

Psalm 139:6: “[The omniscience of God] is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it.”

A sermon to the prisoners of hope at Westboro Baptist Church, in Topeka, Kansas, on March 26, 2023. (Zechariah 9:12: “Turn you to the strong hold, ye prisoners of hope: even to day do I declare *that* I will render double unto thee[.]”)

In the third, and last, of my series on this attribute of God called his knowledge or omniscience, I suggest that you should “*Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace; thereby good shall come unto thee.*” (**Job 22:21**). If we are to have any proper understanding of the attributes of God, we must study those things which he has revealed about his attributes in his “*word of truth.*” (**2 Timothy 2:15**). “*All scripture is given by inspiration of God (God-breathed), and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect (mature; complete), thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*” **2 Timothy 3:16-17**. Girding up the loins of your mind (**1 Peter 1:13**), and “[c]asting down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of the truth,” and “bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ” (**2 Corinthians 10:5**), mandates studying what he has written, the scripture, “*to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed.*” (**2 Timothy 2:15**).

There are two general types of knowledge in the Bible, or “to know,” something or someone. There is having head knowledge of things and people, and there is knowing persons with love and approbation (the opposite of reprobation). The word “foreknowledge” is only found in the New Testament and always used in this second sense—God’s love of a person or persons. In the Old Testament, when the word “know” is used in connection with God, it often signifies to regard with favor, denoting not mere head knowledge but an affection for the object in view. “*I know*

thee by name” (**Exodus 33:12**). “*Ye have been rebellious against the Lord from the day that I knew you.*” (**Deuteronomy 9:24**). “*Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee.*” (**Jeremiah 1:5**). “*They have made princess, and I knew it not.*” (**Hosea 8:4**). “*You only have I known of all the families of the earth*” (**Amos 3:2**). In these passages “knew” signifies loved or appointed.

The word “know” is frequently used in the New Testament, in the same sense as in the Old Testament. “*Then will I profess unto them, I never knew you*” (**Matthew 7:23**). “*I am the good shepherd and know My sheep and am known of Mine*” (**John 10:14**). “*If any man love God, the same is known of Him*” (**1 Corinthians 8:3**). “*The Lord knoweth them that are His*” (**2 Timothy 2:19**).

The enemies of the truth in the Bible will pervert God’s foreknowledge in order to set aside his absolute sovereignty in the matter of eternal salvation and set aside his unconditional election unto eternal life. Fallen man has a problem with God’s sovereignty, predestination and election—it excludes their puny—as in none--power from the equation.

“When the solemn and blessed subject of divine foreordination is expounded, when God’s eternal choice of certain ones to be conformed to the image of His Son is set forth, the enemy sends along some man to argue that election is based upon the foreknowledge of God, and this “foreknowledge” is interpreted to mean that God foresaw certain ones would be more pliable than others, that they would respond more readily to the strivings of the Spirit, and that because God knew they would believe, He accordingly predestinated them unto salvation. But such a statement is radically wrong. It repudiates the truth of total depravity, for it argues that there is something good in some men. It takes away the independency of God, for it makes His decrees rest upon what He discovers in the creature. It completely turns things upside down, for in

saying God foresaw certain sinners would believe in Christ, and that because of this, He predestinated them unto salvation is the very reverse of the truth. Scripture affirms that God, in His high sovereignty, singled out certain ones to be recipients of His distinguishing favors (**Acts 13:48** [*“And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.”*]), and therefore he determined to bestow upon them the gift of faith. False theology makes God’s foreknowledge of our believing the cause of His election to salvation; whereas, God’s election is the cause, and our believing in Christ is the effect.” Arthur Pink.

And about the foreknowledge of God please see the following verses:

***Acts 17:26:** *“[God] hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation.”* Paul here asserts the sovereignty of God against Athenian philosophers and their Stoical fate and Epicurian chance, which pretended that man grew out of the earth instead of by the creating power of God who determines (or decrees) the bounds of their habitation in every detail—both the elect and the reprobate.

***Numbers 23:19:** *“God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? Or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?”* All the Balaams in history hired by the Balaks of every generation to curse God’s elect shall utterly fail because God hath determined to bless them which pursuant to his sovereign foreknowledge founded upon his eternal decrees must prevail.

***Isaiah 41:22-23:** *“Let them bring them forth and shew us what shall happen: let them shew the former things, what they be, that we may consider them, and know the latter end of them; or declare us things for*

to come. Shew the things that are to come hereafter, that we may know that ye are gods: yea, do good, or do evil, that we may be dismayed, and behold it together.” God clearly stakes out the difference between the real Sovereign and those gods created by the mind of puny men; as demonstrated by his knowledge, and especially his foreknowledge founded upon his sovereign determinate counsel and eternal decrees.

