

Lesson 16

GOD IS OMNISCIENT

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GOD IS OMNISCIENT

God knows everything and His knowledge is complete. This is called His omniscience. Omniscience is a Latin derived word used to describe the universality of the objects known by God. It is infinite knowledge eternal, universal, extending to all persons, times, places and things; and perfect, relating to what is past, present and to come. He knows all, infallibly and perpetually and omniscience is uniquely God. This knowledge is peculiar to God. It is incomprehensible to us how God knows all things, yet is it evident that He does.

- *Psalms 147:5 Great is our Lord and abundant in strength; His understanding is infinite.*
- *Acts 15:18 SAYS THE LORD, WHO MAKES THESE THINGS KNOWN FROM LONG AGO*
- *Isaiah 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';*
- *Hebrews 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.*
- *Jeremiah 10:6,7 There is none like You, O LORD; You are great, and great is Your name in might. [7] Who would not fear You, O King of the nations? Indeed it is Your due! For among all the wise men of the nations And in all their kingdoms, There is none like You.*
- *Romans 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!*
- *Mark 13:32 But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.*
- *Job 36:4 "For truly my words are not false; One who is perfect in knowledge is with you.*
- *Psalms 139:6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is too high, I cannot attain to it.*

God has all knowledge and all wisdom. That God is omniscient is not only taught in the Scriptures, it must be equally inferred from all that is taught concerning God. He perfectly knows Himself and, being the source and author of all things, knows all that can be known. And this God knows instantly and with a fullness of perfection that includes every possible item of knowledge concerning everything that exists or could have existed anywhere in or out of the universe at any time in the past, present or future.

Knowledge is the act of the understanding, apprehending that a thing is, and comprehending its nature and relations, or how it is. God's knowledge is His essence of knowing; it is one eternal, all-comprehensive, indivisible act. It is independent of anything outside of God, it is total, perfect, essential, and intrinsic.

This discussion will cover:

- God Knows All Things
- How Does God Know All Things
- God Knows All Creatures
- Jesus, God incarnate, Is Omniscience
- God Has Never Learned Anything

- God Has No Memory
- God Has Instant Recall
- God Knows All Cause And Effects
- God's Foreknowledge
- God's Wisdom
- God's Speculative Knowledge
- God's Knowledge of Sin And Judgement
- Implications If God Had No Knowledge Of Future Events
- God's Knowledge Brings Comfort To Christians

GOD KNOWS ALL THINGS

- Isaiah said that Israel had not seen everything that God had planned.
 - *Isaiah 40:28 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable.*
 - *Isaiah 46:9-10 "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';*
- Job said that God had all knowledge.
 - *Job 37:16 Do you know about the layers of the thick clouds, The wonders of one perfect in knowledge,*
- The psalmist said that God's understanding is infinite.
 - *Psalms 139:1-4 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.*
 - *Psalms 139:15-16 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.*
 - *Psalms 147:4-5 tells us, "He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name. Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit." Imagine. God not only knows how many stars are in the universe, but knows each of them by name. An Australian study a few years ago put the number of stars we can see at 70,000 million million million, or the number 70 followed by 22 zeroes. That means there are more stars in the sky than there are grains of sand on all the beaches and deserts of the world! What an incredible picture of the omniscience of God.*

- The New Testament also claims God’s omniscience.
 - *1 John 3:20 in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things.*
 - *Romans 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!*
 - *Matthew 10:29-30 Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. 30 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.*

Omniscience is defined as “the state of having total knowledge, the quality of knowing everything.” For God to be sovereign over His creation of all things, whether visible or invisible, He has to be all-knowing, all wise. His omniscience is not restricted to any one person in the Godhead—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are all by nature omniscient. Obviously we must acknowledge God’s knowledge of Himself is also perfect and complete. God knows Himself, that He is completely perfect, as ignorance of self is certainly an imperfection.

