good.* 26*God said, 'Let us make man in our own image, in the likeness of ourselves, and let them be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of the heaven, the cattle, all the wild animals and all the creatures that creep along the ground.'* 27*God created man in the image of himself, in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them.* 28*God blessed them, saying to them, 'Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and subdue it.  Be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven and all the living creatures that move on earth.* 29*God also said, 'Look, to you I give all the seed-bearing plants everywhere on the surface of the earth, and all the trees with seed-bearing fruit; this will be your food.* 30*And to all the wild animals, all the birds of heaven and all the living creatures that creep along the ground, I give all the foliage of the plants as their food.' And so it was.* 31*God saw all he had made, and indeed it was very good.  Evening came and morning came: the sixth day.*

The affirmation of the goodness of God's Creation is repeated consistently throughout the prologue of Genesis as God the Holy Spirit "hovers" over Creation.  As He "hovers," He "sees," and in seeing God judges each stage of Creation as "good."

**Question:** How many times is the phrase repeated that God "saw it was good" between [Genesis 1:3](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v3) and [31](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v31)?
**Answer:** That Creation is "good" is pronounced seven times in [Genesis 1:4](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v4), [10](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v10), [12](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v12), [18](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v18), [21](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v21), [25](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v25), [31](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v31), and in [verse 31](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v31), where the pronouncement is that Creation is "very good."  Seven is the number which symbolizes perfection, especially spiritual perfection; it is the number of the Holy Spirit.

In [Genesis 1:26](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v26) God said: *Let* ***US*** *make man in* ***OUR OWN******image and likeness****.* Notice the use of the first person plural.  You may remember that the Hebrew word for God in Genesis chapter one is the plural form, *Elohim.*  The first person plural is also used in [Genesis 3:22](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis3.htm#v22): *Then Yahweh God said, 'Now that the man has become like one of* ***us*** *in knowing good from evil...*  While some Christian Bible scholars have seen this passage as another hidden revelation of the Trinity in the Old Testament, other scholars have suggested that God is referring to the angels of the heavenly court.  However, never has it been suggested in either Jewish or Christian tradition that angels cooperated in the creation of the world nor does Scripture ever identify these spirit beings as being created "in the image and likeness" of God: *Let us make man* ***in our own*** *image and likeness*.  In addition, [Nehemiah 9:6](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/nehemiah/nehemiah9.htm#v6): *You, Yahweh, are the one, only Yahweh, you have created the heavens, the heaven of heavens and all their array, the earth and all it bears, the seas and all they hold.*

**Question:** What is unique about the creation of man?  What is man's rank in the created order of the world? How is man different from the other creatures of Creation?  Hint: [Genesis 1:26-28](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v26).
**Answer:** Man was created to be "master" over the creatures in creation ([Gen 1:26](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v26)), making man God's representative or steward in God's earthly kingdom, and man is separated from the other living creatures in that he was created in the "image and likeness" of God ([Gen 1:26-27](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v26)).  Man was created in the image of the divine triune God'the Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  Man was created as a sinless being, possessing the gift of an immortal soul. Man was created in a perfect state of grace, clothed in the image of the Divine Triune God.  See CCC# [307](http://www.scborromeo.org/ccc/p1s2c1p4.htm#307), [355-57](http://www.scborromeo.org/ccc/p1s2c1p6.htm#355).

**Question:** How many times is the word "created" repeated in [Genesis 1:27](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v27)?  Why is this significant?
**Answer:** In [Genesis 1:27](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v27), the Hebrew word *bara*, the verb "to create," is repeated 3 times: *God created man in the image of himself, in the image of God he* created *him, male and female he created them.* Repetitions of words are significant.  The Creation account of Genesis is full of sevens, the number of perfection, but no other book in the Bible has as many repetitions of threes (as a number or in repetitions) as the book of Genesis. Three is the number of importance, significance, and the fullness of God's divine plan in Jewish tradition; for Christians it is also the number of the Trinity.  In Scripture the number three, or the repetition of threes, is a signal that what is happing is of theological importance in salvation history.

