

Consider
the
Lilies

"This book is exceptional
in every way."
—JOHN MACARTHUR



Finding
Perfect Peace
in the
Character
of God

Jonny
Ardavanis

Consider the Lilies


Chapter 8: *Infinite Understanding*

Chapter 6: *Knowing Abba*

Chapter 7: *Forever Himself, Forever Good*

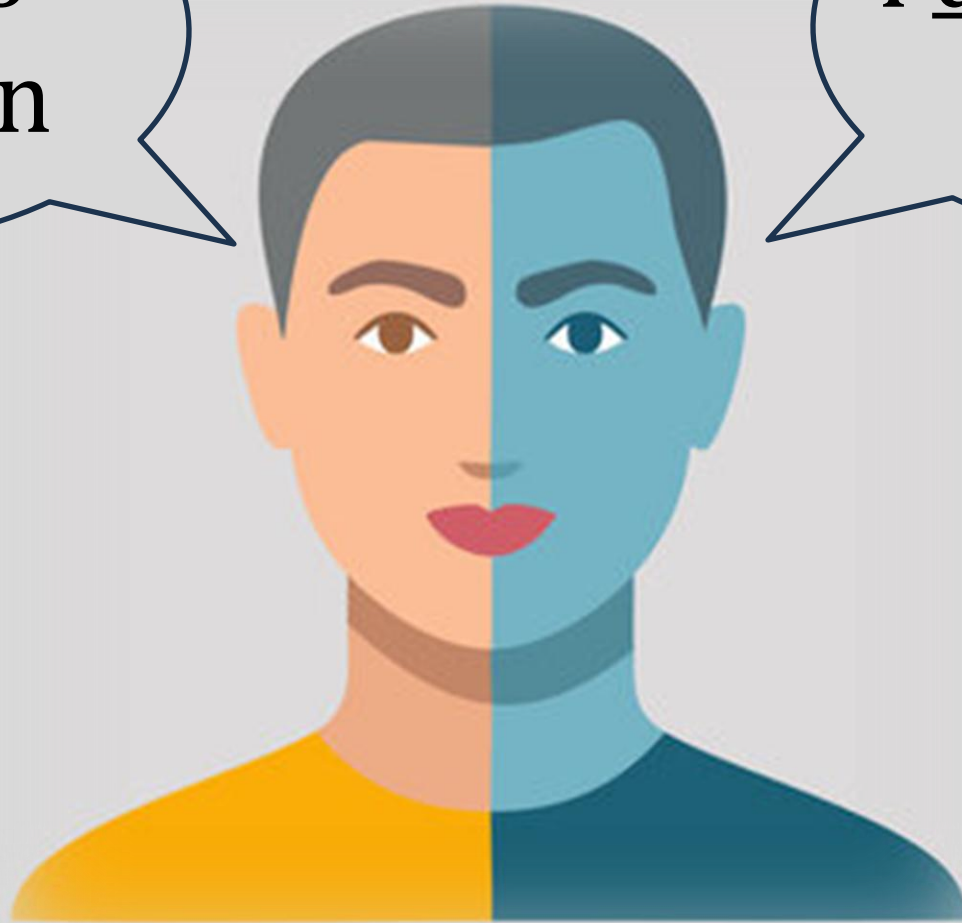
Yahweh = *I AM (He Is)*

1. Self-Existent
2. Self-Sufficient
3. Eternal



**We are not...
but God is!**

I want to
be known



I don't want to
be known

“Anxiety isolates us. Worry detaches us. Depression disconnects us from those we love. Why? Because vulnerability in relationships is dependent on transparency – on being known. And when we feel as if no one understands the pain we endure or grasps the worries we face, we often withdraw. The other side of the “misery loves company” coin is that misery hates company. If no one understands me or comprehends my pain, why would I spend time with anyone? How can I connect with others when they are oblivious to the anxiety in my mind and to the pain within my heart? Their anxious lament is this: ‘If only there was someone who “gets me.” If only there was someone who understands me. If only I could be fully and truly known.’” (pgs. 98-99)





