God Is Omniscient

Intro: Omniscient is from omni meaning “all,” and then the Latin verb scire meaning, “to know” (this is where we get science). Thus omniscient refers to the capacity of “knowing all things.” We are affirming that God has complete knowledge of everything knowable; He is all-knowing. God’s omniscience is closely tied to His eternality.

I. Scriptures Affirm God’s Omniscience
   A. He has perfect knowledge of all human experience.
      1. Job 42:2 “I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee.”
      2. 1 Chr. 28:9 “And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.”
      3. Heb. 4:13 “Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.”
      4. God knew what Abraham would do as a father; Gen. 18:19 “For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.”
      5. Spoken of Jesus also; John 2:24-25 “But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men. And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man.”
         a. In John 3, Jesus answered Nicodemus’ question before he could ask it.
         b. In John 4, Jesus told the Samaritan woman about her life.
   B. His knowledge includes the moral choices man makes.
      1. Pharaoh
         a. Exo. 3:19-20 “And I am sure that the king of Egypt will not let you go, no, not by a mighty hand. And I will stretch out my hand, and smite Egypt with all my wonders which I will do in the midst thereof: and after that he will let you go.”
         b. He knew the choices Pharaoh would make and what would happen that would cause him to change his mind.
      2. Cyrus
         a. Isa. 44:28 “That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.”
         b. He knew that Cyrus would allow the Israelites to return from captivity to rebuild the temple (Isaiah written over 150 years prior to Cyrus’ birth).
      3. Jesus knowledge:
         a. Judas would betray Him; Mat. 26:20-25 “Now when the even was come, he sat down with the twelve. And as they did eat, he said, Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me. And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say unto him, Lord, is it I? And he answered and said, He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me. The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born. Then Judas, which betrayed him, answered and said, Master, is it I? He said unto him, Thou hast said.”
         b. Peter would deny Him; Mat. 26:33-34 “Peter answered and said unto him, Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended. Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.”


C. All the predictive prophesies
   1. Isa. 46:8-11 "Remember this, and shew yourselves men: bring it again to mind, O ye transgressors. 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: Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it."
   2. God knows the end from the beginning.
      a. In prophecy, there must be certainty.
      b. Certainty requires perfect and infinite knowledge.

D. Neither can God forget anything—would take away his omniscience.
   1. Heb. 8:12 “For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.”
   2. God does not forget our sins, instead He does not hold us accountable for them, or will not bring them up again.

II. PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS OF GOD’S OMNISCIENCE
A. God knows our thoughts.
   1. He knows how we feel about things and people, our attitudes, the actions we have done, are doing, or are planning on doing.
      a. Gen 6:5 “And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”
      b. Psa. 139:2-3 “Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways.”
      c. Acts 1:24 “And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen,”
   2. Even the thoughts of the evil
      a. In the midst of His executing judgment; Isa. 66:18 “For I know their works and their thoughts: it shall come, that I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come, and see my glory.”
      b. Mat. 9:4 “And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?”
   3. Thus, we must watch what we think.
      a. Pro. 4:23 “Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.”
      b. Pro. 23:7 “For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.”
      c. Phi. 4:8 “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”
B. God knows what we say.
   1. Man is to control his tongue.
      a. Pro. 18:21 “Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.”
      b. Jam. 3:2-6, 8 “For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body. Behold, we put bits in the horses’ mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body. Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth. Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a
matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell... But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.”

2. Abstain from profanity:
   a. Exo. 20:7 “Thou shalt not take the name of the L ORD thy God in vain; for the L ORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.”
   b. God’s name is to be held in reverence; Mat. 6:9 “After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.”

3. Make sure we do not misuse the tongue:
   a. Mat. 12:35-37 “A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.”
   b. Eph. 4:31 “Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice;”
   c. Col. 3:8 “But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.”

4. We must speak the truth:
   a. Eph. 4:25, 29 “Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.... Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.”
   b. Col. 4:6 “Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.”

5. God knows what is being preached.
   a. He knows if we are preaching and teaching the truth.
   b. 2 Tim. 4:2 “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.”
   c. 1 Pet. 4:11 “If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”
   d. We must preach all of God’s Word; Acts 20:27 “For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.”

C. God knows our actions: good and bad.

1. God sees everything we do.
   a. Pro. 15:3 “The eyes of the L ORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.”
   b. Psa. 139:7-10 “Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.”

2. God sees all the evil men commit.
   a. God saw Adam and Eve eat of the forbidden fruit and then hid themselves from Him; Gen. 3
   b. He saw Cain kill Abel; Gen. 4
   c. He saw the evils of Sodom and Gomorrah; Gen. 18-19
   d. He knew Nadab and Abihu’s sin of offering strange fire to Him; Lev. 10.
   e. He saw the man gathering sticks on the Sabbath; Num. 15.
   f. He knew of Saul’s failure to destroy the Amalekites; 1 Sam. 15.
3. God sees all the good that men do.
   a. He saw Abel offer an acceptable sacrifice; Gen. 4
   b. He knew of Noah's faithfulness to Him; Gen. 6
   c. He saw Abraham obey His will numerous times.
   d. He knew of Moses' continued faithfulness.
   e. God saw David's faith and courage in battling Goliath.
   f. He saw the faithfulness, labors, and persecutions of all His prophets.
   g. He saw the faithfulness of Shadrach, Meshack, and Abednego as they defied king Nebuchadnezzar's orders and were cast into the fiery furnace.
   h. He knew the prayerfulness of Daniel with the result of being cast in the Lion's den.
   i. He sees our obedience to Him and every good deed we do.