God knows everything. He knows not only the minutest details of our lives but those of everything and everyone around us throughout all time. He mentions even knowing when a sparrow falls or when we lose a single hair. Not only does God know everything that will occur until the end of history itself, but He also knows our very thoughts, even before we speak forth. He knows our hearts from afar; He even saw us in the womb. Solomon expresses this truth perfectly when he says, “*then hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and forgive and act and render to each according to all his ways, whose heart You know, for You alone know the hearts of all the sons of men,*” (1 Kings 8:39). God knows all things, has always known all things and will always know all things. God is eternal and therefore experiences knowing all things always.

His omniscience is clearly seen in the New Testament writings. The first prayer of the apostles in Acts 1:24, “*And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all men, show which one of these two You have chosen ,”*” implies Jesus’ omniscience, which is necessary if He is to be able to receive petitions and intercede at God’s right hand.

HOW DOES GOD KNOW ALL THINGS

As there is a vast distance between the essence of God and our being, so there is between the thoughts of God and our thoughts. God knows all things by His own essence, through one act of intuition, independently, distinctly, infallibly, immutably, and perpetually.

- **God knows all things by His own essence.** By His own essence means that God’s attributes are so unique and so intrinsic to the composition of God’s constitution that God would not exist or be God without them. God sees the nature of things in the ideas of His own mind which is the only relevant point of view. He sees the events of things in the decrees of His own will. He knows them by knowing Himself, not by viewing the things. God does not depend on the creature to acquire information from it. If it were so, God would then obtain a perfection from those things which are below Himself, which is impossible since all things created by God are not even equal to God, let alone higher than God to lend perfection to God. As He sees all things possible in His own power, because He is able to produce them, so He sees all things future in His own will, decreeing to effect them. His knowledge is then more noble, and of an infinitely higher elevation above ours, or the knowledge of any creature can be. He knows all things by one comprehension of the causes within Himself.

- **God knows all things by one act of intuition.** If God knows by His own essence, He knows all things by one act. What God sees He pierces into by one glance from eternity to eternity. God does not know things discursively from other things. Neither does He know things successively, one after the other. He does not deduce one fact from another. This is concluded because of God's eminency. God is above all, and therefore cannot but see the motions of all. It is also because all the perfection of knowing are united in God. Man uses his senses; he fixes his gaze upon one object at a time; it is God's perfection that God can behold all at once.
- **God knows all things independently.** Since God is infinite in all His attributes, then His omniscience was not acquired from someone or somebody else. He received His knowledge only from Himself. God does not receive His knowledge from anything outside Him; He needs no tutor and no book, observation, experience, or reference. "*who hath been his counsellor*" (Isaiah 40:13). His works could not be foreknown to Him, if His knowledge commenced with the existence of His works (*Acts 15:18 SAYS THE LORD, WHO MAKES THESE THINGS KNOWN FROM LONG AGO.*); if God know them before He made them, He could not derive a knowledge from them after they were made. Again, how could His understanding be infinite if it depended upon a finite object, as upon a cause?
- **God knows all things distinctly.** His understanding is infinite in regard to clearness. "*This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.*" (1 John 1:5). There is no blemish in His understanding. Nothing renders God's vision obscure. God knows the forms and essence of things, and every circumstance. "*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.*" (Hebrews 4:13). "*Lift up your eyes on high And see who has created these stars, The One who leads forth their host by number, He calls them all by name; Because of the greatness of His might and the strength of His power, Not one of them is missing.*" (Isaiah 40:26). On the other end of the scale, He numbers the hairs on every human head. God's knowledge is never confused because of external factors: "*Even the darkness is not dark to You, And the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are alike to You.*" (Psalms 139:12).
- **God knows all things infallibly.** His understanding is infinite in regard to certainty; every little bit of what He knows is as far from failing as what He speaks. "*The LORD of hosts has sworn saying, 'Surely, just as I have intended so it has happened, and just as I have planned so it will stand'*" (Isaiah 14:24). "*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';"* (Isaiah 46:10). If we do not uphold His infallibility in knowledge, then we would have to conclude that His knowledge is imperfect; and since He knows by His essence, His essence also would be imperfect. It is therefore impossible that God can err in His understanding.
- **God knows all things immutably.** His understanding, if infinite, must be unchangeable. The knowledge of possible things, arising from the knowledge of His power, cannot be changed unless His power be changed, and God becomes weak, yet there is none that weaken God or force Him. The knowledge of future things cannot be changed, because that knowledge arises from His will, which is irreversible. "*Many plans are in a man's heart, But the counsel of the LORD will stand.*" (Proverbs 19:21).
- **God knows all things perpetually.** Since He knows by His essence, He always knows, because His essence never ceases. He does not know only in habit, but in act. Time does not affect God or His knowledge. A thousand years are no more to God than a day, or a watch in the night (Psalms 90:4). God, being the highest degree of being, and unique in being, is therefore the highest degree of understanding. Knowledge is one of the most perfect acts in any creature. God therefore has all actual, as well as essential and habitual knowledge; His understanding is without bounds, unaffected by the passage of time.

