

How and Why Do Biblical Scholars Seek To Squeeze Billions of Years Into the Creation Account?

Old Earth Genesis Interpretations

The Authority of God's Word Under Attack

Genesis 3:1 (ESV) — 1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, **“Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?”**

The Consequences:

The fall of mankind / Death / Adam is rejected as king

Why do seemingly well meaning people subtly attack the authority of God's Word?

1 Samuel 15:3 (ESV) — 3 Now go and strike Amalek and devote to destruction all that they have. Do not spare them, but kill both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.' ”

1 Samuel 15:9 (ESV) — 9 But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep and of the oxen and of the fattened calves and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them. All that was despised and worthless they devoted to destruction.

1 Samuel 15:14

¹³ And Samuel came to Saul, and Saul said to him, “Blessed be you to the Lord. I have performed the commandment of the Lord.”

¹⁴ And Samuel said, “What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears and the lowing of the oxen that I hear?” ... “I have obeyed the voice of the Lord...”

²³ For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has also rejected you from being king.” ²⁴ Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice.”

The Consequences: Saul rejected as king

“First, the age of the earth, considered in isolation, is neither here nor there. **The issue is always what God said**, and not how old something is. ...So the issue is not age, or day, or young, or old, but rather the substance of what God actually said. **Whatever He actually revealed should be what we use as the foundation for all our subsequent thought.** After we have our foundation, we may incorporate truth from other sources — natural revelation included — but we must take care that **we never privilege what we think we know over what God actually told us.**”

By Doug Wilson—2014 Seven Theses on the Age of the Earth

Mark 7:8–13 (ESV) — 8 You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men.” 9 And he said to them, “You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition! 10 For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.’ 11 But you say, ‘If a man tells his father or his mother, “Whatever you would have gained from me is Corban” ’ (that is, given to God)— 12 then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother, 13 thus making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And many such things you do.”

