

THE DAYS OF CREATION

CONFESSIONS OF THE CHURCH

- **Westminster Confession (& Catechisms):**
 - Chapter IV: “It pleased God ... in the beginning, to create, or make of nothing, the world and all things therein, visible and invisible ... **in the space of six days ...**”
 - Chapter V: “God, in his providence, makes use of means, yet is free to work **without, above, and against them** – at his pleasure.”
- **The Heidelberg Catechism:**
 - Q/A 92 connects the **one day Sabbath** with the **six days of creation**.
 - If the days of creation were not like ours, the 4th command would have to read, “God provided **six images for creation and rested forever**” – making the entire commandment meaningless.
- **The Belgic Confession:**
 - Article 5 does not specify the length of creation days, but it does insist that believers accept without doubt **all things in the Bible**.
 - Article 7 says, “Therefore we must **reject with all our hearts whatever does not agree with it.**”

REASONS TO TAKE GENESIS 1-11 AS HISTORICAL

- 1) Except for verse 27, Genesis 1 is written in narrative prose (clearly historical)
- 2) Jesus mentioned Adam, Eve, and Noah as historical people
- 3) Jesus mentioned the events (happenings) in Genesis 1-11 as historical
- 4) The remainder of the Old Testament takes Genesis 1-11 as historical
- 5) The New Testament treats Genesis 1-11 as historical
- 6) Taking Genesis as history is consistent with God’s nature
- 7) Taking Genesis as history explains the origin of suffering and death
- 8) The Gospel presupposes the historical events of Genesis
- 9) The Christian worldview depends on Genesis being genuinely historical
- 10) Denying the historicity of Genesis disconnects people from the real world
- 11) The early Church leaders accepted the timeframe of creation and the Flood
- 12) The Reformers understood Genesis as real history
- 13) Christians shouldn’t deny history to accommodate naturalistic atheism
- 14) Abandoning Genesis as genuine history leads to heresy and apostasy

HYPNOTIZING HYPOTHESES!

(Alternative Day Theories)

- **Gap Theory:** Long interval of time between Genesis 1:1 and 1:3, when Satan supposedly fell and creation was destroyed.
- **Day-Age Theory:** Days = lengthy ages
- **Punctuated Day Theory:** Lengthy intervals between creation days.
- **Progressive creation (God of the Gaps) Theory:** Supernatural causation, but only where science has no explanation of its own.
- **Framework Hypothesis:** Creation days are a “literary framework,” unrelated to time.
- **Analogical Days Theory:** Creation work days are **analogous to**, but not **identical with**, our work-days. They are periods of supernatural activity, of unspecified length – and **only an analogy**.

In each of these there is departure from biblical **chronology** and/or **sequence**, allowing also for **pre-Adamic death**.

CHRONOLOGY & SEQUENCE

- **Gap Theory:** Preserves sequence, but **not chronology**. In Ge. 1:2 it also requires changing “The earth **was** formless and empty” to “The earth **became** formless and empty.”
- **Day-Age Theory:** Preserves sequence, but **not chronology**. And what about the **sun** and **bees** (photosynthesis & pollination)?
- **Punctuated Day Theory:** Preserves chronology, sequence, and consecutive days, but **not contiguous days**.
- **Framework Theory:** Dismisses both **chronology and sequence**.
- **Analogical Days Theory:** Dismisses both **chronology and sequence**.

Each of these gives creation history a peculiar twist, so believers should give them no credence at all.

Why wouldn’t “days” be days, unless there is compelling Biblical evidence to the contrary? And why allow for pre-Adamic death?

Genesis 1:14 ties **seasons** and **years** to **days** as we know them. Truth is, the Genesis account involves “**literal days, factual chronologies, specific sequences, genuine events, real people, a special garden, and an actual Fall**, impacting all creation.