***Isaiah 44:6-7:** *“Thus saith the Lord the King of Israel, and his redeemer, the Lord of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God. And who, as I, shall call and declare it, and set it in order for me, since I appointed the ancient people? And the things that are coming, and shall come, let them shew unto them.”* The Lord hath ordered all things for the good of his elect people, the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven, in the Lamb’s book of life, from the foundation of the world; these ancient people are properly rendered “the people of eternity.” They were in Christ Jesus, their federal head, chosen in him before the foundation of the world and given grace in him before the world began (**Ephesians 1:3-4; 2 Timothy 1:9**).

***Isaiah 46:9-10:** *“Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure. And,* then in Isaiah 46, the Holy Spirit describes how Cyrus will be used to enable the return of the Jews (and particularly the elect amongst them) to Israel to rebuild his church in the earth at that time. Gill commentary as to God’s counsel: “[T]hey respect his grace and goodness in the salvation of men; such as his purpose according to election, the covenant of his grace, redemption by Christ, the effectual calling, and eternal glorification; all which, as they are according to the will and counsel of God; stand firm and sure, and shall have their full accomplishment[.]”

***Matthew 25:34:** *“Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world[.]”*

***Ephesians 1:4-11:** *“According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will[.]”*

***Revelation 13:8:** *“And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”*

***1 Peter 1:1-2:** *“Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.”*

Romans 9:23 “*And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory[.]*”

Romans 11:2: “*God hath not cast away the people whom he foreknew.*”

I do not believe language could be any plainer; and when you add context, sincere people will not be confused about this doctrine.

Next, in our continuing study of the omniscience of God, we must necessarily talk about prophecy. All prophecy is founded on God’s foreknowledge and predetermination of things. For example, see the prophecy of the Israelites being in a strange land for 400 years and then coming out with great substance at **Genesis 15:13-14:** “*And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years. And also that nation whom they shall serve, will I judge and afterward shall they come out with great substance.*”

And see the prophecy of that nation being in Babylonian captivity for 70 years and delivered from there at the end of that time, at **Jeremiah 29:10:** “*For thus saith the Lord, That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place.*”

See the prophecies of Daniel concerning the four monarchies, found in **Daniel 2:24-45.** And of course we know as historical fact that these prophecies came to fruition in time.

See the predictions in the Old Testament, concerning the incarnation of Christ, his sufferings, his death, his resurrection, his ascension and his interceding at the right hand of God on behalf of those whom God gave him from the foundation of the world. Here are some samples:

***Isaiah 9:6:** *“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”*

*** Isaiah 7:14:** *“Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”* (**Jeremiah 31:22:** *“...Behold a woman shall compass a man.”*)

***Micah 5:2:** *“But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me, that is to be ruler in Israel: whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.”*

***Psalm 2:6-12:** *“Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: The Lord hath said unto me: Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel. Be wise now therefore, O ye kings; be instructed, ye judges of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.”*

***Psalm 110:1-4:** *“The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool. The Lord shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies. Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning, thou hast the dew of thy youth. The Lord*

hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.”

** Zechariah 9:9-10: “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass. And I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem, and the battle bow shall be cut off: and he shall speak peace unto the heathen: and his dominion shall be from sea even to sea, and from the river even to the ends of the earth.”*

**Isaiah 52:14: “As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men[.]”*

**Isaiah 50:6: “I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.”*

**Isaiah 53:2-5, 7-12: “For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed...He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? For he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked; and with the rich*

in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief, when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.”

***Psalm 22:6-8, 15-18:** *“But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people. All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, He trusted on the Lord that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him...My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death. For dogs have compassed me; the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet. I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me. They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.”*

And, wrapped up neatly in one verse, our Lord Jesus Christ confirmed these prophecies, after his resurrection at **Luke 24:44:** *“And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.”* And, it was to this end: *“Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”* (**Luke 24:46-47**). And, that work continues today in the Westboro Baptist Church’s installment of the fulfillment of

that goal of “*preaching [repentance and remission of sins] in his name among all nations.*” It is our Lord Jesus Christ’s work from beginning to end throughout all succeeding generations until that work is completed, or until he has called out all his elect from all nations.

And what is the book of the Revelation but a prophecy, and so a proof of God’s knowledge of future events, which should be in the church and world, from the times of Christ to the end of the world? **Revelation 1:1-3:** “*The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw. Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.*”

10

Again, in summing up these three sermons on the knowledge of God or the omniscience of God, I refer you to the Holy Spirit at David’s mouth: “Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it.” (Psalm 139:6)

“Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. [I love you] Amen.” (Jude 1:24-25)