The Consequences: Parents suffer / Hell

Different Interpretations of Genesis

Literal 6 Day Creationism

The Gap Theory

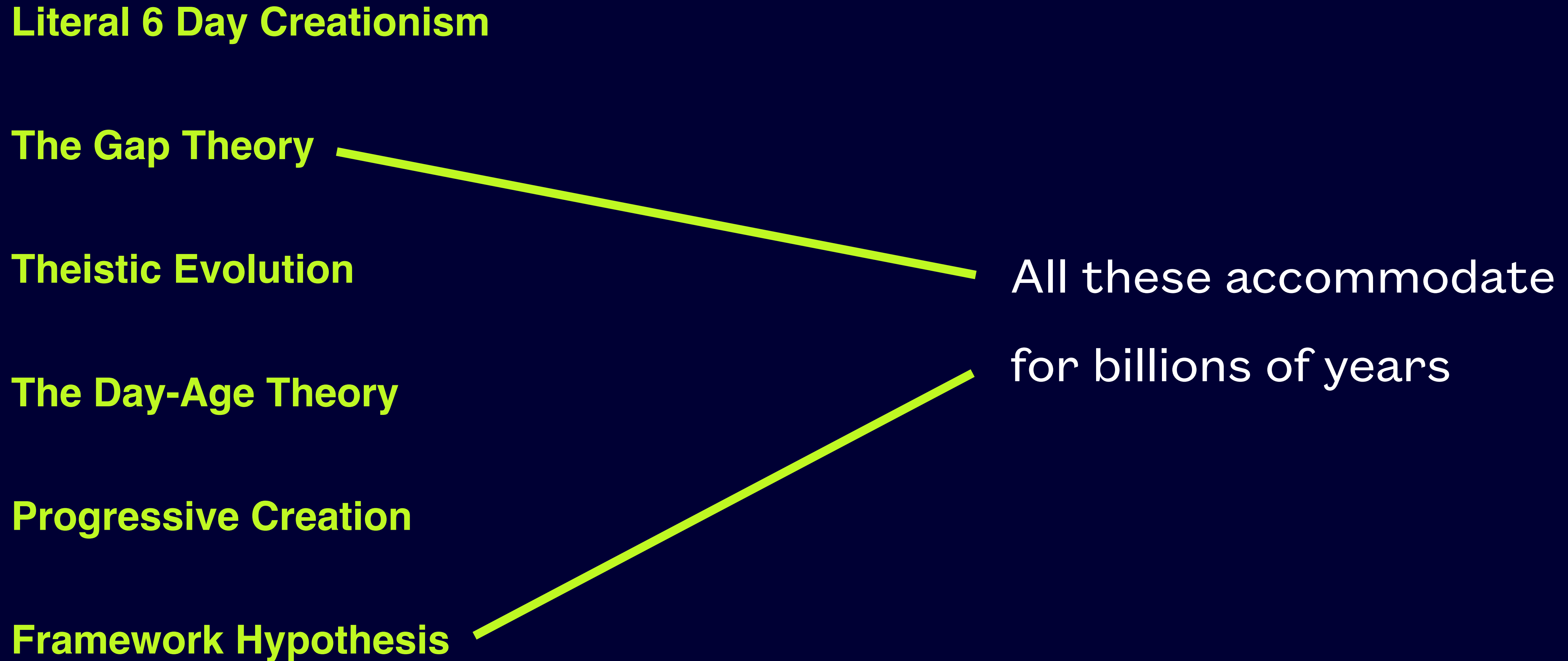
Theistic Evolution

The Day-Age Theory

Progressive Creation

Framework Hypothesis

All these accommodate
for billions of years



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graph LR; A[Literal 6 Day Creationism]; B[The Gap Theory]; C[Theistic Evolution]; D[The Day-Age Theory]; E[Progressive Creation]; F[Framework Hypothesis]; G[All these accommodate for billions of years]; B --- G; F --- G;
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Approximate Age of the Earth (Biblical Genealogical Perspective)

