

Does God Know Everything?

Part 2

Some Passages Used To Prove God Does Not Know Everything

Genesis 11:5 is used to prove God is neither omnipresent or omniscient.

Gen 11:1 Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words.

Gen 11:2 It came about as they journeyed east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there.

Gen 11:3 They said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and burn {them} thoroughly." And they used brick for stone, and they used tar for mortar.

Gen 11:4 They said, "Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top {will reach} into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."

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

Gen 11:6 The LORD said, "Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they began to do, and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them.

Gen 11:7 **"Come, let Us go down** and there confuse their language, so that they will not understand one another's speech."

Gen 11:8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of the whole earth; and they stopped building the city.

Gen 11:9 Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of the whole earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of the whole earth.

1 It is charged that God showed His limitations by needing to come down to see what was going on at Babel.

2. This would not be necessary, they say, if God was everywhere and knows everything.

3. Some notes.

a. The Greek Old Testament, the Septuagint, reads "Babylon" here. (Gen. 10:10; Zech 5:11).

b. The words "let us" are a reference to the Godhead as they are in Genesis 1:26, 27.

c. God made a babbling of languages here. (Gen. 11:9).

d. We have here a fragrant example of corporate pride.

e. They wanted at least to be equal to God like Adam and Eve did. (Gen. 3:5).

f. They may have foolishly thought they could dethrone God.

Job 38:4 is sometimes used to teach God does not know everything.

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

1. It is charged God did not know where Job was when He "laid the foundation of the earth."

2. Later we will discuss just how weak and foolish this objection is to God's omniscience.

Genesis 22:12 is used as a proof text

Gen 22:1 Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

Gen 22:2 He said, "Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you."

Gen 22:3 So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and Isaac his son; and he split wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.

Gen 22:4 On the third day Abraham raised his eyes and saw the place from a distance.

Gen 22:5 Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey, and I and the lad will go over there; and we will worship and return to you."

Gen 22:6 Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son, and he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together.

Gen 22:7 Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." And he said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"

Gen 22:8 Abraham said, "God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together.

Gen 22:9 Then they came to the place of which God had told him; and Abraham built the altar there and arranged the wood, and bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.

Gen 22:10 Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.

Gen 22:11 But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

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."

1. It is argued from this passage Moses did not teach God is Omniscient since he records God saying, "for now I know you fear God." (Gen. 22:12).
2. It is contended if God really knew everything that He would have known all along that Abraham feared Him and would not say "For now I know."
3. Some argue that this presents a contradiction with passages that teach God is all-knowing.
4. They use this to attempt to destroy faith in God and the Bible.
5. This, it is alleged, proves God is finite rather than infinite in His knowledge.

Genesis 3:9 is used to prove that God is not really Omniscient and the Bible contradicts itself when it affirms God know all things.

Gen 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?"

Gen 3:2 The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat;

Gen 3:3 but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'"

Gen 3:4 The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die!

Gen 3:5 "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Gen 3:6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make {one} wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

Gen 3:7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.

Gen 3:8 They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

Gen 3:9 Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?"

1. The question is raised, "If God really knows everything, why would He asked 'Where are you'?"
2. It is charged this clearly illustrates that the God of the Bible is not Omniscient.

Others use Luke 8:43-48 to prove the Bible contradicts itself in regard to Deity knowing everything.

Luke 8:43 And a woman who had a hemorrhage for twelve years, and could not be healed by anyone,

Luke 8:44 came up behind Him and touched the fringe of His cloak, and immediately her hemorrhage stopped.

Luke 8:45 And Jesus said, "Who is the one who touched Me?" And while they were all denying it, Peter said, "Master, the people are crowding and pressing in on You."

Luke 8:46 But Jesus said, "Someone did touch Me, for I was aware that power had gone out of Me."

Luke 8:47 When the woman saw that she had not escaped notice, she came trembling and fell down before Him, and declared in the presence of all the people the reason why she had touched Him, and how she had been immediately healed.

Luke 8:48 And He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace."

1. It is alleged the question "Who is the one who touched Me?" proves Deity does not know everything.
2. Jesus manifested His limited knowledge by asking this question.

Others used Hebrews 8:12 to show God does not know everything.

Heb 8:12 "FOR I WILL BE MERCIFUL TO THEIR INIQUITIES, AND I WILL REMEMBER THEIR SINS NO MORE."

1. The words "remember their sins no more" are said to mean God is not omniscient.
2. They contend one who forgets cannot be omniscient.

Proving God Knows All Things

- It is important that we examine these passages and show they do not contradict the Omniscience of God.
- These passages do not teach God is finite in His knowledge and do not conflict with the clear passages that exclaim God is Omniscient.

