

## *Why You Just Cannot Teach God Anything*

### **Isaiah 40:12-14**

#### **I. Introduction**

##### **A. Isaiah 40:1-31**

##### **B. The Importance of right views of God**

- A W Tozer—*“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”*
- Today’s truth to digest: *God knows everything about everything and everybody all the time—he always has and he always will!*

#### **II. Why You Just Cannot Teach God Anything**

##### **A. God’s knowledge is complete**

##### **1. Isaiah 40:12**

##### **2. These rhetorical questions are meant to provide their own easy answers:**

- a. Who (but God) has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand?
- b. Who (but God) has marked off the heavens with a span?
- c. Who (but God) has enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure?
- d. Who (but God) has weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance?
- e. The point of these questions is to show that the immense and omnipotent God knows everything there is to know about everything!

##### **3. Looking elsewhere in Isaiah (and the Bible) we see that God’s knowledge extends to:**

##### **a. Future human choices**

- Unbelief (Isaiah 6:8-10)
- Political decisions (Cyrus-Isaiah 44:28; 45:1ff; 19:2; 36:7)
- Rejection of the Messiah (Isaiah 53)
- Faith (Isaiah 2:3; 12:1-3; 17:7; 19:21-24)
- [In other parts of the Bible human choices like] Judas’ betrayal; Pharaoh’s hardness; the Jews rejection of Christ at Roman hands; the rise and fall of powerful evil kingdoms—all these and more are explicitly foretold!

##### **b. Future human events**

- Isaiah 14:24; 42:9; 44:6-8
- Various and sundry judgments
- Exile
- Restoration
- Virgin birth, name, calling, kingdom, sufferings, death, resurrection of the Messiah
- *“God not only knows whatsoever has happened in the past in every part of His vast domains, and He is not only thoroughly acquainted with everything that is now transpiring throughout the entire universe, but He is also perfectly cognizant with every event, from the least to the greatest, that ever will happen in the ages to come. God’s knowledge of the future is as complete as is His knowledge of the past and the present, and that, because the future depends entirely upon Himself. Were it in anywise possible for something to occur apart from either the direct agency or permission of God, then that something would be independent of Him, and He would at once cease to be Supreme.” (A.W. Pink).*

##### **c. If we learn from Jesus we see that God even knows with certainty what might and would have been—if God had chosen a different course for his plan in history:**

- If given the same chance that the cities of his day had, “Sodom and Capernaum would have repented...”

##### **d. The secrets of the heart**

- God knows when we are contrite of heart, and when we're not (Isaiah 57:15; 59:12, 13; 66:2)
- Psalm 139:4—He knows our words even before we speak them
- Hebrews 4:13—secrets of the heart are naked and bare—totally exposed to the eye of God!!

**B. *God's knowledge is intuitive (unlearned) (Isaiah 40:13, 14)***

**1. We see this in the questions asked:**

- Who has measured (directed) the Spirit of the Lord?
- What man shows him counsel?
- Whom did he consult?
- Who made him understand?
- Who taught him the path of justice?
- [Who] taught him knowledge/
- [Who] showed him the way of understanding?

**2. Romans 11:33, 34—*“Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?”***

**3. Wayne Grudem defines God's omniscience in this way: *“God fully knows himself and all things actual and possible in one simple and eternal act.”***

**III. Implications and Applications**

**A. The truth of God's omniscience does *not* negate our choices or moral responsibility.**

**B. The truth of God's omniscience inspires awe.**

**C. The reality of God's omniscience issues a warning.**

**D. The truth of God's omniscience provides us with comfort.**

**E. The truth of God's omniscience magnifies (and secures us in) God's grace!**