

# God's Omniscience

By Mark Mayberry

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## Introduction

*Psalm 139 ... 1 For the choir director. A Psalm of David. O Lord, You have searched me and known me. 2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar. 3 You scrutinize my path and my lying down, And are intimately acquainted with all my ways. 4 Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O Lord, You know it all. 5 You have enclosed me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me. 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is too high, I cannot attain to it. 7 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? 8 If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. 9 If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, 10 Even there Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will lay hold of me. 11 If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me, And the light around me will be night," 12 Even the darkness is not dark to You, And the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are alike to You. 13 For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb. 14 I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well. 15 My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth; 16 Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; And in Your book were all written The days that were ordained for me, When as yet there was not one of them. 17 How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How vast is the sum of them! 18 If I should count them, they would outnumber the sand. When I awake, I am still with You. 19 O that You would slay the wicked, O God; Depart from me, therefore, men of bloodshed. 20 For they speak against You wickedly, And Your enemies take Your name in vain. 21 Do I not hate those who hate You, O Lord? And do I not loathe those who rise up against You? 22 I hate them with the utmost hatred; They have become my enemies. 23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; 24 And see if there be any hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way. (NASB95)*

How can a finite mind comprehend an infinite Being? How can one who does not know all about himself comprehend the One who knows everything? The Psalmist was correct in saying, "Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is too high, I cannot attain to it" (Psalms 139:6). While acknowledging our inability to fully fathom the nature of God, we can gain a better appreciation of our heavenly Father through a study of the Scriptures.

Jehovah God has three ultimate qualities: God is Omniscient, i.e., He has infinite knowledge (Psalms 139:1-6, 11-12). God is Omnipresent, i.e., He is present in all places at the same time (Psalms 139:7-10). God is Omnipotent, i.e., He is all-powerful (Psalm 139:13-18).

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In this lesson, let us focus upon God's Omniscience. The knowledge of God extends to all divisions of time – past, present and future.

## **Knowledge Of The Past**

Mere men are forgetful, but God accurately declares the former events, making things known from long ago (Isaiah 41:21-23; 43:9-10).

*Isaiah 41:21-23 ... 21 "Present your case," the Lord says. "Bring forward your strong arguments," The King of Jacob says. 22 Let them bring forth and declare to us what is going to take place; As for the former events, declare what they were, That we may consider them and know their outcome. Or announce to us what is coming; 23 Declare the things that are going to come afterward, That we may know that you are gods; Indeed, do good or evil, that we may anxiously look about us and fear together. (NASB95)*

*Isaiah 43:9-10 ... 9 All the nations have gathered together So that the peoples may be assembled. Who among them can declare this And proclaim to us the former things? Let them present their witnesses that they may be justified, Or let them hear and say, "It is true." 10 "You are My witnesses," declares the Lord, "And My servant whom I have chosen, So that you may know and believe Me And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, And there will be none after Me. (NASB95)*

Biblical writers described past events that they had not personally seen (Genesis 1-2; Psalms 33:6-9).

*Genesis 1:1-5 ... 1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. 3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. 4 God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day. (NASB95)*

*Psalms 33:6-9 ... 6 By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, And by the breath of His mouth all their host. 7 He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; He lays up the deeps in storehouses. 8 Let all the earth fear the Lord; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. 9 For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast. (NASB95)*

The apostles accurately recorded the words and deeds of Christ (John 14:25-26; 16:12-13).

*John 14:25-26 ... 25 "These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. 26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. (NASB95)*

*John 16:12-13 ... 12 "I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. (NASB95)*

## **Knowledge Of The Present**

Men are limited by time and space, but God has a full knowledge of all that occurs in the present (Jeremiah 23:23-24; Hebrews 4:12-13).

*Jeremiah 23:23-24 ... 23 "Am I a God who is near," declares the Lord, "And not a God far off? 24 "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. (NASB95)*

*Hebrews 4:12-13 ... 12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. 13 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. (NASB95)*

He knows the thoughts of man's heart (1 Samuel 2:2-3; Acts 1:24-26).

*1 Samuel 2:2-3 ... 2 "There is no one holy like the Lord, Indeed, there is no one besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God. 3 "Boast no more so very proudly, Do not let arrogance come out of your mouth; For the Lord is a God of knowledge, And with Him actions are weighed. (NASB95)*

*Acts 1:24-26 ... 24 And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all men, show which one of these two You have chosen 25 to occupy this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." 26 And they drew lots for them, and the lot fell to Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles. (NASB95)*

## **Knowledge Of The Future**

God also has knowledge of the future, declaring the end from the beginning (Isaiah 46:8-11).

*Isaiah 46:8-11 ... 8 "Remember this, and be assured; Recall it to mind, you transgressors. 9 "Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure'; 11 Calling a bird of prey from the east, The man of My purpose from a far country. Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, surely I will do it. (NASB95)*

Daniel predicted the successive world empires of Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome (Daniel 2:37-45).

*Daniel 2:37-45 ... 37 "You, O king, are the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the strength and the glory; 38 and wherever the sons of men dwell, or the beasts of the field, or the birds of the sky, He has given them into your hand and has caused you to rule over them all. You are the head of gold. 39 "After you there will arise another kingdom inferior to you, then another third kingdom of bronze, which will rule over all the earth. 40 "Then there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron; inasmuch as iron crushes and shatters all things, so, like iron that breaks in pieces, it will crush and break all these in pieces. 41 "In that you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it will be a divided kingdom; but it will have in it the toughness of iron, inasmuch as you saw the iron mixed with common clay. 42 "As the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of pottery, so some of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be brittle. 43 "And in that you saw the iron mixed with common clay, they will combine with one another in the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, even as iron does not combine with pottery. 44 "In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever. 45 "Inasmuch as you saw that a stone was cut out of the*

*mountain without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will take place in the future; so the dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy.” (NASB95)*

Hundreds of Messianic prophecies were fulfilled in Christ (Isaiah 9:6-7; Micah 5:2).

*Isaiah 9:6-7 ... 6 For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. 7 There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this. (NASB95)*

*Micah 5:2 ... 2 “But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity.” (NASB95)*

Indeed, we have the more sure word of prophecy; Biblical prophecy evidences divine foreknowledge (2 Peter 1:19-21).

*2 Peter 1:19-21 ... 19 So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. 20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, 21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. (NASB95)*

## **Conclusion**

Judgment awaits (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; 2 Corinthians 5:10-11).

*Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 ... 13 The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. 14 For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil. (NASB95)*

*2 Corinthians 5:10-11 ... 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. 11 Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men, but we are made manifest to God; and I hope that we are made manifest also in your consciences. (NASB95)*

Divine omniscience provides reason to fear, invalidating all pretense and hypocrisy (Matthew 23:13-14; Luke 12:1-3).

*Matthew 23:13-14 ... 13 “But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you shut off the kingdom of heaven from people; for you do not enter in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in. 14 [“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees,*

*hypocrites, because you devour widows' houses, and for a pretense you make long prayers; therefore you will receive greater condemnation.] (NASB95)*

*Luke 12:1-3 ... 1 Under these circumstances, after so many thousands of people had gathered together that they were stepping on one another, He began saying to His disciples first of all, "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. 2 "But there is nothing covered up that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known. 3 "Accordingly, whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in the inner rooms will be proclaimed upon the housetops. (NASB95)*

Divine omniscience also provides reason to hope, eliminating doubt and despair (2 Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 6:10-12).

*2 Timothy 1:12 ... 12 For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day. (NASB95)*

*Hebrews 6:10-12 ... 10 For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints. 11 And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, 12 so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. (NASB95)*