Before Adam - **5 Days**

Adam to Abraham - **2000 years**

Abraham to Jesus - **2000 years**

Jesus to Present - **2000 years**

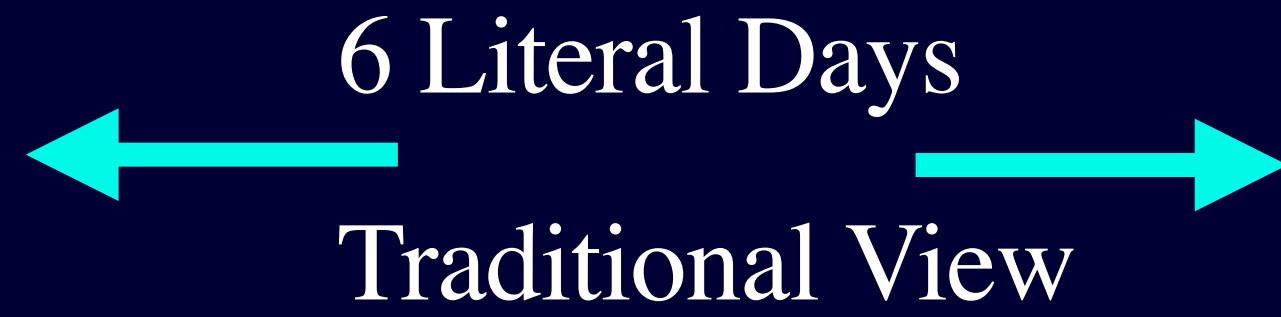
Total - **6000 years**

Timeline of Different Genesis Interpretations

400 ad Augustine - Allegorical View



6 Literal Days
Traditional View



1600 ad

1785

1800

1850

1924

Calvin & Luther 6 Literal Days



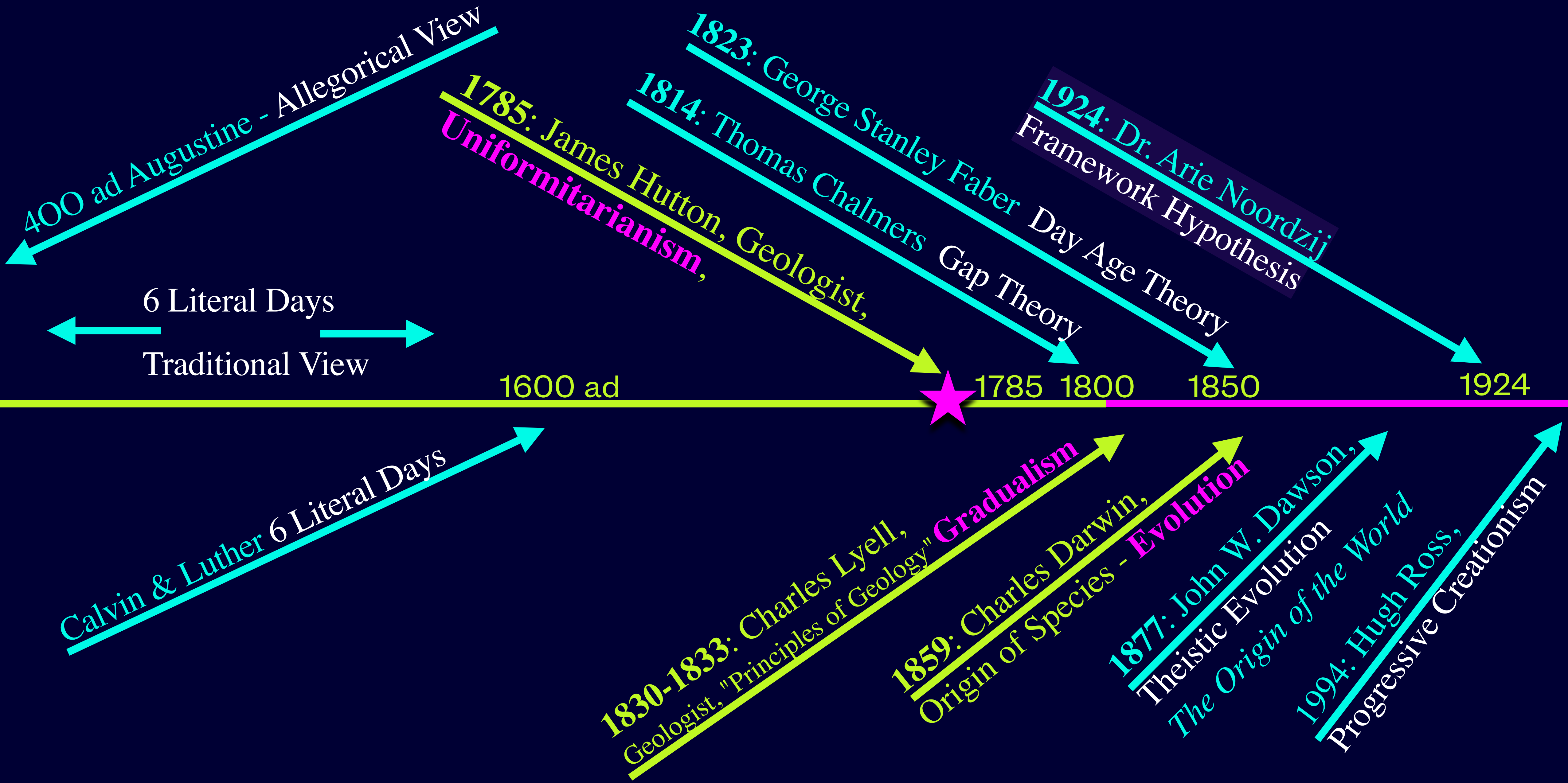
Martin Luther

“When Moses writes that God created heaven and earth and whatever is in them in six days, then let this period continue to have been six days, and do not venture to devise any comment according to which six days were one. But if you can’t understand how this could have been done in six days, then grant the Holy Spirit the honor of being more learned than you are.”

