

The Omniscience of God

Intro: Our God is omniscient! Omniscience may be described “as the condition of knowing everything” (ISBE). Strong defines the omniscience of God in this way: “God’s perfection and eternal knowledge of all things which are objects of knowledge, whether they be actual or possible, past, present, or future”.

God’s omniscience is but the derivative of His eternal nature and His omnipotence. His knowledge is intuitive; it is not derived by logic or conditioned by circumstances or experience as is our knowledge. God has not learned anything nor will He learn anything. He has always known all things.

The Bible reveals God’s omniscience from many perspectives.

God’s knowledge is infinite.

Great is our Lord, and abundant in strength; His understanding is infinite. (Psalm 147:5)

God’s knowledge of the created world is complete.

He knows all that there is to know about the created world because He is the creator of it. He knows everything about outer space. He counts the number of the stars; He gives names to all of them. (Psalm 147:4)

And remember that there are 25 sextillion of them!

Jesus affirms God’s knowledge of life on earth.

“Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. (Matthew 10:29)

God’s knowledge of mankind in particular is complete.

God’s omniscience is the implied accompaniment of His omnipresence:

**“Am I a God who is near,” declares the Lord, “And not a God far off
“Can a man hide himself in hiding places, So I do not see him?”
declares the Lord. “Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?” declares the Lord. (Jeremiah 23:23-24)**

Therefore He knows: Man’s deeds

And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do. (Hebrews 4:13)

Man’s thoughts

O Lord, Thou hast searched me and known me. Thou dost know when I sit down and when I rise up; Thou dost understand my thought from afar. Thou dost scrutinize my path and my lying down, And art intimately acquainted with all my ways. Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O Lord, Thou dost know it all. (Psalm 139:1-4)

Man’s heart

Sheol and Abaddon lie open before the Lord, How much more the hearts of men! (Prov. 15:11)

Man's needs

“For all these things the Gentiles eagerly seek; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. (Mt. 6:30)

God knows both the past and the future

ISBE: God's omniscience “is also closely related to God's eternity, which makes Him in His knowledge independent of the limitations of time.

Past events

Then those who feared the Lord spoke to one another, and the Lord gave attention and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the Lord and who esteem His name.

(Malachi 3:16)

Future events

“Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: ‘I am the first and I am the last, And there is no God besides Me. ‘And who is like Me? Let him proclaim and declare it; Yes, let him recount it to Me in order, From the time that I established the ancient nation. And let them declare to them the things that are coming and the events that are going to take place. ‘Do not tremble and do not be afraid; Have I not long since announced it to you and declared it? And you are My witnesses. Is there any God besides Me, Or is there any other Rock? I know of none.’” (Is. 44:6-8)

God's foreknowledge is the basis of many fulfilled prophecies!

God knows what would happen even when it does not happen!

Now David knew that Saul was plotting evil against him; so he said to Abiathar the priest, “Bring the ephod here.” Then David said, “O Lord God of Israel, Thy servant has heard for certain that Saul is seeking to come to Keilah to destroy the city on my account. “Will the men of Keilah surrender me into his hand? Will Saul come down just as Thy servant has heard? O Lord God of Israel, I pray, tell Thy servant.” And the Lord said, “He will come down.” Then David said, “Will the men of Keilah surrender me and my men into the hand of Saul?” And the Lord said, “They will surrender you.” (1 Sam. 23:9-12)

“Nevertheless I say to you, it shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment, than for you.” And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You shall descend to Hades; for if the miracles had occurred in Sodom which occurred in you, it would have remained to this day. (Matthew 11:22-23)

Implications of God's omniscience

A deterrent to those tempted by secret sin

No sin is more secretive than marital infidelity. However, Solomon urged husbands to be faithful to their wives in view of God's omniscience.

Woe to those who deeply hide their plans from the Lord, and whose deeds are done in a dark place, and they say, “Who sees us?” or “Who knows us?” (Isaiah 29:15)

For the ways of a man are before the eyes of the Lord, and He watches all his paths. (Proverbs 5:21)

A judging principle to all hypocrisy and false security

“For He knows false men, and He sees iniquity without investigating. (Job 11:11)

And He said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of men, but God knows your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is detestable in the sight of God. (Luke 16:15)

An encouragement to give one’s whole heart to God!

“For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His. You have acted foolishly in this. Indeed, from now on you will surely have wars.” (2 Chronicles 16:9)

Assurance of answered prayer and provision

“Therefore do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need, before you ask Him. (Matthew 6:8)

Support and comfort when God’s people suffer

Thou hast taken account of my wanderings; put my tears in Thy bottle; Are they not in Thy book? (Psalm 56:8)

“But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. (Mt.10:30)

Assures a just judgment when we die

“I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give to each man according to his ways, according to the results of his deeds. (Jeremiah 17:10)

Conclusion: The user-friendly God apparently is not very smart; for men think that they can set aside His law without punishment; that they can improve upon the wisdom of His plan of salvation or worship. Let us humble ourselves before the all knowing God of Creation.