“Alternatively, the prospect of being fully known may be the very thing that prompts our anxiety in the first place. The lives we live are often shrouded in posturing and performing. As a result, there is a looming fear that if people knew the real me – that is, the me behind my facades – then they would no longer desire to know me at all. Therefore, masquerades bring safety, and exposure brings anxiety. Our anxious fear is that, one day, the real me will be exposed, and when I am known, I will not be loved.” (pg. 99)

“Thus, for some, the feeling of being unknown fuels anxiety, while, for others, being unknown is the only source of comfort. In both cases, the question is this: What does God say in His word? How does our heavenly Father comfort, encourage, and correct people like us who feel this way?” (pg. 99)

The Omniscience of God

↳ *Omni* (all) + *scientia* (knowledge) = “all-knowing”

“God’s omniscience means He knows everything. And everything He knows He knows exhaustively... God’s knowledge is unquantifiable and immeasurable.”
(pgs. 99-100s)

“In order for me to do anything, such as cook an egg, tie my shoes, shoot a basketball, balance a budget, and so forth, I first had to learn how to do it. All human apprehension is based on acquisition – everything you know is something that you have acquired, or learned. But God’s knowledge is not derived; it is not acquired or learned. It’s inherent to who He is.” (pg. 100)

Things God Never Does:

- *He never counts*
- *He never discovers*
- *He is never surprised*
- *He is never amazed*
- *He never wonders*
- *He never learns*
- *He never remembers (because He never forgets)*
- *He is never reminded*
- *He never understands more clearly*
- *He never misinterprets*
- *He is never made aware*
- *He never receives counsel (pgs. 100-101)*

None of these things could rightly be said of you or me.

*“God’s knowledge of us is tremendously intimate, and yet, to be struck with the intimacy of His knowledge, we must first come to grips with the **immensity** of God’s knowledge.” (pg. 102)*

“Space.com roughly estimates that there are ten trillion galaxies in the universe. And in our galaxy, the Milky Way, there are an estimated one hundred billion stars alone. Therefore, if you were to multiply the number of stars within one galaxy by the total number of galaxies within the universe, you would arrive at an unfathomable number:

1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 stars...

And yet Psalm 147:4 reads, ‘He determines the number of the stars; He gives to all of them their names.’” (pg. 102)

...ed at these days should be
... and kept throughout
... every family; and that
... of Pū-rim should not fail
... the Jews, nor the me-
... from their seed.
... the queen, the
... and Mōr-dē-
... wrote with all authority,

BOOK OF JOB

in Neh. 2:10
Ps. 122:10

CHAPTER 1

There was a man in the land of
... and his name was Job;
... and he was blameless,
... upright,
... and he feared God,
... and he despised not his wages.

and a very great household; so that
this man was the greatest of all the
men of the east.
4 And his sons went and feasted in
their houses, every one his day; and
he went and called for their three sisters
to eat and to drink with them.
5 And it was so, when the days of
his feasting were gone about, that
his three sons and his three sisters
went and offered burnt offerings
according to the number of them all: for Job said,

*“God’s knowledge of us is tremendously intimate, and yet, to be struck with the **intimacy** of His knowledge, we must first come to grips with the immensity of God’s knowledge.” (pg. 102)*

Psalm 50:10-11

¹⁰ “For every beast of the forest is Mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. ¹¹ I know every bird of the mountains, and everything that moves in the field is Mine.”

Luke 12:6-7

⁶ “Are not five sparrows sold for two cents? Yet not one of them is forgotten before God. ⁷ Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows.”

“Like many of us, David experienced prolonged seasons of loneliness and isolation. David cried out to God in Psalm 25:16: ‘Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted.’ In other seasons of his life, David experienced the worry of being fully known after he committed both adultery and murder. The man who longed to be known when he resided in caves feared to be fully known when he resided in the palace. In both cases and both places, God’s omniscience would bring David comfort.’ (pg. 104)

Psalm 139

¹ For the choir director. A Psalm of David. 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. ⁵ You have enclosed me behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me. ⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is too high, I cannot attain to it. ⁷ Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? ⁸ If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. ⁹ If I take the wings of the dawn, if I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, ¹⁰ even there Your hand will lead me, and Your right hand will lay hold of me. ¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me, and the light around me will be night," ¹² even the darkness is not dark to You, and the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are alike to You...

