

and it's dependable in its spiritual teaching; your descendants will shine as the stars. They will be great spiritual luminaries! like the stars. But when it comes to the number of descendants; it's the sands which are mighty in numbers; the stars don't give any idea of the number.

We today don't have any idea how many stars there are. You rarely see many of them with all our street lights at night. But in those days it was perfectly obvious how many there were. I wrote an article on this once. I got a letter from a professor in Calif. who said, How ridiculous that an ignorant drover like Abraham would be able to tell how many stars there are! I corresponded with him and he admitted the Biblical evidence was that Abraham was not an ignorant drover, but was the owner of a large establishment with many camels and donkeys and a great number of servants. He certainly was able to count up to 4000!

But what a let down. After all the Bible is dependable spiritually but not on scientific things. Isn't it strange they would give the thing about the 4000 stars second, and the big thing about the dust of the earth first! They should give you something greater to increase your faith instead of going to something smaller. And that's the way it seemed until about 400 years ago when someone in Holland invented a telescope and Galileo in Italy used a telescope, and found there were many stars you could not see with the naked eye. And that instead of 4000 there may be 20 or 20 thousand!

That's a pretty big number, but still it doesn't compare with the dust of the earth. Within the present century it has been discovered that what looked like clumps of stars that are so far away we know now they are whole galaxies (island universes), and have as many as a billion stars to a galaxy, and maybe a billion galaxies! So the number of the stars is so great compared to the number of dust on this particular little planet it is very small in comparison.

And so there actually was a climactic order. The second probably was greater than the first. But not until the present century could anyone have known that. Science found out \_\_\_\_\_ from the Scripture in this regard, and there are many other areas where our knowledge of science of of ~~Scripture~~ history as they go on will catch up with the Bible!

Of course the Bible was not given us to teach about science or history. It was given us to teach us ~~h~~about God, how we can know Him, and live our lives as he wants us to live them. So there is a great deal that is tremendously important that we would not understand \_\_\_\_\_ because conditions change. Conditions of people change. In the Bible God has given us what is needed for all ages.

Therefore something that might be very obscure to some people 100 yrs. ago today may be perfectly clear. And something in the Bible that 100 years ago might have given exactly the answer to those people and the problems they faced, and today with other problems we may find that part of the Bible a bit difficult to understand. So we do not expect to understand everything in the Bible. It takes effort to understand it correctly. But we have a solid foundation that we can believe, that the Bible is inerrant because it is God's Word.