

HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD?

WEEK 11 – OMNISCIENCE

Book recommendation:

Michael Horton, *The Christian Faith: A Systematic Theology for Pilgrims On The Way*

** Communicable – We share with God	**Incommunicable – Unique to God
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Love2. Jealousy3. Graciousness4. Just5. Wrath6. Merciful7. Goodness8. Faithfulness9. Wisdom	10. Omniscience

Introduction

With each attribute, we follow this same pattern:

1. What does the attribute mean?
2. Does scripture teach that God exhibits this attribute?
3. How does this attribute affect the Christian life?

What Does This Attribute Mean?

Definition:

We turn to my 1931 Webster's Dictionary:

- Omniscience = unlimited knowledge
- Omniscient = knowing all things, infinitely wise

Biblical Definition:

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Is. 40:10 Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. **11** He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young. **12** Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand and marked off the heavens with a span, enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance?

13 Who has measured the Spirit of the LORD, or what man shows him his counsel? **14** Whom did he consult, and who made him understand? Who taught him the path of justice, and taught him knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding?

15 Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as the dust on the scales; behold, he takes up the coastlands like fine dust. **16** Lebanon would not suffice for fuel, nor are its beasts enough for a burnt offering. **17** All the nations are as nothing before him, they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness. **18** To whom then will you liken God, or what likeness compare with him? **19** An idol! A craftsman casts it, and a goldsmith overlays it with gold and casts for it silver chains. **20** He who is too impoverished for an offering chooses wood that will not rot; he seeks out a skillful craftsman to set up an idol that will not move. **21** Do you not know? Do you not hear? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? **22** It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to dwell in;

23 who brings princes to nothing, and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness. **24** Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows on them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. **25** To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One. **26** Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name; by the greatness of his might, and because he is strong in power, not one is missing.

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27 Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God”? **28** Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

Tozer

To say that God is omniscient is to say that He possesses perfect knowledge and therefore has no need to learn. But it is more: it is to say that God has never learned and cannot learn. ...Because God knows all things perfectly, He knows no thing better than any other thing, but all things equally well. He never discovers anything. He is never surprised, never amazed. He never wonders about anything nor (except when drawing men out for their own good) does He seek information or ask questions. (Knowledge of the Holy, p55, 56)

New Testament Passage:

Rom. 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! **34** “For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?” **35** “Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?” **36** For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

1John 3:19 By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; **20** for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything.

Eph. 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, **4** even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love **5** he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, **6** to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

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Foreknowledge (Bavinck)

Acts 2:23 this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

Michael Horton

God knows the future exhaustively because he has decreed the future exhaustively. (The Christian Faith, p309)

Robert Reymond:

“Thus the all-wise God is at every moment cognizant of everything that ever was, now is, or ever shall be. And it has never been otherwise.” (Reymond, Systematic Theology, p184)

Stephen Charnock:

Did not God know what would be created by him before it was created by him? Did he create he knew not what, and knew not beforehand what he should create? Was he ignorant before he acted, and in his acting, what his operation would tend to? or did he not know the nature of things and the ends of them till he had produced them and saw them in being? Creatures must be known by God before they were made and not known because they were made; he knew them to make them and did not make them to know them. By the same reason that he knew what creatures should be before they were, he knew still what creatures shall be before they are. (Stephen Charnock, *God's Knowledge*, 276)

Does Scripture Teach That God Exhibits This Attribute?

God knows all things

Is. 42:9 Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them.”

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1Sam. 23:8 And Saul summoned all the people to war, to go down to Keilah, to besiege David and his men. **9** David knew that Saul was plotting harm against him. And he said to Abiathar the priest, "Bring the ephod here." **10** Then David said, "O LORD, the God of Israel, your servant has surely heard that Saul seeks to come to Keilah, to destroy the city on my account. **11** Will the men of Keilah surrender me into his hand? Will Saul come down, as your servant has heard? O LORD, the God of Israel, please tell your servant." And the LORD said, "He will come down." **12** 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."

Psa. 147:4 He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names.

Matt. 6:4 so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

God knows us completely

1Chr. 28:9 "And you, Solomon my son, know the God of your father and serve him with a whole heart and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches all hearts and understands every plan and thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will cast you off forever.

Psa. 139:1 O LORD, you have searched me and known me! **2** You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. **3** You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. **4** Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.

Jer. 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? **10** "I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds."

Deut. 2:7 For the LORD your God has blessed you in all the work of your hands. He knows your going through this great wilderness. These forty years the LORD your God has been with you. You have lacked nothing."

Job 23:10 But he knows the way that I take; when he has tried me, I shall come out as gold.

Ezek. 11:5 And the Spirit of the LORD fell upon me, and he said to me, "Say, Thus says the LORD: So you think, O house of Israel. For I know the things that come into your mind.

Jer. 1:5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

Heb. 4:13 And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

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Matt. 6:8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

God knows the Future & His Decree?

Is. 46:10 declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,'

Mark 13:32 "But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

Acts 2:23 this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

How Does This Attribute Affect the Christian?

Let's get into the application section, focus on how it leads us to worship God.

Our Omniscient God

We are Children of an Omniscient God

We pray to an Omniscient God

Our Sin is Before an Omniscient God