

Does God Know Everything?

Part 1

Introduction.

1. Sometimes people ask, “Does God Know Everything?”
 - a. To finite minds it seems utterly impossible that even God could literally know everything.
 - b. This question may be a sincere or an insincere question.
 - c. This lesson will examine the Scriptures for the answer to this question.
2. Various answers are given to this challenging and important question.
 - a. Most believers answer “yes” to this question though at times some act as though some things they do and think are a secret from God.
 - b. Atheists do not believe in God, but in order to destroy the faith of those who trust in God they sometimes attempt to prove God does not know everything and the Bible contradicts itself by saying in some places God knows everything and in some places He does not know certain things.
3. In this lesson we will first look at some passages that teach God knows everything.
4. This is a vital lesson in defense of His existence, His Deity and the claims the Bible makes about Him.
5. Before we begin this study we need to define an anthropomorphism.

Anthropomorphisms

1. This word comes from two Greek words “anthropos” meaning “man” and “morpe” meaning “form.”
2. In theological terms an anthropomorphism is making God in some ways into the form and likeness of man.
3. The purpose is to describe God in terms more understandable and comprehensible to humans
4. As humans it is very difficult, really impossible, to understand One who is Spirit and completely unlike us in His attributes. We all have limitations; thus, it is easy to believe even God has limitations.
5. Fleshly beings may strive to understand a God who is Spirit, but humans will never be able to completely comprehend One who is not flesh as we are and One who is infinite in every way.
6. The Bible declares that God is Spirit and does not have a fleshly body. (Num. 23:19; Psa. 139:7; Jn. 4:24; Matt. 16:17; Col. 1:15).

Num 23:19 "God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"

Ps 139:7 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?

John 4:24 "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

Matt 16:17 And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal {this} to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

Col 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

7. To help us better understand God the writers of the Bible assign human characteristics to God.

8. Human actions such as talking, holding, reaching, feeling, hearing and other human characteristics are ascribed to God.

9. God is also described as having a face, eyes, ears, arms, hands and also as having human emotions such as grief, regret and anger.

10. Here are a few examples of anthropomorphisms in the Bible.

Gen 2:3 Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He **rested from all His work** which God had created and made. God was not literally tired since One who is omnipotent never tires. It means God ceased His creative work on the 7th day.

Lev 20:6 'As for the person who turns to mediums and to spiritists, to play the harlot after them, I will also set **My face** against that person and will cut him off from among his people.

Num 6:25 The LORD make **His face** shine on you, And be gracious to you;

Ex 7:5 "The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I stretch out **My hand** on Egypt and bring out the sons of Israel from their midst."

Is 23:11 He has stretched **His hand** out over the sea, He has made the kingdoms tremble; The LORD has given a command concerning Canaan to demolish its strongholds.

Ps 113:6 Who **humbles** Himself [stoops down] to behold {The things that are} in heaven and in the earth? One who is Omnipotent and Omnipresent literally never "humbles Himself" or "stoops down."

Deut 11:12 a land for which the LORD your God cares; the **eyes of the LORD** your God are always on it, from the beginning even to the end of the year.

Ps 34:15 The **eyes of the LORD** are toward the righteous And His **ears** are {open} to their cry.

Is 66:1 Thus says the LORD, "**Heaven is My throne and the earth is My footstool**. Where then is a house you could build for Me? And where is a place that I may rest?"

Gen 6:6 The LORD **was sorry** that He had made man on the earth, and He **was grieved in His heart**. God knew before He made man what would happen in the days of Noah and knew all men would need a Savior. (Eph. 1:4,5).

Ex 20:5 "You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am **a jealous God**, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me,

Judg 2:18 When the LORD raised up judges for them, the LORD was with the judge and delivered them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge; for the LORD **was moved to pity** by their groaning because of those who oppressed and afflicted them. Here once again God is depicted with human emotions.

1 Sam 15:35 Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death; for Samuel grieved over Saul. And **the LORD regretted** that He had made Saul king over Israel. God makes no mistakes, but here is speaking in human terms.

Ex 32:14 So **the LORD changed His mind about the harm** which He said He would do to His people. God does not literally change His mind but always knows in advance what will happen and what He will do.