1. Let us look at Genesis 11:5.
 - a. This is a anthropomorphic expression.
 - b. God is sometimes spoken of in human terms though He is not human (Num. 23:19), but an eternal Spirit. (Jn. 4:24; Deut. 33:27; 1 Tim. 1:17).
 - c. Anthropomorphic language does not mean God is human and has human limitations.

- d. God, as Spirit, does not have literal hands, eyes, ears, face, etc.. Such expressions are intended to help man better understand God.
 - e. God, being Omniscient and Omnipresent, was fully aware of what was happening at Babel and likely was even amused that finite man thought he might build a tower to the heavens.
2. Let us examine Job 38:4.
 - a. God knew where Job was when He laid the foundation of the earth.
 - b. God is calling Job's attention to the fact he did not exist when He laid the foundation of the earth.
 - c. Job was so foolish to question the One who created all things. (Gen. 1:1).
 - d. It is utter foolishness for the created to argue with the Creator.
 3. Let us take a more careful look at Genesis 22:12.
 - a. The words "now I know" do not imply or teach God's knowledge is lacking.
 - b. Actually, these words came from "the angel of Jehovah" - not God Himself.
 - c. God knew what Abraham would do and how He would use him.
 - d. God was testing the faith of Abraham and giving him the opportunity to prove to himself the genuineness of his faith. (Gen. 22:1).
 - e. He was willing to sacrifice his special and beloved son, Isaac.
 - f. The book of James teaches us Genesis 15:6 in a prophecy. See Gen. 15:5
 - g. It was fulfilled when Abraham was willing to sacrifice his son. (Jas. 2:23, 24).
 4. Let us now examine Genesis 3:9.
 - a. This verse does not mean God was ignorant of the whereabouts of Adam.
 - b. The question was not asked to gain information, it was asked to get Adam and Eve to think about why they were ashamed and now hiding.
 - c. Adam had violated God's commandment. (Gen. 2:17).
 - d. **God never asks questions to gain information.**
 - e. He sometimes asks questions to get someone to admit something good or bad even though He knows the answer to His question.
 - f. Adam and Eve knew what they had done and were seeking to hide from God. (Gen. 3:8-9).
 - g. We sometimes do the same thing to get someone to admit good or bad even though we know the answer to the question.
 5. Let us examine Luke 8:45.

- a. Jesus did not ask this question to gain knowledge.
- b. He knew the woman had touched Him and was made well by touching His garment. (Mk. 5:31-32).

Mark 5:31 And His disciples said to Him, "You see the crowd pressing in on You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?'"

Mark 5:32 And He looked around to see the woman who had done this.

- c. He asked this question to bring out her great faith and His great power. (Mk. 5:33-34).

Mark 5:33 But the woman fearing and trembling, aware of what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth.

Mark 5:34 And He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace and be healed of your affliction."

- d. Her healing substantiated her faith in Jesus and would lead others to believe in Jesus and His power.(Lk. 8:47),

6. Finally, let us examine Hebrews 8:12.

- a. This verse does not literally mean God forgets.
- b. The meaning is God ceases to hold sins against His children when they repent and are forgiven.
- c. Because of the blood of Jesus sins of Christians are forgiven if they “walk in the light” and confess their sins. (1 Jn.1:7, 9; Mic 7:19).

1 John 1:7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Mic 7:19 He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities under foot. Yes, You will cast all their sins Into the depths of the sea.

Conclusion

1. Though it is beyond the comprehension of mortal man, God know everything - past, present, future.
2. Nothing escapes the all-seeing eye and Omniscience of the Almighty and Omnipresent God.
3. Those who love and fear God can take comfort in this awesome fact. (Prov. 15:3).
4. Those who deny and reject God must live in terror for God knows all their evil words, thoughts and actions and will hold them accountable.
5. Though God knows everything, He still wants man to demonstrate his faith by doing what He asks.
 - a. He knows all our needs before we ask, but He still wants us to ask in faith. (Matt. 6:8; Phil. 4:6; Jas. 4:2,3).

Matt 6:8 "So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.

Phil 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, **but in everything** by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

James 4:2 You lust and do not have; {so} you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; {so} you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask.

James 4:3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend {it} on your pleasures.

- b. God knows who will be saved or lost, but He invites all to come to Him and promises to save those who obey His Son. (Jn. 3:36; Heb. 5:9).
- c. Knowing is not the same thing as predestination.
- d. God knows all things, but He gives us free choice.
- e. No one will be able to truthfully say to God, "You never gave me the chance to live for you.." (1 Tim. 2:4; Heb. 2:9; 2 Pet. 3:9).
- f. God is not a respecter of persons. (Acts 10:34-35; Rom. 10:12).

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