GOD KNOWS ALL CREATURES.

God knew us and had a plan for our lives before we were born. He knows us better than we know ourselves. Matthew 10:30 tells us that even the hairs on our head are numbered. No matter how carefully we keep secrets from others, we have no secrets from God.

In Psalm 139:1-4 David wrote, *“You have searched me, LORD, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely.”* And Proverbs 15:3 tells us: *“The eyes of the LORD are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good.”*

He sees our actions every minute of the day, and even though He knows everything about us—both good and bad—He still loves us. God understands how we feel when we are going through hard times because He knows our thoughts and feelings. What a comfort it is to realize God who knows every star by name knows each of us personally and loves us no matter what. *“For the LORD searches every heart and understands every desire and every thought”* (1 Chronicles 28:9).

- He knew about people’s lives before He had even met them. When He met the woman collecting water at the well at Sychar, He said to her, *“for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this you have said truly.”* (John 4:18)
- He also tells His disciples that their friend Lazarus was dead, although He was over 25 miles away from Lazarus’s home.
 - *John 11:11-15 This He said, and after that He said to them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I go, so that I may awaken him out of sleep.” (12) The disciples then said to Him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover.” (13) Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that He was speaking of literal sleep. (14) So Jesus then said to them plainly, “Lazarus is dead, (15) and I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, so that you may believe; but let us go to him.”*
- He advised the disciples to go and make preparation for the Lord’s Supper, describing the person they were to meet and follow.
 - *Mark 14:13-15 And He sent two of His disciples and said to them, “Go into the city, and a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him; (14) (and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, ‘The Teacher says, “Where is My guest room in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples?’” (15) And he himself will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; prepare for us there.”*
- Perhaps best of all, He knew Nathanael before ever meeting him, for He knew his heart.
 - *John 1:47-48 Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!” (48) Nathanael said to Him, “How do You know me?” Jesus answered and said to him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.”*
- God knows the thoughts of all of us.
 - *Matthew 9:4 And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, “Why are you thinking evil in your hearts?”*
 - *Matthew 12:25 And knowing their thoughts Jesus said to them, “Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and any city or house divided against itself will not stand.”*

- *Mark 2:6-8 But some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, [7] “Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming; who can forgive sins but God alone?” [8] Immediately Jesus, aware in His spirit that they were reasoning that way within themselves, said to them, “Why are you reasoning about these things in your hearts?”*
- *Luke 6:8 But He knew what they were thinking, and He said to the man with the withered hand, “Get up and come forward!” And he got up and came forward.*

JESUS, GOD INCARNATE, IS OMNISCIENCE

God incarnate, as Jesus on earth had to grow in wisdom as He aged, yet He retained His full Godship throughout His life on earth. Clearly, we observe Jesus’ omniscience on earth, but this is where the paradox begins as well. Jesus asks questions, which imply the lack of knowledge, although Jesus did ask questions more for the benefit of His audience than for Himself.

The birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus were not by happenstance. They were the result of a divine plan God set in place an eternity to provide us a way to have a restored personal relationship with Him. We can enter into that relationship by praying to God, confessing our sins and asking Him to come into our lives. *1 John 1:9 says, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

As believers our future is secure. Not because we know what lies ahead, but because God knows.

However, there is another facet regarding His omniscience that comes from the limitations of the human nature which He, as Son of God, assumed. We read that as a man He “grew in wisdom and stature” (*Luke 2:52 And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.*) and that He learned “obedience through suffering” (*Hebrews 5:8 Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered*).