John Calvin - *Institutes of the Christian Religion*

“For it is not without significance that He divided the making of the universe into six days, even though it would have been no more difficult for Him to have completed in one moment the whole work together in all its details than to arrive at its completion by a progression of this sort.”

Timeline of Different Genesis Interpretations



Old Earth



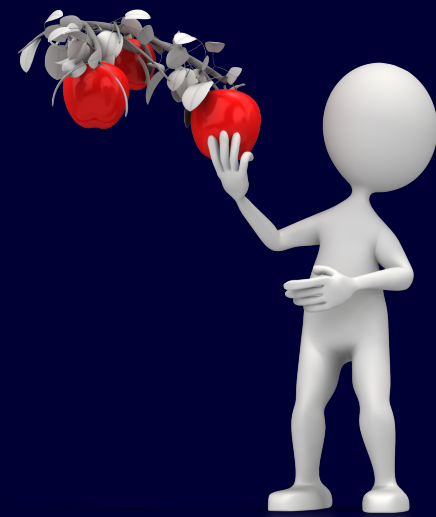
13.8 Billion years ago God began to create

Creation
Process Begins

Death before sin

Adam & Eve

Young Earth



Approximately 6000 years to the present

Creation
"It is good"

Adam & Eve

Death after sin

Old Earth Views & The Flood

No Flood (allegorical)

Local Flood

Tranquil Flood

The Bible Describes a Global Flood

Genesis 7:17–24 (ESV)

17 The flood continued forty days on the earth. The waters increased and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. **18** The waters prevailed and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the face of the waters. **19** And the waters prevailed so mightily on the earth that **all** the high mountains under **the whole** heaven were covered. **20** The waters prevailed above the mountains, covering them fifteen cubits deep. **21** And **all** flesh died that moved on the earth, birds, livestock, beasts, **all** swarming creatures that swarm on the earth, and **all** mankind. **22** **Everything** on the dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died. **23** He blotted out **every** living thing that was on the face of the ground, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens. They were blotted out from the earth. **Only** Noah was left, and those who were with him in the ark. **24** And the waters prevailed on the earth 150 days.

Genesis 6:17–18 (ESV) — 17 For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy **all** flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. **Everything** that is on the earth shall die. **18** But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you.

Genesis 6:22

Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.

What if Noah had interpreted God's Word allegorically?



