

The Number of Stars**Bible:**

Gen 15:5: large number, able to count them?
 Jer 33:22, Gen 22:17: uncountable, like sand

Greek Science:

Hipparchus, Ptolemy: anc. catalogues, about 1000 stars
 (only about 6000 visible without telescope)
 Democritus: speculated an infinite no. of worlds

Modern Science:

100s of billions of stars/galaxy, billions of galaxies
 Sir James Jeans, The Stars in Their Courses, 137: no.
 of stars like no. of grains of sand on earth

The Earth's Support**Bible:**

Job 26:7: earth hangs on nothing

Hindu Vedas:

earth flat & triangular; 7 stages: honey, sugar, butter, wine, etc.; supported by elephants

Greek mythology:

Atlas holds up the earth

Greek philosophers:

water (Thales)
 air (Anaxagoras);
 nothing (Anaximander, contra Aristotle)

Modern Science:

support is non-material, balance of gravity & inertia

The Earth's Shape**Bible:**

Job 26:10: boundary between light and darkness on
 earth's surface is a circle
 Luke 17:34-36: different times in different places

Greek philosophers:

flat (Hecataios)
 pillar-shaped (Anaximander)
 round (Pythagoras)

Conclusions

Need very lucky guesses to avoid Biblical evidence
 Contrast ancient Jewish attempts to write Scripture:
 1 Enoch 72:3-7: sun's chariot, gates, winds
 3 Baruch 3:6-8: bore thru heaven's dome

More detail of this type in Kenny Barfield, Why the Bible is Number 1: The World's Sacred Writings in the Light of Science (Baker, 1988).