We also read that He did not know when the world would be brought to an end (*Matthew 24:34-36 Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. [35] Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away. [36] “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone*).

We, therefore, have to ask, why would the Son not know this, if He knew everything else? Rather than regarding this as just a human limitation, we should regard it as a controlled lack of knowledge. This was a self-willed act of humility in order to share fully in our nature and to be the Second Adam.

- *Philippians 2:6-11 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, [7] but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. [8] Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. [9] For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, [10] so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, [11] and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*
- *Hebrews 2:17 Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.*

Finally, there is nothing too hard for an omniscient God, and it is on the basis of our faith in such a God that we can rest secure in Him, knowing that He promises never to fail us as long as we continue in Him. He has known us from eternity, even before creation. God knew you and me, where we would appear in the course of time, and with whom we would interact. He foresaw our sin in all its ugliness and depravity, yet, in love, He set his seal upon us and drew us to that love in Jesus Christ (*Ephesians 1:3-6 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, [4] just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love [5] He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, [6] to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved*). We shall see Him face to face, but our knowledge of Him will never be complete. Our wonder, love and praise of Him shall go on for all millennia as we bask in the rays of His heavenly love, learning and appreciating more and more of our omniscient God.

GOD HAS NEVER LEARNED

The omniscience of God is complete. God does not continually learn, but knows everything at once. The Scriptures teach that God has never learned from anyone. “Who hath directed the Spirit of the Lord, or being his counsellor hath taught him? With whom took he counsel, and who instructed him, and taught him in the path of judgment, and taught him knowledge, and showed to Him the way of understanding?”

“For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been His counsellor?” These rhetorical questions put by the prophet and the apostle Paul declare that God has never learned.

God is all-knowing; that He encompasses all knowledge of the universe past, present, and future. Always never beginning, always never ending.

From there it is only a step to the conclusion that God cannot learn. Could God at any time or in any manner receive into His mind knowledge that He did not already possess and had not possessed from eternity? He would be imperfect and less than Himself were this so. To think of a God who must sit at the feet of a teacher, even though that teacher be an archangel or a seraph, is to think of someone other than the Most High God, Creator of all.

GOD HAS NO MEMORY

It is God’s knowledge in respect to events occurred in the past. It is not implied that God forgets and then recollects what has escaped His notice. Rather this term has an anthropomorphic slant. When God “forgets” or “does not remember” (as in the forgiveness of sins) it is asserted that He “wills” not to bring the matter up again, not because of a deficient memory, rather a choice of love.

Conversely, when God remembers, the thought is conveyed that God perfectly knows and has always known what has happened, and is fully conscious of it. The Bible speaks of “a book of remembrance” (Malachi 3:16), and “the books were opened” (at the Last Day). All history is well-known, and if you will second-nature to God.

How could an omniscience God ever entertain having a personal relationship with man while fully knowing about our former sins and evil desires? Two reasons: God sees Christ’s righteousness and God is all-knowing, encompassing all knowledge of the universe past, present, and future and chooses to never again bring up our former selves.

“I, even I, am the one who wipes out your transgressions for My own sake, And I will not remember your sins. (Isaiah 43:25)

God's remedy for guilt is the forgiveness and cleansing found in the blood of Jesus! As Isaiah says: "*Come now, and let us reason together,*" Says the LORD, "*Though your sins are as scarlet, They will be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They will be like wool.* (Isaiah 1:18).

God lives in the realm of the eternal. Past, present, and future are all "now" to God. It's a hard concept for our finite minds to grasp, but it is true. God lives in the eternal "now." The panorama of history is constantly before Him. He sees everything that was, is, and will be as "now." Jesus is the lamb slain from the foundation of the world (before it was created). The Apostle John was shown The Revelation which shows the future. All this is or will be exists in the eternal where God dwells. And God showed John what will be because it already exists in the realm of the eternal.

So when God says that He will not remember our sins, its nothing short of a miracle! That means that confessed sin is not even history, because history can be remembered! Confessed sin is not found in the mind of God. It is blotted out as if it had never been committed. And that is one of the great beauties of a compassionate, eternal God.

We must learn to forget what God Almighty, omniscient has forgotten.

