

It is all too easy for us to think that in the Bible God has given us a complete repository of all kinds of knowledge. That of course would be impossible in the nature of words. That was not God's intention. God did not give us this book as a text book of science. He did not even give it as a text book of history.

He gave it to us to tell us of our sin. To tell us of how to know Jesus Christ as Saviour. To tell us what Jesus had done, and made it possible that we might be saved. He gave it as the guide book for our lives, not as our guide to all these different areas of thought. And yet God so directly directed that we believe that this Book is inerrant. We do not believe it gives us a summary of                     . But we believe that wherever it touches upon these areas it is dependable. And we believe there are many cases where are hints in the Bible of matters that science comes to know as time goes on, and we find a hint already in the Bible because the real author of the Bible is God who is in the beginning of the Bible.

Some years ago I came across a very interesting illustration. In the book of Jer. 10:12; 51:15 we find similar statements. Jer. 10:12 reads: "God made the earth by his power, founded the world by his wisdom, and he stretched out the heavens by His understanding." It's easy for us to visualize that--the figure that is given. God stretched out the heavens by his understanding. WE think of how he stretched them out. He spread them out. How he established the stars in their orbits. How he formed all the great galaxies some of them so far away that it takes thousands of years of light for light to come from them to us. God stretched stretched them out. We find that statement of this in these two places, in Jeremiah.

But we find the same statement practically in seven other places. In these seven other places where we find this statement, we find it not expressed as in these two cases in the perfect tense as something that occurred: God stretched out the heavens. But we find it there as a participle. One interesting illustration of this is Is. 40:22. In that verse we read: "He sits enthroned upon the circle of the earth and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy and spreads them out like a tent to live in. He brings princes to naught and reduces the rules of this world to nothing." In seven cases we have the Heb. form as it is in this verse given as a participle. As you think of that you think of God not as one who has stretched them out, but as One who is stretching out the heavens.

What's the difference? Did Jeremiah know the difference? Did Isaiah know the difference? I don't know whether they did or not. But God led them to use these particular forms. Early in the present century out in Arizona astronomers noticed something that had not previously been realized. They noticed a --what they called a Red Shift in the spectrum, a shift which they decided was absolute proof that the universe was not static as most people had thought of it before. But that the universe is in constant motion, and that every galaxy, every part of the universe is moving away from every other part of the universe.

They say it is as if you were to have a little rubber balloon and you and a picture on the outside of the balloon, and you blew up the balloon and as it blows up that picture grows larger and every part of it gets further away from every other part. All scientists today believe in the expanding universe. God gave us hints of it in these seven places in the prophetic books and in the Psalms of the OT. That God is stretching out the universe. God was in the beginning active. He is active & now. God's knowledge is in the beginning of the Bible--and the Bible has the answers to all the problems of life for every one of us. It is our Guide Book. It is not that from which we take a verse and from it get immediate interpretation, but that which is studied and the Holy Spirit leads us as we study it to learn more and more of its principles and ideas and more and more to find the answers He wants us to have for our problems in life. God is in the beginning of the Bible.