



Cherreguine Bible Doctrine Ministries

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THE OMNISCIENCE OF GOD

The key for understanding the divine decree is the knowledge of God's omniscience. God has three kinds of knowledge:

Self-knowledge: God knows Himself; He has never had to learn anything about Himself. His self-knowledge has always been perfect, total and complete. He is aware of His own essence and the infinite capabilities of each Members of the Trinity.

Omniscience. God knows at the same time all things outside Himself. God knows all things about every person in the universe. God knows everything both the actual and the possible. The actual are those that He foreordained, decreed and programmed to happen, while the possible are those things that could have happened but did not happen and will never happen. The possible includes the decisions that will not materialize because God knows that you will not make such decision and therefore, God did not decree it to happen.

Foreknowledge: This subcategory of God's cognizance acknowledges only what is decreed, but foreknowledge does not make the decree certain. Foreknowledge is the printout of the actual facts (not the possibilities) related to the volition of the believer. The Scripture to unbelievers never applies foreknowledge.

God knows perfectly, eternally, infinitely and simultaneously all that is knowable, both the actual and the possible. God always knew about everything. Because He is eternal-His knowledge is eternal. Because God is sovereign -His knowledge is in control of all creation. Because God is superior -His knowledge is superior to our inferior knowledge of Bible doctrines.

His superior knowledge is far greater than human knowledge or intellect. The only link between our inferior knowledge and God's superior knowledge is the Bible doctrine. The minutest details of both the angelic and human history is perfectly and completely in the mind of God at all times. He perfect omniscience of God perceives the free as free, the necessary as necessary, together with their causes, conditions, effects and relations as one individual system of things, every link of which is essential to the integrity of the whole.

God perfectly knows every relation between each cause and effect. Every cause and effect is related to another cause and effect. God is never puzzled or confused by any twist of circumstances or events. Since human volition is the uncaused cause of the human function so that the course of history depends on the will of men.¹

The course of human history is simply as man thinks, wills it or does it. That is why; man has no reason for complaining, for falling apart, for failing in a crisis, left out or for feeling sorry for himself because God has already provided everything we need related to spiritual growth and existence in the world.

¹ Book 2 pages 13-18

The infinite knowledge of God is not limited by time and time does not limit God's knowledge- because for Him, the future is as perspicuous as the past. God created time and time is in God but God is not in time.

The perfect omniscience of God knows the valid alternative to human history both the possible and the actual. God knows what would have been involved in every case where a man's decision might have been different from what it was. God knew which way you would choose to go and decreed only the very things that would become reality but He knows exactly all the repercussions of each alternative.

GOD is all knowing or omniscience (which comes from the Latin OMNI, which means all, and SCIENTIA meaning knowledge. God is perfectly wise –His wisdom is perfect. He knows perfectly and eternally all that is knowable, whether actual or merely possible.

God knows everything that has been known or ever will be known. Never was there a time when God did not know everything that is knowable –He never learns anything because He has always known everything [Proverbs 15:3, Isaiah 36:9-10, 1 John 3:20].

The omniscience of God is both eternal and infinite –He has always known everything and there is nothing that He does not know [Acts 15:18]. The omniscience of God has complete and absolute knowledge of everything that is knowable and unknown to us. Everything is totally comprehensible to the infinite God. The Bible reveals only a small fraction of God's perfect knowledge for us to know and understands Romans 11:33].

The omniscience of God is perfectly wise –and has absolute knowledge of everything since maximum knowledge belongs to the Omniscience of God [Ephesians 3:10]. Every detail of all creation and history is in God's mind at all times and always has been from the eternity past. This is God's mentality connected with His infinity. The future is as clear as the past.

God foreknows the future –since all events take place according to His counsel (or what we called divine decree). God foreknows, but His foreknowledge is not predetermined.

God knows every step you will take, but He never interferes with human volition. He foreknows the function of every free will. He knows what every being will choose and He knows which way each person will decide in the function of his free will in every situation of life. Although God never interferes with free will, God is gracious and all wise, so, He may determine which choice is made through His gracious influence through:

- A. Bible doctrine resident in the soul of the believer.
- B. God's control of the variable of life that are beyond human control.
- C. God's direct control of human history.

God's perfect knowledge (omniscience) is not subject to development, reasoning, regretting, foreboding and revising, because His omniscience is always total and perfect, therefore it cannot be develop beyond what is already is.

God knows all the conclusions as well as the premises; hence, even though He is totally reasonable and rational in all things, He never needs to reason out. We can never second-guess God. There is no way we can improve on His system. We can simply go along with His perfectly wise policy (which He designed for our best interest) or reject it, – in such case, His perfect plan goes right along without us.

Although His omniscience transcends time and eternity, His perfect knowledge of all events before they occur does not violate or interfere with human volition. By divine design human beings are free agents who can choose to partake of God's grace or reject Him. Making every person personally accountable to God for every decision and action that has been made. Under the omniscience of God, there is no such thing as FATE OR BAD LUCK because all events take place according to His counsel (the divine decree) and our present is the result of our previous decisions that we have made.

God knows what would have been involved in every case where a man's decision might have been different from what it was. Divine omniscience knows every thought, decisions, and action in human history, how they all relate to each other and how they relate to all the possible alternatives.

The foreknowledge of God makes nothing certain but merely acknowledges what is certain. It knows what is already in the decrees regarding believers only. In the foreknowledge nothing can be certain until it is first decreed- only then can what will happen be foreknown. God knows all actual events as certainly the future because He has decreed them to be certainly futurity.

God decrees relate equally to all future events of every kind:

1. To the free actions of moral agents or to the action of necessary agents
2. To the sinful human good and evil
3. To the morally correct divine good and honorable.

The divine decrees alone establish certainly. For believers-foreordination, predestination, elections are synonymous with the decrees. Foreknowledge is an act of the infinite and perfect wisdom of God in determining the certain futurities of events in the life of the believer. In the eternity past, the omniscience of God fed into the decree all the facts of reality (not the possible) simultaneously, not in stages. The decrees have become the complete and consummated right of the sovereignty of God determining the certain futurities of all things in human history.

No decree can become complete without the sovereignty of God. Because He knows the end from the beginning -God wills certain things to happen. Many areas of the decrees have been fulfilled historically, up to and including this present moment, but all were future when decreed, including those events that have been fulfilled.

No event is directly caused by the decree. The decree merely establishes what will be caused, but the decree is not the cause. The fact that a thought or action on your part is in the decree does not mean that the decree caused you to think or do it. The cause is your free will -your volition. Your thoughts are in the decree because in the eternity past. God had the perfect wisdom to know what you would think and to not omit from His planning the fact that you would think it.

Because of the free will of act of man, the decree provides the following: The agent shall be a free agent. Since God provided man with free will, the decree establishes volition never coercing anyone's decision-creating everyone accountable for his own decisions and actions. All the antecedents of the act in question shall be what they are. Whenever a decision is made it shall be the result of decisions previously made. Once something happens, that is - It is part of the system of cause and effect -it becomes part of the basis for other things happening and down the line.

All present conditions of the act shall be what they are. God is not going to make reality suddenly vanish or become different or reverse itself. God enables us to orient ourselves to reality and to face the facts. What God decreed shall come to pass without changing its course.² The act shall be perfectly spontaneous and free on the part of the agent without coercion and compulsion. The act shall be certainly future. That is, it will definitely take place, as certain, after the decree is given. Wishful thinking cannot change what has already occurred.

² Book 2 pages 1-6