GOD HAS INSTANT RECALL

God's complete and perfect knowledge is instantly recalled. God does not have to do anything to 'remember', nor does He have to check the facts, or research or refresh or bring His knowledge into action. God's omniscience is instant, always present.

GOD KNOWS AND IS THE CAUSE AND EFFECT OF ALL KNOWLEDGE

Man has been seeking the knowledge of the origin of the Universe in defiance to the Bible's opening statement, *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.* (Genesis 1:1) . Apparently man considers that he will at long last attain a high plane of knowledge, peace and satisfaction in this universe if he could only find the Holy Grail and uncover its 'secrets' of the universe's origin.

What everyone does agree upon is that the Universe exists and is real. Everyone has no choice but to accept this reality. If the universe did not exist, we would not be here to talk about it. So the question arises, "**How** did the Universe get here?" Did it create itself or did a supreme being create the universe, just what caused the Universe to come into existence? There are several popular theories ...

1. The universe has always existed. (Former #1)
2. The Big Bang Theory (Most popular theory today)
3. Creation (Endorsed by God)
4. The Accelerating Universe Theory
5. The Standard Model
6. The Alpha & Omega Theory
7. Its Out Of Control model
8. All other theories and models.

God Almighty, omniscience, provides a short simple answer. *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1)* God continues documenting the details of this extraordinary event over the next couple of chapters. If man can unequivocally confirm that God created the universe, than all scripture must be taken as truth with the same unequivocal confirmation.

So, let's turn to look at the law of cause and effect as our first step in examining the universe's origins.

As far as science knows, natural laws have no exceptions. This is definitely true of the law of cause and effect, which is the most universal and most certain of all laws. Simply put, the law of cause and effect states that every material effect must have an adequate cause that existed before the effect.

Four quick points to review concerning the law of cause and effect:

1. Material effects without adequate causes do not exist
2. Causes never occur after the effect. The cause is the catalyst for the effect.
3. The effect is never greater than the cause.
4. Matter cannot create matter.

This is why scientists say that every material effect must have an adequate cause. The river did not turn muddy because an animal fell in it; the tree did not fall to the ground because a bird landed on one of its branches. These are not adequate causes for the tree to fall. For whatever effects we see, there must be adequate causes.

The Big Bang Theory is the name that physicists use for the most common theory of how the universe was formed and developed from its initial stages to the present day universe. At its core, the theory says the universe, as we know it, rapidly started and expanded at light speed as the result of a small singularity, then evolved and grew over the next 13.8 billion years to the cosmos that we know today.

Prior to the Big Bang Theory, the most common believe by scientists is that the universe has always existed.

The Big Bang singularity referenced by physicists is a point or region in spacetime in which gravitational forces caused **existing matter** to transform into a new universe through infinite density and extreme temperatures fluctuations and expansion.

In the first instance as the modern universe began, physicists believe temperatures and density went infinite. Scientists are undecided whether this means the universe began from that singularity or that current knowledge is simply insufficient to describe the universe's initial moments at that time. The surrounding temperature instantly climbed to 10 billion degrees Fahrenheit (5.5 billion Celsius), according to NASA. Upon the singularity occurrence, (the cause being intense gravitational pull on matter) the extreme temperature rises and density caused the universe to rapidly expand in waves of expansional 'booms' at light speeds (hence bang) from its then minute size to a constant quickly evolving and growing universe. The initial wave after wave of what physicists believe were noisy expansions are the 'bangs' in this universe expansion theory.

The cosmos contained a vast array of fundamental particles such as neutrons, electrons and protons. These decayed or combined as the universe got cooler. The early universe was hot and dense with wave upon wave of new matter consistently being generated and the universe's boundaries ever expanding. As time passed the universe expanded. cooled. and became less dense, The Big Bang theory, according to physicists, explains why the universe looks the way it does today, They are satisfied that this theory explains why distant galaxies are moving away from us, and why the speed that they move away from us is proportional to distance.

There are difficulties with the Big Bang theory.

