

Actually, it would only make the argument stronger. On the assumption that God gave Abraham a promise that would appear very wonderful to Abraham but which actually would not amount to much, we have a situation in which people a thousand years later might easily have been inclined toward skepticism regarding the whole truth of the Bible.

By the time of the great astronomical researches of Ptolemy it would have been apparent to any careful investigator that the total number of stars visible from any point on this earth would hardly pass beyond four thousand. At the time of Christ any ^{SK}septic could easily have declared that, while the statement in Genesis might have been quite natural in a time of ignorance, knowledge had now advanced to the point where any intelligent person could easily see the absurdity of the use in Genesis 15 and 22 of the number of the stars as indicative of a great number of descendants. After all, four thousand is hardly sufficient to describe a great nation, to say nothing of a whole group of nations.

This attitude toward Genesis could easily have been maintained by educated people for at least another thousand years. No one would have any reason to think that there were other stars which were not visible. To make such an assumption, without proof, would be utterly unscientific. Only after the telescope was invented were we able to see that the Bible was right all along.

God who is the Creator of nature is also the Author of the Bible. He knows many facts that science never dreamed of in Abraham's day. He knows many facts that science has not yet discovered. If, as was formerly true in this case, a clear statement in the Bible disagrees with a present observation or theory of science, let's just wait until science discovers more facts. Genesis 15:5 is