2 Sam 24:16 When the angel stretched out his hand toward Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD **relented from the calamity** and said to the angel who destroyed the people, "It is enough! Now relax your hand!" And the angel of the LORD was by the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.

Gen 9:16 "When the bow is in the cloud, then I will look upon it, to **remember the everlasting covenant** between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God never forgets His promises. This is speaking of God in human terms. The "rainbow" is really our reminder that God will never again flood the whole earth.

Pss 7:11 God is a righteous judge, And a God who has **indignation** every day.

11. Anthropomorphisms are helpful to us in at least partially comprehending the incomprehensible, know the unknowable, and fathom the unfathomable.
12. These anthropomorphisms help us better understand God, but they do not and cannot enable us to completely understand the One who is more Awesome than we could ever understand.
13. These Anthropomorphisms can also be dangerous if we use these human descriptions of God to diminish in our minds the infinite God of heaven.
14. As we attempt to study and comprehend God whom we can never fully comprehend and appreciate that we keep in mind the words of God recorded in Isaiah 55:8-9..

Is 55:8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD.

Is 55:9 "For {as} the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts.

Passages Teaching God Knows Everything

1 Chr 28:9 "As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a whole heart and a willing mind; for **the LORD searches all hearts**, and **understands every intent of the thoughts**. If you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever.

Pss 33:13 The LORD looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men;

Ps 33:14 From His dwelling place He looks out On all the inhabitants of the earth,
Ps 33:15 He who fashions the hearts of them all, He who understands all their works.

Ps 44:21 Would not God find this out? **For He knows the secrets of the heart.**

Ps 139:1 O LORD, You have searched me and known {me.}
Ps 139:2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar.
Ps 139:3 You scrutinize my path and my lying down, And are intimately acquainted with all my ways.
Ps 139:4 Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O LORD, You know it all.
Ps 139:5 You have enclosed me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me.
Ps 139:6 {Such} knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is {too} high, I cannot attain to it.
Ps 139:7 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?
Ps 139:8 If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there.
Ps 139:9 If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea,
Ps 139:10 Even there Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will lay hold of me.

Ps 147:4 He counts the number of the stars; He gives names to all of them.
Ps 147:5 Great is our Lord and abundant in strength; His understanding is infinite. The number of stars is estimated to be 70,000 million million million or 70 followed by 72 zeros.

Prov 15:3 The eyes of the LORD are in every place, Watching the evil and the good.

Ecc 12:14 For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or **evil**.

Is 46:10 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';

Matt 10:29 "Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And {yet} not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.
Matt 10:30 "But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

Acts 15:18 SAYS THE LORD, WHO MAKES THESE THINGS KNOWN FROM LONG AGO.

Rom 2:16 on the day when, according to my gospel, **God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus.**

1 Cor 4:5 Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, {but wait} until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of {men's} hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God.

Heb 4:13 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.

1 John 3:20 in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and **knows all things**.

1. These Scriptures and others found in the Old and New Testaments exclaim God knows everything without exception.
2. Nothing is unknown or hidden from God who knows all things - past, present, future.

3. Only the foolish conclude that God is ignorant of their words, thoughts and actions.

Conclusion

1. In the next lesson we will study some passages used to allegedly prove God does not know everything and the Bible contradicts itself on this subject.
2. Here are a few passages we will examine in the next lesson which are used by atheists and other skeptics to deny God knows everything.

Gen 11:5 The LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built.

Job 38:4 "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell {Me,} if you have understanding,

Gen 22:12 He said, "Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, and do nothing to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me."

3. With the facts we have learned in this lesson, we will be better equipped to examine these so-called proof passages and to expose the folly of those who deny God is all-knowing and seek to discredit the holy scriptures.
4. It is important that we be able to give a defense of our faith. (Jude 3).

Jude 1:3 Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.

Conclusion.

1. God knows everything.
2. He does not learn or acquire knowledge.
3. He knows everything at once since He made all things and keeps constant watch over His creation.
4. His knowledge is complete [infinite] in regard to His whole creation.
5. The next lesson will examine the challenges to the conclusion that God knows everything.

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