Psalm 139

13 For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb. 14 I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, and my soul knows it very well. 15 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. 17 How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How vast is the sum of them! 18 If I should count them, they would outnumber the sand. When I awake, I am still with You. 19 O that You would slay the wicked, O God; Depart from me, therefore, men of bloodshed. 20 For they speak against You wickedly, and Your enemies take Your name in vain. 21 Do I not hate those who hate You, O LORD? And do I not loathe those who rise up against You? 22 I hate them with the utmost hatred; They have become my enemies...

Psalm 139

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; 24 And see if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way.

Psalm 139

Verse 1 – *You have searched me and known me.*

Verses 23:24 – *Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; And see if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way.*

“In considering God’s omniscience, we are tempted to interpret God’s knowledge as ‘awareness,’ but the Hebrew word for ‘know’ that David employed here is ‘yada,’ which is the same word used to describe Adam’s intimate relationship with Eve in Genesis... God doesn’t just know you exist; He doesn’t just know your name; He doesn’t just occasionally check in on you. He knows every hair on your head (Matthew 10:30) and every recess within your heart (Jeremiah 17:10).” (pg. 105)

Psalm 139 (section 1)

(merism)

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Genesis 1:1 – In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 – “These words, which I am commanding you today... You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.”

Psalm 139 (section 1)

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God knows everything we do (verse 2) and everything we think (verse 3).

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Matthew 6:8 – ...for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.

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1. Who does God know? David (and you and me, as well)
2. How well does God know me? Exhaustively and intimately
3. What does God know of me? Our hearts, thoughts, behaviors, and needs

Psalm 139 (section 2)

*⁷ Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?
⁸ If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. ⁹ If I take the wings of the dawn, if I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, ¹⁰ even there Your hand will lead me, and Your right hand will lay hold of me. ¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me, and the light around me will be night," ¹² even the darkness is not dark to You, and the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are alike to You.*

1. Who does God know? David (and you and me, as well)
2. How well does God know me? Exhaustively and intimately
3. What does God know of me? Our hearts, thoughts, behaviors, and needs
4. Where does God know me? Everywhere

Psalm 139 (section 3)

13 For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb. 14 I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, and my soul knows it very well. 15 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. 17 How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How vast is the sum of them! 18 If I should count them, they would outnumber the sand.

1. Who does God know? David (and you and me, as well)
2. How well does God know me? Exhaustively and intimately
3. What does God know of me? Our hearts, thoughts, behaviors, and needs
4. Where does God know me? Everywhere
5. When has God know me? Since before I existed

Psalm 139 (section 4)

19 O that You would slay the wicked, O God; Depart from me, therefore, men of bloodshed. 20 For they speak against You wickedly, and Your enemies take Your name in vain. 21 Do I not hate those who hate You, O LORD? And do I not loathe those who rise up against You? 22 I hate them with the utmost hatred; They have become my enemies. 23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; 24 And see if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way.

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3. What does God know of me? Our hearts, thoughts, behaviors, and needs
4. Where does God know me? Everywhere
5. When has God know me? Since before I existed
6. Why does God know me? For the purpose of my salvation

I want to be fully known BUT I don't want to be fully known

I want to be fully known AND I want to be fully accepted.

Romans 5:8-10

*⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet **sinners**, Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. ¹⁰ For if while we were **enemies** we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.*

In Christ, the God who *fully knows* us also *fully loves* us and *fully accepts* us.

“What matters supremely, therefore, is not, in the last analysis, the fact that I know God, but the larger fact that underlies is – the fact that He knows me... There is tremendous relief in knowing that his love to me is utterly realistic, based on every point on prior knowledge of the worst about me, so that no discovery can now disillusion Him from me, in the way I am so often disillusioned about myself, and quench His determination to bless me.” (J.I. Packer, Knowing God, pg. 42)

“I never knew you.” (Mat 7:23)

“I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me.” (Jn 10:14)

“If you are a Christian, this is the pillow you can lay your head on at night: ‘I am known by God.’” (pg. 113)

Next Time: Chapter 9

Above All