Local Flood



Problems with a local flood view

1. Why build a boat? Noah could just move.

2. How can water be above all the mountains

3. What is the promise of the rainbow? No more local floods?

4. What about the comprehensive language in Gen. 7

5. Why do we have sea fossils in South Dakota?

The Problem with a Tranquil Flood view



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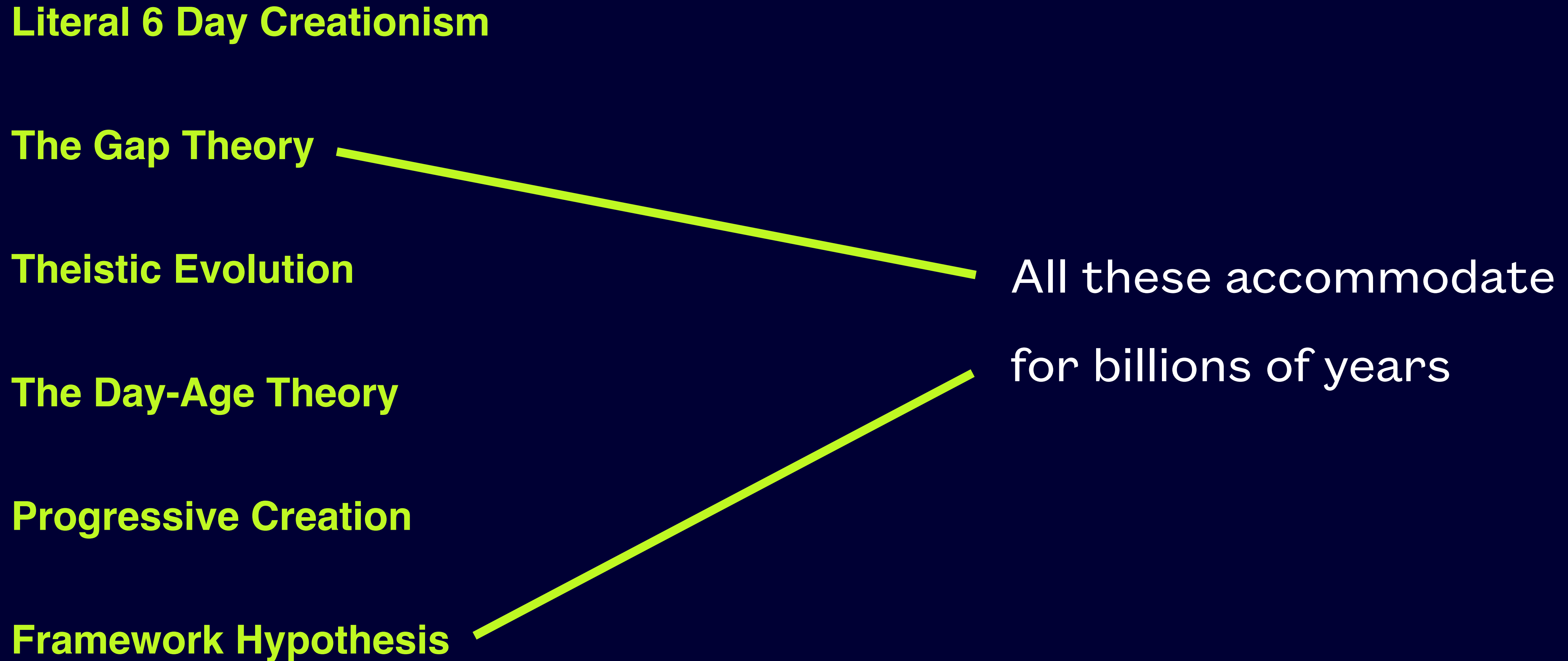
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Framework Hypothesis -1924: Dr. Arie Noordzij—1954 Meredith Kline

Days of Creation

Day One – Heavens, Earth, Waters, Light

Day Two – Expanse (Firmament)

Day Three – Dry Land, Grass, Seed-yielding plants, Fruit-bearing trees

Day Four – Sun, Moon, Stars

Day Five – Sea creatures, Birds of the air

Day Six – Land animals, Adam and Eve

Other “Interpretations”
of Genesis

by [Dr. Jason Lisle](#) and [Dr. Tim Chaffey](#)

Featured in [Old-Earth Creationism on Trial](#)

Framework Hypothesis -1924: Dr. Arie Noordzij—1954 Meredith Kline

Meridith Kline-Speaks to the purpose of his article...

Space and Time in the Genesis Cosmogony

“To rebut the literalist interpretation of the Genesis creation week propounded by the young-earth theorists is a central concern of this article. . . . The conclusion is that as far as the time frame is concerned, with respect to both the duration and sequence of events, the scientist is left free of biblical constraints in hypothesizing about cosmic origins.”

Has Science Proved the Earth is Old?

BY HENRY M. MORRIS, PH.D. * ICR

SUNDAY, MARCH 01, 2009

"But science has proved the earth is old," they still insist, "and we dare not alienate the academic community by insisting on a literal Genesis." No, "science" has not proved the earth is old! The oldest written records we have, apart from the Bible, are in Egypt and Sumeria, and these only go back a few thousand years. The great fossil "record," instead of displaying vast ages of evolution, really shows the remains of a worldwide hydraulic cataclysm. Nowhere in the fossil record are there any genuine evolutionary transitional forms between kinds, and certainly no one has ever observed true evolution taking place in all recorded history. Furthermore, many geologists now recognize that all formations were laid down very rapidly. Uniformitarian speculation applied to a few radiometric decay systems may suggest great ages, but other more reasonable assumptions applied to scores of other global processes indicate much younger ages."