







Omniscience Defined

- God knows everything.
 - God knows all things that exist in **actuality** (Ps. 139:1-6; 147:4; Matt. 6:8; 10:28-30)
 - God knows all the variables concerning things that have **not occurred**. (Mt. 11:21)
 - God knows all **future** events (Dan. 2:36-43; 7:4-8; Mt. 24-25; Rev. 6-19)
 - God's knowledge is **intuitive** (i.e., He always knows; He cannot learn).

Omniscience Defined

"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."
[Tozer, The Knowledge of the Holy]

What Does God Know?

- God knows everything about us (Ps. 139:1-6)
 - God knows all our actions and thoughts (vv. 1-3)
 - God knows what we will say before we say it (v. 4)
 - God knows our future (v. 5)

What Does God Know?

- God knows everything about everything (Is. 40:12-14)
 - God possesses all power and knowledge (v. 12)
 - God possesses all guiding wisdom (vv. 13-14)
 - Other significant passages to consider include: Num. 32:23; Job 23:10; Ps. 33:13; 103:14; Is. 42:8-9; 46:10; 48:8-11; Ez. 11:5; Hos. 7:2; Jn. 21:17; Acts 15:18; Rom. 11:34-36.

What Does God Decree?

- God intends and plans the future for all men (Prov. 16:1, 9; 19:21; Is. 43:12-13; 45:1ff).
- God sovereign designs all events for one great purpose (Rom. 8:28-29; Gen. 50:20; 45:4, 7).
- God is sovereign even over the calamitous events of history (Job 1-2, 38-41; Is. 45:7; Jer. 18:8ff; Amos 3:6; Acts 2:22-23).

What Does God Decree?

- Because God is sovereign, God remains true to all His other attributes as well.
- Some final biblical thoughts on sovereignty and suffering:
 - Suffering is not good in itself — it is not an “essential good” (Ps. 5:4; 11:5-7; Rev. 22:1-5).
 - Suffering is decreed (or allowed) by God as an instrumental good.

What Does God Decree?

- Some final biblical thoughts on sovereignty and suffering:
 - God is more concerned with our character than our comfort. He will remove all the crutches on which we lean so that we will learn to lean on Him alone (Js. 1:2-4; Rom. 5:3-5).
 - Believing in God's purposes in suffering does not preclude us from seeking escape from that suffering. We can pray for the well-being of others and ourselves (3 Jn. 2; 2 Cor. 12:7-10).

Why it is Good that God Knows All Things

- Though God knows us, He still loves His own (1 Jn. 4:9-10)
- Because God knows us, we have comfort
- God's knowledge makes Him trustworthy (and liberates us from fear)

Why it is Good for God to Know All Things

- By minimizing the knowledge of God, open theists attempt to provide "comfort" for those who have endured hardship and suffering, and in so doing they "strip" God of the very attributes that are able to give the needed comfort to the sufferer and help to the needy.
