

THE TRANSCENDENT KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM OF GOD

As we mature in knowledge and wisdom by God's grace, and in our study of God's Word, we must be careful to remember that God, along with the knowledge and wisdom which belong to Him, transcend the limits and boundaries of human comprehension. We must not allow Satan to distract and derail us by sending us off in search of answers which are beyond us. God has, and will provide all that we need to obey His commands, to meet life's challenges, and for proper relationship with Him (2Pe 1:3; 2Co 9:8).

NOTE: See separate study entitled "[Christian Maturity](#)."

Secrets and mysteries beyond human understanding

- Dt 29:29a The secret things belong to the LORD our God,
1Co 4:1 So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God.
- Judg 13:18 He replied, "Why do you ask my name? It is beyond understanding."
Job 36:26 How great is God-beyond our understanding! The number of his years is past finding out.
Job 36:29 Who can understand how he spreads out the clouds, how he thunders from his pavilion?
Job 37:5 God's voice thunders in marvelous ways; he does great things beyond our understanding.
- Pr 30:18-19 "There are three things that are too amazing for me, four that I do not understand: ¹⁹the way of an eagle in the sky, the way of a snake on a rock, the way of a ship on the high seas, and the way of a man with a maiden.
- Ecc 3:11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.
- Ecc 11:5 As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother's womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things.
- Dan 8:27 I, Daniel, was exhausted and lay ill for several days. Then I got up and went about the king's business. I was appalled by the vision; it was beyond understanding.
- Jn 16:15-18 All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you. ¹⁶"In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me." ¹⁷Some of his disciples said to one another, "What does he mean by saying, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me,' and 'Because I am going to the Father'?" ¹⁸They kept asking, "What does he mean by 'a little while'? We don't understand what he is saying."

Phl 4:7a And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding,
 Eph 3:19a and to know this love that surpasses knowledge-
 1Ti 3:16 Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: He appeared in a
 body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached
 among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.
 Job 37:23a The Almighty is beyond our reach and exalted in power;

Hidden knowledge and wisdom

Mt 13:34-36 Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable. ³⁵So was fulfilled what was spoken through the prophet: "I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter things hidden since the creation of the world." ³⁶Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field."
 Jer 33:3 'Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.'
 Mk 4:22 For whatever is hidden is meant to be disclosed, and whatever is concealed is meant to be brought out into the open.
 Lk 8:17 For there is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be known or brought out into the open.
 Lk 9:44-45 "Listen carefully to what I am about to tell you: The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men." ⁴⁵But they did not understand what this meant. It was hidden from them, so that they did not grasp it, and they were afraid to ask him about it.
 Lk 18:34 The disciples did not understand any of this. Its meaning was hidden from them, and they did not know what he was talking about.
 Lk 19:41-42 As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it ⁴²and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace-but now it is hidden from your eyes."
 Col 2:2-3 My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, ³in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

God knows all things

Ps 139:1-4 O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. ²You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. ³You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. ⁴Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD.
 Ps 139:15-16 My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, ¹⁶your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.
 Ps 139:23-24 Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. ²⁴See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.
 Isa 41:21-28 "Present your case," says the LORD. "Set forth your arguments," says Jacob's King. ²²"Bring in [your idols] to tell us what is going to happen. Tell us what the former things were, so that we may consider them and know their final outcome. Or declare to us the things to come, ²³tell us what the

future holds, so we may know that you are gods. Do something, whether good or bad, so that we will be dismayed and filled with fear. ²⁴But you are less than nothing and your works are utterly worthless; he who chooses you is detestable. ²⁵"I have stirred up one from the north, and he comes-- one from the rising sun who calls on my name. He treads on rulers as if they were mortar, as if he were a potter treading the clay. ²⁶Who told of this from the beginning, so we could know, or beforehand, so we could say, 'He was right'? No one told of this, no one foretold it, no one heard any words from you. ²⁷I was the first to tell Zion, 'Look, here they are!' I gave to Jerusalem a messenger of good tidings. ²⁸I look but there is no one-- no one among them to give counsel, no one to give answer when I ask them.

Isa 42:9

See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you."

Isa 48:3-5

I foretold the former things long ago, my mouth announced them and I made them known; then suddenly I acted, and they came to pass. ⁴For I knew how stubborn you were; the sinews of your neck were iron, your forehead was bronze. ⁵Therefore I told you these things long ago; before they happened I announced them to you so that you could not say, 'My idols did them; my wooden image and metal god ordained them.'

Lk 10:18

He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.

Jn 6:64

Yet there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him.

Jn 16:29-30

Then Jesus' disciples said, "Now you are speaking clearly and without figures of speech. ³⁰Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God."

Jn 21:17a-c

The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."

1Jn 3:20b

For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

Act 15:8

God, who knows the heart, (showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us.)