TIME-LINE RANGES

- | | Min. | Max. |
|--------------------------------|-------|--------|
| • From creation to the Flood | 1,656 | 2,400 |
| • From the Flood to Abraham | 300 | 4,000 |
| • From Abraham to Christ | 2,000 | 4,000 |
| • From Christ to the present | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| • <u>Total range of dates:</u> | 5,956 | 12,400 |

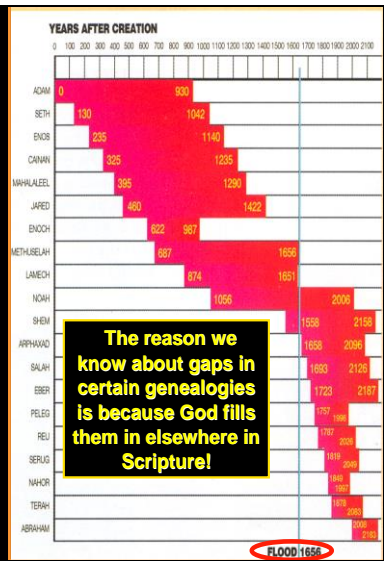
TIMELINE

The timeline from Adam to Christ may have been as brief as 4000 years, plus a few generations.

But couldn't the words "father" and "begat" skip over some generations?

There is little evidence for that, since we are given the ages for patriarchs fathering their sons.

Even granting major gaps, one would have to come up with over 100,000 years to fit the geologic time-scale.



The reason we know about gaps in certain genealogies is because God fills them in elsewhere in Scripture!

TIME FRAME (from Adam to Abraham)

Time frames depend upon whether you are "tight" or "loose" with the biblical genealogies.

The timeframe in years from Adam's creation to Abraham's birth, based on event-to-event timeframe "links" as recorded in Genesis

Timeframe "Links"	Bookend Events	Womb Time	Stated Years	Partial Year	Total Years
1. Genesis 5:3	Adam is created / Adam begets Seth	n/a	130	≤ 1	≤ 131
2. Genesis 5:6	Seth is begotten / Seth begets Enosh	≤ 1	105	≤ 1	≤ 107
3. Genesis 5:9	Enosh is begotten / Enosh begets Cainan	≤ 1	90	≤ 1	≤ 92
4. Genesis 5:12	Cainan is begotten / C. begets Mahalaleel	≤ 1	70	≤ 1	≤ 72
5. Genesis 5:15	Mahalaleel is begotten / M. begets Jared	≤ 1	65	≤ 1	≤ 67
6. Genesis 5:18	Jared is begotten / Jared begets Enoch	≤ 1	162	≤ 1	≤ 164
7. Genesis 5:21	Enoch is begotten / E. begets Methuselah	≤ 1	65	≤ 1	≤ 67
8. Genesis 5:25	Methuselah is begotten / M. begets Lamech	≤ 1	187	≤ 1	≤ 189
9. Genesis 5:28-29	Lamech is begotten / Lamech begets Noah	≤ 1	182	≤ 1	≤ 184
10. Genesis 7:6	Noah is begotten / Flood hits	≤ 1	600	≤ 1	≤ 602
11. Genesis 11:10	Flood hits / Arphaxad is begotten	n/a	2	≤ 1	≤ 3
12. Genesis 11:12	Arphaxad is begotten / A. begets Shelah	≤ 1	35	≤ 1	≤ 37
13. Genesis 11:14	Shelah is begotten / Shelah begets Eber	≤ 1	30	≤ 1	≤ 32
14. Genesis 11:16	Eber is begotten / Eber begets Peleg	≤ 1	34	≤ 1	≤ 36
15. Genesis 11:18	Peleg is begotten / Peleg begets Reu	≤ 1	30	≤ 1	≤ 32
16. Genesis 11:20	Reu is begotten / Reu begets Serug	≤ 1	32	≤ 1	≤ 34
17. Genesis 11:22	Serug is begotten / Serug begets Nahor	≤ 1	30	≤ 1	≤ 32
18. Genesis 11:24	Nahor is begotten / Nahor begets Terah	≤ 1	29	≤ 1	≤ 31
19. Genesis 11:26	Terah is begotten / Abraham is born	≤ 1+ ≤ 1 ²	70	≤ 1	≤ 73
Total = 1,948					Total = 1,985

From Adam to Christ! Lineage of the patriarchs

