

These 8 or 10 uses speaking of God as stretching out the heavens fits in with that idea most remarkably. It seems to me extremely likely that God led the prophet to use that particular form to give an anticipation of a discovery that scientists would make in our present day. So small matters of grammar or of wording may give tremendous proof (truths?) but I think we have to be careful about building ideas in the field of science or in other such fields upon our reading of the Scripture. But when we find it fits with certain things science has discovered it is an added evidence that God gives us that His Word is true and is dependable and without error.

Now in connection with this matter of inerrancy, one of the great verses is found in Mat. 5. There we read in v. 17, "Do not think I am come to abolish the law or the prophets, I am not come to abolish them, but to fulfill them. I tell you the truth until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen will by any means disappear from the law until everything is accomplished. Now what does that mean? We are all familiar with the KJV "not a jot or a tittle." I did not realize until I studied Hebrew that a jot is simply the yodh, the smallest letter in the Hebrew alphabet. Not a yodh-- not a small mark that distinguishes one letter from another will disappear from the law until everything is accomplished. A tremendous statement about the dependability of God's Word.

But just what does it mean that not a yodh is going to disappear? The yodh and the waw are used in Hebrew not merely to express a consonant but as vowel letters. And as vowel letters to show a long vowel they may be put in or taken out almost at the will of the scribe. There are no two Heb. MSS that agree in the exact number of yodh's that are found in them. So what does it mean? Not a yodh will disappear? until all is fulfilled. Does it mean that we are going to have a copy of the Scripture that is absolutely letter ~~perfect~~ perfect and there will never be a letter lost from that? Well, I'm sure there were letters lost before the time of Christ.

So I think that is another evidence that it is not a matter of the exact text of a particular text. But when it says not a jot or a tittle will disappear until all is fulfilled, that the meaning is the same as we find in Isaiah 55 where we read that starting with v. 10. "As the rain and snow come down from heaven and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes forth from my mouth. It will not return to me empty but it will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it." In other words if there's a place where the change of a jot or a tittle ~~will~~ will change the idea so you'll get an idea from Scripture that God didn't put there, that will not == those ideas will persist as long as God desires them to. Scripture will accomplish the purpose for which God gave it to us. I believe it's important we realize that.