1. Matter cannot create matter. Whatever caused the Universe could not have been material. The gravitational magnetic pull of the 'matter' is not the appropriate cause for the intense temperatures and density of the matter to 'expand' the universe. If we take a rock that weighs 1 pound and do 50,000 experiments on it, we never will be able to produce more than 1 pound of rock. So, whatever caused the Universe could not have been material.
2. The problem with the Big Bang theory is that it fails to address how the Universe actually originated, only how an already Universe evolved and continues to evolve. It is therefore a derived theory from the previously popular theory that the universe has always existed.
3. I am not altogether convinced that the Big Bang theory is actually stating or can substantiate that the effect of creation is greater than the cause for creation.

The following statement may insult your intelligence, but for completeness sake, I shall make it. We have all encountered comments by some people that the universe evolved from nothing. However, if there ever had been a time when absolutely nothing existed, then there would be nothing now, because it always is true that nothing produces nothing. If something exists now, then something has always existed.

Continuing this thought that had there ever been a time when absolutely nothing existed, then there would be nothing now, eliminates the concept that anything but a who was the cause for creating the universe. If that someone exists now, then that someone has always existed.

The Bible clearly states that *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."* (Genesis 1:1) *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1)* In the very first verse we have the total litmus test of God. If this statement is true, than the entire Bible must be true. If this statement is false, than there must be another entity that has eternally existed and was the cause of the origin of the universe. There is another law that states there can only be one God, which eliminates competition on who is the creator, but we shall forego that discussion for now.

Our quick analysis indicate:

- The universe exists and is real
- Cause and effect are at the root of the origin of this universe
- The universe did not come into existence by itself.
- Nothing created is the cause of the origin of the universe.
- An eternal entity created the universe.
- There are no multiple eternal entities.
- God is undoubtedly an adequate cause, since He is omniscient, all-powerful, infinite, immense, etc.
 - *Acts 17:24 records: "The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; "*
 - *Exodus 20:11 notes: "For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and made it holy."*
 - *In Genesis 17:1, God told Abraham "Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; Walk before Me, and be blameless*

- He came before this material world, fulfilling the criteria that the cause must come before the effect. The psalmist wrote: *“Before the mountains were born Or You gave birth to the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.” (Psalm 90:2).*
- And He definitely would instill within mankind the concept of morality, since He is a God of morals. *“Titus 1:2 in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago,”* says that God cannot lie.

Only our all powerful omniscience God fits the criteria as an adequate cause that came before the Universe.

GOD’S FOREKNOWLEDGE

In regards to things future, or to come, God’s omniscience knowledge is called foreknowledge or prescience (*according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure. 1 Peter 1:2).*

Predestination is founded on the prescience of God and on the supposition of all future events being present to Him instantly, always and completely. If we allow that God from all eternity foresaw all things, He must thus have foreseen them in consequence of His permitting or foreappointing them. Hence events are not certain merely because foreknown; but foreknown because they are certain on account of predetermining reasons. For example, God predetermined that all who accept Christ as Lord and savior would be conformed to the image of Christ and would be adopted as sons of God and joint-heir with Jesus. This presupposes there will be a group of people who accept Christ as Lord and Savior and a group of people who will not. The group accepting Christ are predestined and the group not accepting Christ are not predestined to be conformed to the image of Christ nor adopted as sons of God. Therefore God foreknew all who were predestined and knew all those who were not predestined.

GOD’S WISDOM

Wisdom presupposes knowledge, and is the practical use which understanding makes of knowledge. This is determined by God’s will. God’s wisdom is infinite and eternal. It is the selection of the highest possible end, the manifestation of the glory of God. It is involved in selecting and directing in every area of His operations the best possible means to secure that end.

Such wisdom is shown to us in the great acts of creation, providence and grace.

Is God’s omniscience a communicable attribute? The absolute knowledge that is in God is obviously incommunicable to any other, for to suppose that a creature would be all-knowing is to attribute infinity to that creature, which is absurd for any created creature. God’s wisdom is incommunicable because this attribute of God is constantly connected in Scripture with His omnipresence, and forms a part of almost every description of that attribute; for, as God is a Spirit, and therefore intelligent, if He is everywhere, if nothing can exclude Him, not even the most solid bodies, nor the minds of intelligent beings, then all things are open to the eyes of God. Where He acts, He is; and where He is, He perceives.

