

So the fact is as Prof. Dougherty said, is superior to all ancient records we have in discovering these actual contemporary statements. It was superior to all the ancient records we had in that it preserved the name Belshazzar ~~the~~ correctly; it preserved the fact that he actually was a reigning king; and it preserved a statement there that was not clear before that time: they made Daniel the third ruler in the kingdom. Nabonidus was the first ruler, Belshazzar was the second ruler, Daniel was made the third ruler.

Thus the fact of the dual rulership of the kingdom was preserved in this little word in Daniel when the very name of Belshazzar had disappeared from the memory of mankind. So the Bible has many things in it which we may find which preserve facts which would otherwise perhaps be unknown to us.

I was much thrilled some years ago, when I was reading the great statements in the prophetic books about God's activity in establishing the universe. It said that God had stretched out the heavens by His mighty power. That's ~~max~~ a wonderful statement--to think of God as stretching out the heavens! Today all astronomers believe that all the matter in the universe was at one time compacted into a little ball, and there was a tremendous explosion and it spread out in all directions and it is still going out. The discovery wof it was made about 50 years ago, and there were many who questioned it but practically every atronomer today has recognized that to be a fact. That there was this big bang that occurred at one time in the past and all the stars and glaxies are moving away from us, at a tremendous rate and the universe is spreading out.

Some say it's not necessary to believe in creation because someday it's all going to come back again and go out again. But the latest evidence is against there being a possibility that it every will come together again as far as evidence can be found and some are looking mighty hard ~~is~~ for it because they don't want to recognize that there was a beginning.

But I was interested to see we have not only the statements that God stretched them out, but the statement is a participle-- I am the one stretching them out. That it is something still going on. It is a process which God performed and which he is performing today in stretching out the universe and that fits exactly the astronomical discoveries made in this century. God did not give us the Bible to tell us facts about astronomy or about any science, but where it touches upon these facts it is true and we can trust it and depend upon it.

How marvellous it is to know that God has given us an inerrant Scripture. It is marvellous that we can trust this wonderful book. It is terrible how Satan tries to hide these facts about Belshazzar. You'll find them in almost any archaeology book today, but they are apt to be hidden away in a footnote. You will find book after book trying to prove there never was a creation, that the universe has always been here. But it has not succeeded because the evidence is now recognized by those who completely denied this 30 years ago, perhaps 20 years ago that