The verb "to create," *bara*, is repeated a total of 7 times in chapter 1 of the Genesis Prologue ([1:1](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v1), [21](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v21), [27](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v27) (3 times), [2:3](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis2.htm#v3), [4a](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis2.htm#v4)), and whenever it is used in Scripture the wordalways has God as its subject (CCC# [290](http://www.scborromeo.org/ccc/p1s2c1p4.htm#290)).  The seven-time repetition of the Hebrew word "to create" is symbolically fitting since in Jewish tradition 7 is the number of fullness and perfection.  God's acts of creating are perfect.  In this act of creation, our first parents are infused with God's "perfection"'the gift of grace, the Trinity's divine life.   The infusion of the grace of divine life into the first man creates a covenant, a family bond between man and God in which God "fathers" the first human being.  God is not only Creator, as He is of the animals, but He is God the eternal Father, having communicated His life to man through His *ruah*, the breath of His spirit ([Gen 2:7](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis2.htm#v7)).   The covenant with Adam is the first in a series of divine covenant bonds God will establish in the progression of salvation history.([6](http://www.agapebiblestudy.com/genesis/Lesson_2.htm%22%20%5Cl%20%22end6)) The Hebrew word *bara* will be used two more times before the end of the Prologue. In the symbolic importance of numbers, seven is not only the number of perfection; it is also the number of the Holy Spirit.

**Question:** What does it mean in [Genesis 1:27](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v27) that man is created in the "image and likeness" of God?  Hint:  what are the attributes of God? Also see [Genesis 2:4-7](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis2.htm#v4) and [5:1-3](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis5.htm#v1).
**Answer:** In imperfect human fathering, offspring receive life and human characteristics like eye and hair color, etc.  But God is spirit and so God gave His human children His spiritual attributes in His perfect, divine "fathering."  Man was created infused with the very life of God'divine grace. In Genesis chapter 2 God breathed His breath into man.  The first man was created in the image of righteousness, in the likeness of holiness, and received the gift of grace--a gift of divine son-ship.  He was created to be an immortal, sinless being.  This unique condition separated man from the beasts that were created on the same sixth day in the Creation account.  Man has an immortal soul created by God.  From the time of Adam's creation forward in time, the spiritual soul of every human being will be created by God to be immortal; the soul will not perish but will only separate from the body at death [see CCC#s [355-366](http://www.scborromeo.org/ccc/p1s2c1p6.htm#355)].  Infused with grace, Adam and Eve are uniquely united to God not just as "Creator" but as "Father".  The first Adam was created to be an immortal, sinless, **son** and the first Eve to be an immortal and sinless **daughter**.

**Question:** What does God determine as food for man and food for the beasts?  See [Genesis 1:29-30](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v29).
**Answer:** Man's food is to be all the seed-bearing fruit and plants while all the animals of the land, sea and air are to eat all the foliage of the plants for their food.  There is no killing of animals for food, nor is the eating of animal flesh an option.  The eating of cooked animal meat will not be permitted until after the Flood in [Genesis 9:1-4](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis9.htm#v1).

**Question:** What is God's first blessing for mankind?  See [Genesis 1:28](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v28).
**Answer:** The blessings of human fertility and dominion over a fertile earth and all its creatures.

For the first time in the Prologue of Creation, day six is designated "the sixth day."

**Please read** [**Genesis 2:1-4a**](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis2.htm#v1)**: The Climax of Creation on the Seventh day**

2:2*Thus heaven and earth were completed with all their array.* 3*On the seventh day God had completed the work he had been doing.  He rested on the seventh day after all the work he had been doing.* 4*God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on that day he rested after all his work of creating.  Such was the story of heaven and earth as they were created.*

**Question:** What is the climax of the Creation event and the last thing God created?
**Answer:** God created a "day of rest."

**Question:** The Hebrew word *sabbat,* or "Sabbath," means "seventh day."  The seventh day of the week is Saturday.  In Hebrew it is the only day of the week that has a name; the others are day 1, 2, etc.  If Saturday was the last day of the Creation event, what was the day on which creation began?  How many times are the words: "the seventh day" repeated in [Genesis 2:1-4](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis2.htm#v1)?
**Answer:** "The seventh day" is repeated three times.  In the division of Creation to correspond with what we understand as a week in time, with Saturday being the last day in a seven-part division, then the Creation event began on what we acknowledge as Sunday.