God understands and considers things absolutely (not relatively, like us). He sees things as they really are in their own natures, powers, properties, differences, together with all the circumstances belonging to them.

“Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world. (Acts 15:18 NKJV)” They are known from all eternity, before they were made, in their possible, and known, now they are made, in their actual, existence. This type of knowledge is therefore incommunicable.

Angels and human being have some knowledge, limited and growing; it is grounded upon God’s knowledge and derived from God, totally dependent on God’s unlimited knowledge.

GOD'S SPECULATIVE KNOWLEDGE

“The speculative knowledge of God” refers to such divine knowledge when the truth of a thing is known without respect to any working or practical operation.

The knowledge of things possible in/with/by God is only speculative. Sometimes it is called a practical knowledge because it tends to operation and practice. It is the principle of working about things that are known. It is the knowledge God has of the things He has decreed, terminating in the act of creation, which is not a natural and necessary act (for God), as the loving Himself, and delighting in Himself is. Creation was wholly free, for it was at His liberty whether He would create or not. “It is He who made the earth by His power, Who established the world by His wisdom; And by His understanding He has stretched out the heavens.” (Jeremiah 10:12).

So God's speculative knowledge is the knowledge whereby He knows the essence, qualities, and properties of what He creates and governs. By such knowledge His glory is enhanced, and the common good of the world over which He resides is assured. Only God has such knowledge. Speculative knowledge then is God's knowledge of Himself and things possible. Practical knowledge is His knowledge of His creatures and things governable; yet this practical knowledge is not only of things that are made, but of things which are possible, which God might make, though He will not.

GOD'S KNOWLEDGE OF SIN AND JUDGEMENTS

Not only does God know all details about every creature but also about all their actions, most particularly the ways of men. Not only does God know all the actions of creatures, so He knows all the thoughts of them. He knows man thoroughly and their evilness. “*Does He not see my ways And number all my steps? (Job 31:4)* Their wanderings are known to Him. He sees all their goings. He carefully thinks about man and his behavior before making a decision or reaching a conclusion.

- *Psalms 56:8 You have taken account of my wanderings; Put my tears in Your bottle. Are they not in Your book?*
- *Job 31:4 ““Does He not see my ways And number all my steps?*
- *Job 34:21 “For His eyes are upon the ways of a man, And He sees all his steps.*
- *Proverbs 5:21 For the ways of a man are before the eyes of the LORD, And He watches all his paths.*
- *Psalms 7:9 O let the evil of the wicked come to an end, but establish the righteous; For the righteous God tries the hearts and minds.*
- *Proverbs 15:11 Sheol and Abaddon lie open before the LORD, How much more the hearts of men!*
- *Psalms 139:2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar.*

God being omniscient, is also holy and righteous. If He were not all-knowing, He could not be the Judge of all the earth, but since nothing is concealed from His eyes, He, being omnipotent, is able to exercise His justice and equity unto all. He examines us by the standard of His law. |He will render to each one according to his deeds, and according to the imagination of his heart, for God who fashioned the heart, understands the motions of it

- *Psalms 33:13 The LORD looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men;*
- *Psalms 33:15 He who fashions the hearts of them all, He who understands all their works*

This is the glory of God at the last day, “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.” (1 Corinthians 4:5). And the prophet Jeremiah links the power of judging, the omniscience of God and the prerogative of trying the hearts together: “But, O LORD of hosts, who judges righteously, Who tries the feelings and the heart, Let me see Your vengeance on them, For to You have I committed my cause.” (Jeremiah 11:20). Furthermore: “I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give to each man according to his ways, According to the results of his deeds. (Jeremiah 17:10).

Judgement is reserved for the Last Day. we should not think that God is indifferent or somehow grown careless to righteousness, while we witness the level of injustice surrounding us today. The Judge of all the earth will certainly do right; He knows the difference between right and wrong. He keeps record, and though we may suffer injustice from the hands of man, being defrauded of what is ours, we may assure ourselves that God will right all wrongs, for He knows about them unfailingly, completely and infintely.

