

right for one to draw an erroneous idea from it.

Some of you have heard me mention a thing I noticed that surprised me greatly a few years ago. I noticed that God speaks in the OT of himself as the One who has stretched out the heavens. That is a very natural figure. We could speak of anyone in ancient times as one referring to his God as one who stretched out the heavens, flung out the heavens and made the whole universe in this way. It's the natural figure to use. But while we have three Cases where the OT speaks of God as having stretched out the heavens(perfect tense), there are about 10 cases where it speaks of God as the One stretching out the heavens.

This could be understood as meaning He is the One who was stretching out the heavens in the beginning. It could be interpreted that way. But it is equally reasonable, perhaps more reasonable to think of it as meaning the God who is still stretching out the heavens. Certainly in present day Hebrew the participle is used, I believe, to express the present. There is no present in Heb. actually. But in ancient Heb. the participle could be used in any one of the three, though usually there is evidence in the context to show whether it's past, present, or future.

But this ten-fold use of this is an interesting thing and a peculiar thing. I was struck by it. Then I realized it was about 1910 when out in Arizona they noticed the red line on the spectrum which led the astronomers there to make the suggestion that the stars were moving away from each other and from us. Now the present theory held by all astronomers, I believe, is that the universe is like a balloon on which you might have some pictures on the outside and you blow it up and these marks on the pictures all get further away from every other one as you blow it up. The universe is thus that every galaxy is moving away from every other one at a tremendous speed. The ones the furthest away seem to be moving at a still greater speed.

That is an interesting theory. I think there is very strong evidence for holding it. It's interesting how it fits in with the Biblical teaching that there was a Creator. Many astronomers 30 years ago did not want to believe in a Creator but instead said everything is always as it has always been. Stars disappear but new ones take their place; there never was a creator! I don't know whether you'd find any astronomer today who says there wasn't creation. Even Sagan who is opposed to any belief in God very strongly, refers to how you can hear echoes of creation with radio telescopes today. The proof seems to be pretty great largely based on this evidence that all parts of the universe are flying apart from each other. God says, I am the one who is stretching out the universe--the heavens.

I don't believe that would be evidence for us to have established this idea which astronomers have established within our century. I do believe it's most interesting that this exactly fits with it. I believe God caused that the authors of Scripture would use words which fit with the truth and that those