The "New Creation" in Christ Jesus will inaugurate a new "day of rest" on the Lord's Day, which was also the first day of the old Creation.

**Question:** How will God's work in the Creation event determine man's obligations as God's master over the earth?
**Answer:** Man will work six days, as God worked during the six "days" of Creation, and man will rest on the seventh day, as God rested on the seventh day of Creation.

**Question:** Why did God bless the seventh day?  What is the connection between the Old Covenant Sabbath and the New Covenant Lord's Day? See CCC# [344-349](http://www.scborromeo.org/ccc/p1s2c1p5.htm#344).
**Answer:** God sanctified the day of rest as a holy day of communion between God and man and as a promise of the eternal blessings that were to come through the saving work of Jesus Christ and the new "day of rest" on "the eighth day" (the day after the seventh), which would not be temporal but eternal:   *The eighth day.  But for us a new day has dawned: the day of Christ's Resurrection.  The seventh day completes the first creation.  The eighth day begins the new creation.  Thus, the work of creation culminates in the greater work of redemption.  The first creation finds its meaning and its summit in the new creation in Christ, the splendor of which surpasses that of the first creation* (CCC# [349](http://www.scborromeo.org/ccc/p1s2c1p5.htm#349)).

**Question:** What did Jesus say about the "seventh day" Sabbath in [Mark 2:27](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/mark/mark2.htm#v27)?

**Answer:** In rebuking the Pharisees Jesus said: *The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath; so the Son of man is master even of the Sabbath.*

The Sabbath was a day created for man to cease his work and to enter into God's "rest,"'into fellowship and communion with God.  It is man's creation in the image and likeness of God and his invitation to communion with God that separates him from the other creatures of creation.  In the formation of the Sinai Covenant, God will make the observance of the Sabbath a condition of covenant obedience in the Ten Commandments ([Ex 20:8-10](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/exodus/exodus20.htm#v8); [Dt 5:12-15](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/deuteronomy/deuteronomy5.htm#v12)).  In commanding the Sabbath observance, God will recall the Creation event: *For in six days Yahweh made the heavens, earth and sea and all that these contain, but on the seventh day he rested; that is why Yahweh has blessed the Sabbath day and made it sacred* ([Ex 20:11](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/exodus/exodus20.htm#v11)).  God's rest on the seventh day of Creation becomes a metaphor for the mystery promised mankind through the saving work of Jesus Christ and the promise of eternal rest in the life of the Most Holy Trinity.

How Are We to Interpret the Creation Account?

According to a literalist reading of the Creation account, all of Creation was formed in a six-day period from evening to morning.  The Catholic Church does not require belief in a literal 6-day creation, nor does the Church oppose the belief in a literal interpretation of Genesis chapters 1 and 2.

There are several different theories of Creation that Christian scholars embrace:

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 6 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 chapter 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 [Genesis 1:1](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v1) and [1:2](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v2).  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 andproposes 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 holds that the picture of God completing His work of creation in six days and resting on the seventh was not intended to reveal the sequence or duration of 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 Egyptians authored a mythological account of creation.  **The Catholic Church does not accept this view.**

There are some fascinating aspects to the Framework Hypothesis which we might explore. We usually view Creation in Genesis as a progression of six days, but there is another way to view Creation and that is as two sets of 3 days.

**Question:** What was created in the first three day period?
**Answer:**

1. **Day #1:** Light separated from darkness
2. **Day #2:** Divided the waters to separate the earth from heaven
3. **Day #3:** The land appears, separated from the water, and God created vegetation.

These three days of Creation can be summarized as: **Day #1 = Time; Day #2 = Space; Day #3 = Life:** all of which are judged to be "good."