Unbelievers may arrogantly assume that they can get away with despising God’s law forever. They think that they can go on enjoying the fleeting pleasures of sin, and nobody notices. But God does! God’s laws require that sin be punished and either man or Jesus will pay the price of sin. And it is with Him that everyone will have to settle accounts. Either as Saved by Jesus or a rejector of Jesus.

IMPLICATION IF GOD HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF FUTURE EVENTS

God knows all future things, all things to come. Everything which is the object of God’s knowledge without Himself was once only future.

If this were not so, then all the prophecies in the Bible, at least those which have already been fulfilled, have no explanations whatsoever. If God does not know the future, then who does? If the Creator is lacking, how much more the creature that came from His hands? Who wrote the happenings of the future? How could it be done? It would remain for us an enormous mystery.

Again, what about the prophecies in the Bible that still await fulfilment? If God were not omniscient, how can we believe them? And if we defer from believing them, then we are acting as judges over the Word of God, editing here and there according to our whims. This would blasphemously imply that we are stronger than God.

If God is ignorant of the future, than we mortals are in this respect, at least, greater than God. For we know some things still future. We know when the next solar eclipse will happen; we know when the next elections will take place, and so on. Some future things are known by men; and we must allow God a greater knowledge than any creature.

Again, if God is unaware of the future, then His eternal decree comes to nothing. It could not be true, for in decreeing and determining all things whatsoever, He must know the future. If He doesn’t then His decree of creations, providence and grace is a fiction. But to admit this is the height of impiety.

Another point: if God did not know all future things, He would be mutable in His knowledge, and therefore a changeable God. He would be becoming better and better every day, graduating from relative ignorance to relative intelligibility. But a mutable God is not infinite, and therefore no God at all.

If God were ignorant of the future, He would naturally be ignorant of all contingencies. He would not know all things that shall accidentally happen. We speak about chance happenings, for in our ignorance they so appear. But the Scripture affirms that God knows and even arranges all contingencies to happen (1 Kings 22:39). Is the Scripture therefore at fault? If we admit this we would be destroying the very foundations of our faith.

GOD'S KNOWLEDGE BRINGS COMFORT TO CHRISTIANS.

The Christian is a person born of the Spirit, and has a citizenship in heaven; God the Father is his father in heaven, and he is adopted into His family.

Now since God has an infinite knowledge and understanding, and is all-powerful, then the providence exercised by God in the world must be for His benefit (*Romans 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose*). For no father would neglect to provide for the wants of his family. God is omniscient and therefore sees all things; He is good, and therefore does not neglect the welfare of His children. He conducts everything to the appointed end, and included in that end is the gathering of His church and its final glorification.

Furthermore, our knowing about God's omniscience is comforting because of the Day of Judgement. God knows those who are His, and He will certainly own them at the last day, and they will be manifested for what they truly are, the sons of God. For this great event every mature Christian longs with anticipation. His wrath will not consume us then, for Christ has already bore the curse on our behalf. The books will indeed be opened, but His people, whose names are written in the book of life, will be vindicated, for there is "*no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus*" (*Romans 8:1*). God knows about it, for it is He Himself who justifies believers.

- *Romans 8:19 For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God.*
- *Daniel 12:10 Many will be purged, purified and refined, but the wicked will act wickedly; and none of the wicked will understand, but those who have insight will understand.*
- *Romans 8:31-33 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? 33 Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies;*

God's knowledge is a source of unspeakable comfort to Christians because they thus are convinced that our standing before Him is not because of anything done by us (for in us dwells no good thing), but in Christ alone, who is made for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption. God knows our estate, our thoughts, our deeds; such knowledge drives us incessantly to cling to the Lord Jesus, to His righteousness imputed to us, and nothing else.

Our knowledge that God is omniscient should fill us with wonder, awe and praise. It is so comforting to own the all-seeing Jehovah as the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. He knows us by name, He knows our temptations and thus provides us a way to escape; He knows our cares and invites us to lay them before Him; though we do not know our future, our God knows it well enough. This thought should eliminate all anxiety as we approach the throne of grace with thanksgiving.

- *1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.*
- *1 Peter 5:10 After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.*
- *Philippians 4:6-7 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*