   (1) Mat. 10:42 “And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.”

   (2) There is no need to advertise our goodness; Mat. 6:1-6 “Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly. And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.”

D. God knows the sufferings and sorrows that we endure.

1. God knows every tear we shed.
   a. Psa. 56:8 “Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: are they not in thy book?”
   b. Psa. 103:13-14 “Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.”

2. Jesus was also touched by man's sorrow.
   a. John 11:35 “Jesus wept.”
   b. Heb. 2:18 “For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.”

3. God knows about the sorrows of old age.
   a. Psa. 71:9 “Cast me not off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength faileth.”
   b. Isa. 46:4 “And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you.”

4. God took notice:
   a. Abel's blood; Gen. 4:10 “And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.”
   b. Of the trials of Noah and his family as he prepared the ark
   c. The hardships of the patriarchs as they dwelt in tents
   d. Of Joseph:
      (1) Sold into slavery
      (2) Lied about by Potiphar’s wife
(3) Thrown into prison
(4) Forgotten by the chief butler after he revealed his dream to him
e. Job's patient endurance of the suffering he went through
f. What Moses went through as leading the Israelites—rebellion, discouragement, murmuring and complaining
g. David's struggles to survive the plots of Saul
h. Of the weeping prophet, Jeremiah, being thrown into the miry pit
i. Of the only begotten Son:
   (1) His temptation in the wilderness; Mat. 4:11 "Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him."
   (2) His pleas at Gethsemane, and was sent an angel; Luke 22:43 "And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him."
   (3) As he suffered on the cross, God shrouded the earth with darkness, and shook the earth with an earthquake
j. Stephen's stoning, so Jesus stood; Acts 7:56 "And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God."
k. God knows every heartache, every pain and anguish, every ounce of human misery, He perceives, understands.

5. Not only does God know, He is sympathetic to the human condition:
   a. Psa. 142:4-5 "I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me: refuge failed me; no man cared for my soul. I cried unto thee, O LORD: I said, Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living."
   b. Psa. 46:1 "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."
   c. 2 Cor. 1:3-4 "Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God."
   d. Heb. 13:5-6 "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."

E. God knows what we need.

1. Ecc. 2:26 "For God giveth to a man that is good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy: but to the sinner he giveth travail, to gather and to heap up, that he may give to him that is good before God. This also is vanity and vexation of spirit."

2. As the creator of man, He knows the needs of His creation.

3. Man's physical needs:
   a. Psa. 37:25 "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread."
   b. Mat. 6:25-34 "Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of
God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. 33Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."

4. Man needs peace:
   a. John 14:27 “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”
   b. Phi. 4:7 “And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

5. Man needs joy:
   a. Phi. 3:1; 4:4 “Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe.... 4Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.”
   b. 1 Thc. 5:16 “Rejoice evermore.”

6. Man needs purpose in life:
   a. Ecc. 12:13 “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.”
   b. Acts 17:27 “That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:”
   c. 1 Cor. 6:20 “For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”

7. Man needs security:
   a. Rom. 8:31 “What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?”
   b. Heb. 13:5-6 “Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.”

8. Man needs salvation:
   a. Man is lost because of sin:
      (1) Rom. 3:23 “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”
      (2) Rom. 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”
   b. God identified the problem and provided the only solution:
      (1) Eph. 2:4-10 “But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 4Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 5And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: 6That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. 7For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 8Not of works, lest any man should boast. 9For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”
      (2) It cost the blood of the only begotten Son of God
         (a) Heb. 2:9 “But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.”
         (b) 1 Pet. 1:18-19 “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; 19But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:”
Through our obedient faith in Him, we can take away our sin problem.

(a) Heb. 11:6 “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

(b) Repent; Luke 13:3 “I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”

(c) Confess Christ’s name; Mat. 10:32-33 “Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. 33But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.”

(d) Baptized to wash away sin; Acts 22:16 “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”

c. Rom. 3:23-26 “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; 24Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: 25Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; 26To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.”

F. God knows right from wrong—He defines morality.

1. Man often tries to set himself up as the standard.
   a. Humanist Manifesto 2 states: “As nontheists, we begin with humans not God, nature not deity.... Promises of immortal salvation or fear of eternal damnation are both illusory and harmful.... We affirm that moral values derive their source from human experience. Ethics is autonomous and situational needing no theological or ideological sanction. Ethics stems from human need and interest.”
   b. Pro. 14:12 “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”
   c. Jer. 10:23 “O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.”

2. Man does not have that type of wisdom.
   a. Isa. 55:8-9 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. 8For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.”
   b. 1 Cor. 1:19-20, 25 “For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. 20Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?... 25Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.”
   c. 1 Sam. 2:3 “Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let not arrogancy come out of your mouth: for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.”

3. We should accept what He says regarding religious life and what is right and wrong since He is all wise and all knowing.

Conclusion: With such an omniscient God, we should humbly submit to his will in all things.