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:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **CREATES REALMS**  | **FILLS WITH RULERS**  |
| TIME [light from darkness][Genesis 1:3-5](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v3)  | SUN, MOON, STARS, PLANETS[Genesis 1:14-19](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v14)  |
| SPACE [heaven and the seas][Genesis 1:6-10](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v6)  | FISH, BIRDS[Genesis 1:20-23](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v20)  |
| LAND/ LIFE [dry land and vegetation][Genesis 1:11-13](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v11)  | BEASTS AND MAN[Genesis 1:24-31](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v24)  |

[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](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v3))  | 1. Lights of sun, moon, stars, planets([Gen 1:14-19](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v14))  |
| 2. Sky/ water ([Gen 1:6-8](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v6))  | 2. Birds, fish ([Gen 1:20-23](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v20))  |
| 3. Dry land/ vegetation ([Gen 1:9-13](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v9))  | 3. Land creatures and man ([Gen 1:24-31](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v24))  |

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

Whether one believes in a literal 6-day creation period is really not the issue.  The issue is: Do you believe that God is the author of Creation?  One may believe in a literal 6-day creation or that God used evolution in some way (other than Darwinism which denies God's intimate involvement in the Creation event).  In 1907 Pope Pius X addressed the issues concerning what Catholics must believe about the Creation in the encyclical *Pascendi Dominici Gregis.* This document was followed by an encyclical by Pope Pius XII entitled *Humanae Generis*.  These two documents define what Catholics must believe about the history of creation to be in accord with the teachings of the Church.  For those Catholic Christians who struggle with the question of evolution, the Magisterium of the Catholic Church has set these guidelines for what Catholic Christians must believe about Creation:

1. 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 his obedience.
7. The transgression of that command at the instigation of Satan 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.

[*Pascendi Dominici Gregis,* Pope Pius X; *Humanae Generis*, Pope Pius XII; also see CCC#s [279](http://www.scborromeo.org/ccc/p1s2c1p4.htm#279), [296-98](http://www.scborromeo.org/ccc/p1s2c1p4.htm#296), [343](http://www.scborromeo.org/ccc/p1s2c1p5.htm#343), [355-58](http://www.scborromeo.org/ccc/p1s2c1p6.htm#355), [369-73](http://www.scborromeo.org/ccc/p1s2c1p6.htm#369), [374-79](http://www.scborromeo.org/ccc/p1s2c1p6.htm#374), [390-95](http://www.scborromeo.org/ccc/p1s2c1p7.htm#390), [397](http://www.scborromeo.org/ccc/p1s2c1p7.htm#397), [410-11](http://www.scborromeo.org/ccc/p1s2c1p7.htm#410)]

**Question:** Putting the arguments for and against evolution aside, what is the reason Scripture and Tradition gives for the creation of the world?
**Answer:**  Scripture and Tradition have always taught the fundamental truth that the world was made for the glory of God, to show forth His goodness, and to communicate His love.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church records:  *Scripture and Tradition never cease to teach and celebrate this fundamental truth: "The world was made for the glory of God."  St. Bonaventure explains that God created all things "not to increase his glory, but to show it forth and to communicate it," for God has no other reason for creating than his love and goodness: "Creatures came into existence when the key of love opened his hand."* In this citation the Catechism quotes from the Vatican I document *Dei Filius: This one, true God, of his own goodness and "almighty power," not for increasing his own beatitude, nor for attaining his perfection, but in order to manifest this perfection through the benefits which he bestows on creatures, with absolute freedom of counsel "and from the beginning of time, made out of nothing both orders of creatures, the spiritual and the corporeal..."* (*CCC*# [293](http://www.scborromeo.org/ccc/p1s2c1p4.htm#293), and *Dei Filius,* 1:DS 3002)

The Book of Wisdom records that God created our world to be filled with goodness: *the creatures of the world have health in them, in them is no fatal poison, and Hades has no power over the world: for uprightness is immortal* ([Wis 1:14](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/wisdom/wisdom1.htm%22%20%5Cl%20%22v14)).  Everything within Creation is subject to God's divine will and in the Creation event it was God's will that Creation was to operate for the sake of goodness for the life that inhabited it: *The glory of God consists in the realization of this manifestation and communication of his goodness, for which the world was created* (CCC# [294](http://www.scborromeo.org/ccc/p1s2c1p4.htm#294))*.* God created all things not to increase His glory **but to show His goodness** **and to communicate His love**.  He simply has no other reason for creating than His love and goodness.  St. Thomas Aquinas wrote: *Creatures came into existence when the key of love opened His hand.*

