

forward to that and to their longing to be ~~delivered~~ delivered from exile, and he gave what they needed to comfort them, ~~and the prophet Isaiah looks forward upon 50 years the time when the Israelites would be there in exile.~~ and showed them of the existence of God and His power and God's determination to deliver them from exile. And so in these chapters 40 on we have more stress on God's power and God's ^{ive} created activity ^{we have} than/anywhere else in/ the Bible. A very typical verse of this type is chapter ~~42~~ 40:22. "It is he that sitteth ~~on the~~ upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are grasshoppers. ~~He stretched out the heavens~~ He stretched out the heavens ... and spread them out as a tent to dwell in. He stretched out the heavens as a curtain. In a prophetic book, particularly here in Isaiah, and also in Jeremiah, and in some of the Minor Prophets, we find the same expression used. God stretched out the heavens. And we find the term used in the perfect tense. God has stretched out the heavens, just once, and there are about eight other cases where it is participles that are used as used here. God is stretching out the heavens. The participles, it shows, show the continued action. He is stretching out them as a curtain. Now, if we had a curtain up here, over here, and suppose that I start pulling ... you can imagine easily how easily that curtain opens up and pull the curtain, and the whole curtain would stretch out. It is an interesting figure, and it is interesting that such a figure would be found here, written by a prophet long ago. Exactly what did this mean to them? It meant that God is tremendously powerful. God stretches out the heavens. Just how they would understand might be difficult to say. But during the last thirty years scientists noticed a red shift in the spectrum of various galaxies. And the present theory which is not held by all, but by most today, is that the universe is expanding, constantly stretching out. A figure has