

Today you can have a great bit comet appear, and we don't even know it appears unless about we read it in the paper. Because the artificial lights keep us from seeing. But in Abraham's day, with no artificial lights, I'm sure as he sat out there in the evening he looked up and he saw Cassiopeia's Chair; and he saw the Big Bear; and he saw the Little Bear; and he saw these other constellations. And he looked at them and he knew them as friends, as I'm sure most people did in those days, particularly people who sat out in the evening a lot. He knew these stars. And are you able to count the stars? Well, 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. And they have counted them, and they tell us that the total number of stars that can be seen with the naked eye from any one point on this earth is not over 4000. And Abraham had come from Ur of the Chaldees, clear across to those big cities in Babylon, and he says "There aren't over 4000 stars in the heavens." And God says, "if you can number the stars, so shall your seed be." Well, he says, "maybe my descendants are going to be bright like the stars; maybe they're going to be shining, resplendent, beautiful like the stars; maybe they'll have individuality like the constellations." But that's not what God said. God said, "if you can number the stars, so shall your seed be." "Count the stars." Well, he says, "I can number the stars; it's very easy to do." And there's only enough for one little town. That's not much of a descendant (cy). That's not a father of nations." But he believed the Lord. And God counted it to him for righteousness. Now maybe someone says, "I don't believe that; I think Abraham was an ignorant herdsman who never bothered to count the stars. And he just took for granted they're are thousands and thousands of stars. Well, suppose he was. You go on a few centuries, and you get Ptolemy, the astronomer who wrote his books in Greece, and he told how many stars there were. He counted them. He arranged the constellations. He listed them. And 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 this Bible foolish - to give stars as a figure for a number you can't count? Well, anyway, that's the way anybody might have looked at it - until at least 3000 years passed after the time of Abraham. And then some unknown