**Question:** How many repetitions of words or phrases did you find in the Genesis Prologue?
**Answer:**

|  |
| --- |
| **Repetitions in the** [**Genesis Prologue 1:1-2:4a**](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v1) **(3 or more times)**  |
| **Word/ phrase**  | **Number of repetitions and verses**  |
| 1. "God said"  | Eleven times: [1:3](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v3), [6](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v6), [9](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v9), [11](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v11), [14](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v14), [20](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v20), [22](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v22), [24](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v24), [26](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v26), [28](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v28), [29](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v29)  |
| 2. "\_\_\_ was good"  | Seven times: [1:4](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v4), [10](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v10), [12](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v12), [18](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v18), [21](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v21), [25](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v25), [31](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v31) = (very good)  |
| 3. "Evening and morning came"  | Six times: [1:5](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v5), [8](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v8), [13](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v13), [19](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v19), [23](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v23), [31](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v31)  |
| 4. "to divide" ("separate)  | Five times: [1:4](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v4), [6](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v6), [7](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v7), [14](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v14), [18](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v18)  |
| 5. "created"  | Seven times: [1:1](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v1), [21](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v21), [27](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v27) (3 times), [2:3](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis2.htm#v3), [4a](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis2.htm#v4)  |
| 6. Commandsi.e. "Let the/ Let us..."  | 2 x 7 times (14): [1:3](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v3), [6](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v6) (twice), [9](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v9) (twice), [11](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v11), [14](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v14) (twice), [15](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v15), [20](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v20), [22](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v22), [24](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v24), [26](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v26) (twice).  |
| 7. "the seventh day"  | Three times: [2:2](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis2.htm#v2) (twice), [3](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis2.htm#v3)  |
| 8. God's "work" of creation  | Three times: [2:2](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis2.htm#v2) (twice), [3](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis2.htm#v3)  |

As we continue in our study, it is important to remember that creation, destruction, regeneration, and restoration through covenant are the main themes of the Bible.  The Bible begins in Creation and Covenant and ends in a re-Creation and a New Covenant.  A covenant is more than a promise and it is more than a contract.  Contracts are concerned with material goods like property, but covenants are concerned with intangibles like truth, loyalty, justice, and fidelity.  Most important from a Biblical perspective, covenants create family bonds.  We will be looking at the seven Old Testament Biblical Covenants'covenants between God and individuals within the line of the "promised seed," a covenant between God and Israel as a holy nation, and with individuals who are also bound to the Sinai Covenant.   The seven covenants of the Old Testament will be fulfilled in the final Covenant, the 8th Covenant, which is the New Covenant in the blood of the Messiah [see the Chart of Yahweh Eight Covenants].

**Question for group discussion:**

**Question:** The first Biblical covenant is the covenant God formed with Adam in Eden ([Hosea 6:7](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/hosea/hosea6.htm#v7)).  Biblical covenants contain both blessings for obedience to the covenant bond ([Gen 1:28-30](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v28)) and obligations ([Gen 2:15-17](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis2.htm#v15)). How would you sum up the first blessings of the Covenant with Adam and Eve in [Genesis 1:28-30](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v28), and what obligations were involved in living out the covenant blessings?
**Answer:** The first man and woman were given the blessings of fertility and dominion over the earth.  The blessing of human fertility required a committed relationship between a man and a woman.  Dominion over the earth required reaping the blessing of the earth's fertility and called for man's careful stewardship over God's gift of the natural world.

**Question:** Please read the passages in [Hebrews 1:2-3](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/hebrews/hebrews1.htm#v2) and [11:3](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/hebrews/hebrews11.htm#v3) and discuss how an understanding of God the Son's role, and the role of the Most Holy Trinity, in Creation has changed your understanding of the Creation event.

