A person is silhouetted against a vast, starry night sky. The Milky Way galaxy is visible, stretching across the frame with a vibrant pink and purple hue. The person stands on a dark, rocky outcrop, looking up at the stars. The overall scene is dark and atmospheric, with the bright stars providing the primary light source.

Does the Bible Allow Billions of Years into the Creation Story?

The Gap Theory and Genesis 1:1–3

Various Interpretations of Genesis 1:1–3

The Traditional View, the Heading View, and the Preface View

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. (Now the earth was formless and void, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.) Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. (MM; cf. LSB)

Various Interpretations of Genesis 1:1–3

The Traditional View, the Heading View, and the Preface View

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. When the earth was formless and void and darkness was over the surface of the deep and the Spirit of God was moving over surface of the waters, God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. (MM; cf. NAB)

Various Interpretations of Genesis 1:1–3

The Traditional View, the Heading View, and the Preface View

In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was formless and void, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. At some point thereafter, God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. (MM; cf. NIV)

Various Interpretations of Genesis 1:1–3

The Traditional View, the Heading View, and the Preface View

Pros and Cons of the Various Views

Hebrew Grammar, Jewish Testimony, and Scriptural Commentary

For on the first day, he made the uppermost heavens, the earth, ... and the darkness, evening and night, the light of day and early morning. These... great works God made on the first day. (Jubilees 2:2–3 OPE)

Various Interpretations of Genesis 1:1–3

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For in six days Yahweh made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore, Yahweh blessed the sabbath day and made it holy. (Exod 20:11 LSB)

[The sabbath] is a sign between Me and the sons of Israel forever; for in six days Yahweh made heaven and earth, but on the seventh day He rested, and was refreshed. (31:17 LSB)

Various Interpretations of Genesis 1:1–3

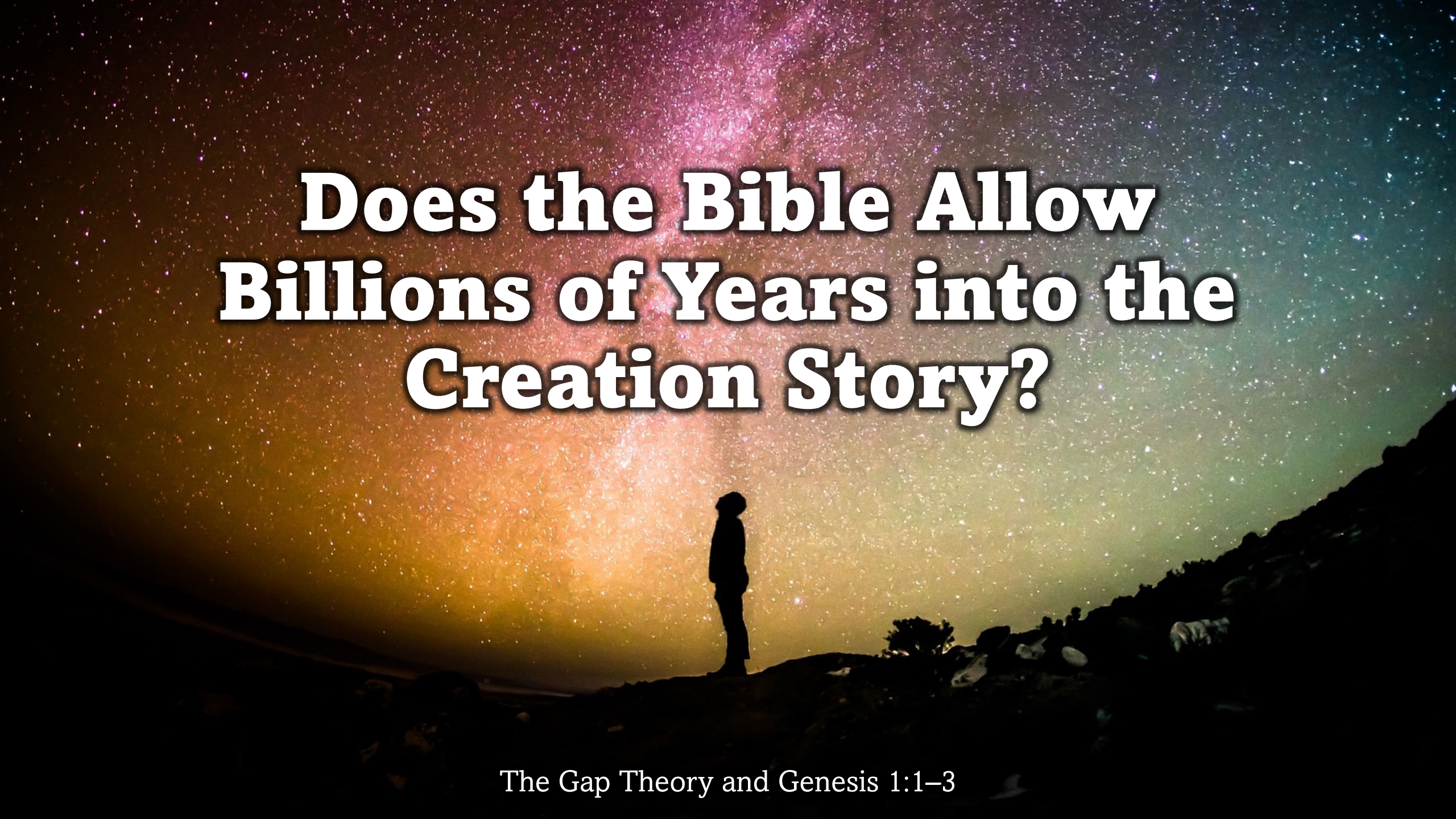
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Reasons to Accept the Traditional View

Faithful Interpretation, Scriptural Integrity, and Divine Glory

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