

It's easy to count the constellations, and if you count the constellations it's not hard to count how many stars there are in each constellation. They have counted them and they tell us the total no. of stars that can be seen by the naked eye from one point on this earth is not over 4000. Abraham had come from Ur of the Chaldees clear across from those big cities in Babylon. He said there are not over 4000 stars in heaven, and God says if you can number the stars so shall your seed be. Abraham says, Maybe my descendants are going to be bright like those stars. Maybe they are going to be shiny, resplendent, beautiful like those stars. Maybe they will have individuality like the constellations. But this isn't what God said. God said, If you can number the stars so shall your seed be. But Abraham says I can number the stars. Easy to do. Only enough for one little town. That's not many descendants. That's not a father of nations. But he believed the Lord and God counted if for righteousness.

Someone says, I don't believe that. I think Abraham was an ignorant herdsman who never bothered to count the stars. He just took it for granted there are thousands and thousands of stars. Suppose he was. You go on a few centuries and you get Ptolemy the astronomer who wrote books in Greece and he told how many stars there were. He counted them, he arranged the constellations. He listed them. Someone in those days would say, What a fool Abraham was to think that the stars could be a figure for a tremendous number. Dust of the earth, yes. But not stars! What a foolish idea! Isn't the Bible foolish to give stars for a number you can't count? Anyway that's the way anyone might have looked at it, at least until 3000 years passed after the time of Abraham. Then some unknown mechanic, in Holland, made a lens and put two lenses together. The telescope was invented. Galileo in Italy got hold of the telescope and looked at the sky and he found that in addition to the 4000 stars there were thousands and thousands and thousands of stars that Abraham never dreamed existed. Today we read it and scientists tell us there may be a billion stars in our galaxy and maybe a billion galaxies. The number of stars is beyond counting, but Abraham could not know it unless he was very ignorant and thought what nobody of intelligence in his day thought. And certainly Ptolemy had absolute proof to the contrary and it wasn't until we got the telescope that we saw that the illustration God used was a correct illustration and an even better one than the dust of the earth. So he believed in the Lord and he counted it to him for righteousness. May we believe in the Lord. When He says the sin in us is so terrible we all deserve eternal death, let's not say look at that other person, he's a pretty wicked person. Look at the mean things he does. I don't deserve anything like that. Let's make the Bible a mirror before us and see the sin in ourselves, and then when the Bible says John 3:16 (quotes) let's believe in the Lord and look to Jesus and trust Him and pray God to make our lives count for Him.