**Question:** In what personal re-creation event in your life has God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit taken an active role?  See [John 1:3](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/john/john1.htm#v3), [5](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/john/john1.htm#v5); [Matthew 3:11](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/matthew/matthew3.htm#v11); [28:19-20](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/matthew/matthew28.htm#v19); [Romans 6:3](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/romans/romans6.htm#v3).
**Answer:** In the Sacrament of Baptism.

**Question:** How are Christians re-born and restored to the image of God through Christian baptism?  See [Romans 6:3-4](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/romans/romans6.htm#v3); [Galatians 3:27](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/galatians/galatians3.htm#v27); [Colossians 2:12](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/colossians/colossians2.htm#v12); [2 Peter 1:3-4](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/2peter/2peter1.htm#v3); CCC#s [168](http://www.scborromeo.org/ccc/p1s1c3a2.htm#168); [265](http://www.scborromeo.org/ccc/p1s2c1p2.htm#265); [683](http://www.scborromeo.org/ccc/p1s2c3.htm#683); [1213](http://www.scborromeo.org/ccc/p2s2c1a1.htm#1213); [1227](http://www.scborromeo.org/ccc/p2s2c1a1.htm#1227); [1250](http://www.scborromeo.org/ccc/p2s2c1a1.htm#1250); [1265-66](http://www.scborromeo.org/ccc/p2s2c1a1.htm#1265); [1277](http://www.scborromeo.org/ccc/p2s2c1a1.htm#1277); [1692](http://www.scborromeo.org/ccc/p3.htm#1692).
**Answer:** In the spiritual transformation and re-birth of Christian baptism, we are no longer children in the fallen family of Adam but become re-born through water and the Spirit as children in the family of God ([Jn 3:3](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/john/john3.htm%22%20%5Cl%20%22v3), [5](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/john/john3.htm#v5)).  Not only are we made in God's image, but through the regenerative power of Christian baptism we are restored to His likeness, becoming sinless and righteous sons and daughters of a Divine Father who, in the fullness of life in Christ,  communicates His own divine life to us ([1 Pt 1:3-4](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/1peter/1peter1.htm#v3)).

**Question:** Is the Sacrament of Baptism necessary for our salvation or is it only an initiation rite into fellowship with the Church?  See CCC# [1277-80](http://www.scborromeo.org/ccc/p2s2c1a1.htm#1277).
**Answer:** The Sacrament of Baptism is necessary for our sanctification and for our ultimate salvation.  After St. Peter's great homily in Jerusalem on the Feast of Pentecost, the Jewish crowd asked him what they must do in order to be saved:  *'You must repent,' Peter answered, 'and every one of you* ***must be baptized*** *in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit* ([Acts 2:38](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/acts/acts2.htm#v38)). Through the holy Sacrament of Baptism, in re-birth through water and the Spirit of God, we return to the condition of righteousness and communion with God which Adam and Eve enjoyed before their fall from grace. This condition of grace is God's desire for the destiny of all humanity ([2 Pet 3:9](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/2peter/2peter3.htm#v9); CCC# [1037](http://www.scborromeo.org/ccc/p123a12.htm#1037); [2822](http://www.scborromeo.org/ccc/p4s2a3.htm#III)), but the free-will choice to accept or reject God's divine gift of salvation is ours to make: *Baptism is birth into the new life in Christ.  In accordance with the Lord's will, it is necessary for salvation, as the Church herself, which we enter by Baptism* (CCC# [1277](http://www.scborromeo.org/ccc/p2s2c1a1.htm#1277)).  We must maintain this condition of grace through the repentance of sins and through the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation (CCC# [1426](http://www.scborromeo.org/ccc/p2s2c2a4.htm#1426), [1440](http://www.scborromeo.org/ccc/p2s2c2a4.htm#1440), [1446](http://www.scborromeo.org/ccc/p2s2c2a4.htm#1446), [1485-1496](http://www.scborromeo.org/ccc/p2s2c2a4.htm#1485)).