Ps 44:20-21

If we had forgotten the name of our God or spread out our hands to a foreign god, ²¹would not God have discovered it, since he knows the secrets of the heart?

1Co 4:5b

wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts.

Heb 4:13

Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Pr 15:3

The eyes of the LORD are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good.

Ecc 12:14

For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

Jer 16:17

My eyes are on all their ways; they are not hidden from me, nor is their sin concealed from my eyes.

Rev 22:13

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

Revelation, according to God's purpose, plan and timing

- Dt 29:29b but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.
- Rom 1:19-20 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities-his eternal power and divine nature-have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.
- Dan 2:19-23 During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven ²⁰and said: "Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his. ²¹He changes times and seasons; he sets up kings and deposes them. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. ²²He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him. ²³I thank and praise you, O God of my fathers: You have given me wisdom and power, you have made known to me what we asked of you, you have made known to us the dream of the king."
- Dan 2:27-28a Daniel replied, "No wise man, enchanter, magician or diviner can explain to the king the mystery he has asked about, ²⁸but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries.
- Dan 8:26 "The vision of the evenings and mornings that has been given you is true, but seal up the vision, for it concerns the distant future."
- (Rev 22:10 Then he told me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, because the time is near.)
- Isa 46:9b-11 I am God, and there is none like me. ¹⁰I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please. ¹¹From the east I summon a bird of prey; from a far-off land, a man to fulfill my purpose. What I have said, that will I bring about; what I have planned, that will I do.
- Isa 48:6b-7 "From now on I will tell you of new things, of hidden things unknown to you. ⁷They are created now, and not long ago; you have not heard of them before today. So you cannot say, 'Yes, I knew of them.'
- Heb 1:1-2a In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son,
- Eph 1:9 And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ,
- Eph 3:4-6 In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. ⁶This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.
- Eph 3:8-11 Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- Tit 1:3 and at his appointed season he brought his word to light through the preaching entrusted to me by the command of God our Savior,
- Col 1:25-27 I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness- ²⁶the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. ²⁷To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.
- Rom 16:25-27 Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, ²⁶but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all nations might believe and obey him- ²⁷to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.
- 1Pe 1:10-12 Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, ¹¹trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. ¹²It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.
- Mt 11:25-26 At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. ²⁶Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure.
- Mt 11:27 "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.
- Mt 16:17 Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven.
- Jn 13:7 Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."
- 1Pe 1:20-21 He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. ²¹Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

The wisdom and knowledge of God transcend human comprehension

- Rom 11:33-34 Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! ³⁴"Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?"
- Isa 40:13-14, 21-22a, 25, 28 Who has understood the mind of the LORD, or instructed him as his counselor? ¹⁴Whom did the LORD consult to enlighten him, and who taught him the right way? Who was it that taught him knowledge or showed him the path of understanding? ... ²¹Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood since the earth was founded? ²²He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, ... ²⁵"To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One. ... ²⁸Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.

- Job 11:7-9 "Can you fathom the mysteries of God? Can you probe the limits of the Almighty? ⁸They are higher than the heavens-what can you do? They are deeper than the depths of the grave-what can you know? ⁹Their measure is longer than the earth and wider than the sea.
- Ps 139:6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.
- Ps 139:17-18a How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! ¹⁸Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand.
- Ecc 7:23-24 All this I tested by wisdom and I said, "I am determined to be wise"- but this was beyond me. ²⁴Whatever wisdom may be, it is far off and most profound- who can discover it?
- Ecc 8:16-17 When I applied my mind to know wisdom and to observe man's labor on earth-his eyes not seeing sleep day or night- ¹⁷then I saw all that God has done. No one can comprehend what goes on under the sun. Despite all his efforts to search it out, man cannot discover its meaning. Even if a wise man claims he knows, he cannot really comprehend it.
- Job 28:12-13, 20-24 "But where can wisdom be found? Where does understanding dwell? ¹³Man does not comprehend its worth; it cannot be found in the land of the living. ... ²⁰Where then does wisdom come from? Where does understanding dwell? ²¹It is hidden from the eyes of every living thing, concealed even from the birds of the air. ²²Destruction and Death say, 'Only a rumor of it has reached our ears.' ²³God understands the way to it and he alone knows where it dwells, ²⁴for he views the ends of the earth and sees everything under the heavens.
- Pr 8:23 I (wisdom) was appointed from eternity, from the beginning, before the world began.
- Mic 4:12a-b But they do not know the thoughts of the LORD; they do not understand his plan,
- Jn 3:9-10 "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked. ¹⁰"You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things?
- 1Co 2:6-16 We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. ⁷No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"- ¹⁰but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. ¹¹For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹²We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. ¹³This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. ¹⁴The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment: ¹⁶"For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.