Endnotes:
[1](http://www.agapebiblestudy.com/genesis/Lesson_2.htm%22%20%5Cl%20%22note1). In recording Jesus' birth, St. Luke wrote: *Now it happened that, while they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son,* ***her first-born***([Lk 2:6-7](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/luke/luke2.htm%22%20%5Cl%20%22v6)). Some have interpreted this passage to suggest if Jesus was Mary's "first-born" that she had other children.  On the contrary, as the first to open Mary's womb and as the first-born, only begotten Son of God, Jesus' title, according to the traditions of His people, was the "first-born son," the re'shiyt.  The Church has always taught, from the time of the disciples of the Apostles, the first Bishops of the Church, that Mary's virginity remained in tact and Jesus was her only child (see CCC#s [499-501](http://www.scborromeo.org/ccc/p122a3p2.htm#499)).  Mary's continued virginity is a dogma of the Church.  See the Marian Dogmas in the Charts/ Church doctrine section; a dogma defines a truth what one must believe to be Catholic.

[2](http://www.agapebiblestudy.com/genesis/Lesson_2.htm%22%20%5Cl%20%22note2). Perhaps you recognized some of the references from [Colossians 1:15-17](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/colossians/colossians1.htm#v15) and the Hebrew word "be" in the Final Doxology of the Eucharistic Prayer of the Roman Catholic Mass (in Latin, the *Per Ipsum*) when the priest elevates the Host and prays: *Through Him, with Him, in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is Yours, Almighty Father, for ever and ever.  Amen.*

[3](http://www.agapebiblestudy.com/genesis/Lesson_2.htm%22%20%5Cl%20%22note3). The order of the Godhead hidden in Genesis verses 1-3 may seem odd to you.  We usually speak of the Trinity in the order of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit (see [Matthew 28:19-20](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/matthew/matthew28.htm#v19)).  But the order of Father, Holy Spirit, and Son is the same order St. John used in [Revelation 1:4-5](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/revelation/revelation1.htm#v4).  St. John also spoke of the Holy Spirit in association with the number 7 (in Genesis the first line is composed of seven Hebrew words and there are seven days in the Creation cycle; see [Rev 1:4](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/revelation/revelation1.htm#v4)).  7 is one of the four "perfect numbers" in Sacred Scripture (the others are 3, 10, and 12).  The number 7 indicates fullness, completion, perfection, and it is the number of the Holy Spirit. For more information on the symbolic meaning of numbers in Scripture, please see the document **"The Significance of Numbers in Scripture"** in the Documents section.

[4](http://www.agapebiblestudy.com/genesis/Lesson_2.htm%22%20%5Cl%20%22note4). "Big Bang Theory" is the most widely accepted theory for the formation of the universe by modern cosmologists.  It was first introduced by a Belgian physicist and Roman Catholic priest, Father Georges Lamaitre.  In 1927-31, Fr. Lamaitre formulated the theory that the entire universe had suddenly expanded from a primordial hot and dense initial condition at some finite time in the past, calling his theory the "hypothesis of the primeval atom."  Fr. Lamaitre's theory was coined "the Big Bang" after a radio program discussing the theory in 1949.  A huge explosion in the cosmos would produce what is described in [Genesis 1:3-4](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/genesis/genesis1.htm#v3): sudden light cutting through the darkness of space.  The problem with applying this theory to the Creation event is that in Genesis the earth has already been formed previous to the creation of light.  It is possible that God first created "light" in cosmic explosion that shattered the darkness of space, but it is also possible that "the light" is a spiritual concept representing goodness and holiness as opposed to dark forces that are in opposition to God.

[5](http://www.agapebiblestudy.com/genesis/Lesson_2.htm%22%20%5Cl%20%22note5). *Hebrew-English Old Testament,* John R. Kohlenerger III, Zondervan, 1987, page 1; The Jewish Study Bible, Oxford University Press, 1999, page 12.  Both sources reference the oldest know O. T. Hebrew Masoretic text: *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia [from Leningrad Codex B19a].*

[6](http://www.agapebiblestudy.com/genesis/Lesson_2.htm%22%20%5Cl%20%22note6). [Hosea 6:7](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/hosea/hosea6.htm#v7) 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 (Old Testament) translates [Hosea 6:6-7](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/hosea/hosea6.htm#v6): *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.*