

The Attributes of God

Perfect Foreknowledge

A series of several parallel white lines of varying thicknesses, slanted diagonally from the bottom-left towards the top-right, crossing the text area.

“You only have I known of all the families of the earth.”  
(Amos 3:2)

A senseless, heedless people are called to take notice.

Definition: *to have previous knowledge of : know beforehand especially by paranormal means or by revelation*

Know (in *Hebrew*) suggest an intimate knowledge

Not just merely knowing ahead of time. God is sovereign. He knows what will happen because that is part of His will and plan.

In the NT, the foreknowledge of God is used in relation to Jesus Christ, Israel and with believers.

“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know— Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and **foreknowledge** of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.”

(Acts 2: 22-24)

“Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.”

(1 Peter 1: 18-21)

In what sense is Christ foreknown by God?

▶ Is it just simply that God had prior foreknowledge of what Jesus would do?

Or

▶ *God's Foreknowledge* plan and determine what Jesus would do?

In what sense is Christ foreknown by God?

ANSWER:

- ▶ *God's Foreknowledge* plan and determine what Jesus would do.

“I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not cast away His people whom He **foreknew**.”

(Romans 11:1-2a)

“For whom He **foreknew**, He also predestined  
to be conformed to the image of His Son,  
that He might be the firstborn  
among many brethren.”

(Romans 8:29)

“Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,  
To the pilgrims of the Dispersion  
in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,  
elect according to the **foreknowledge** of God the Father,  
in sanctification of the Spirit,  
for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ.

(1 Peter 1:1-2)

Ponder:

God's choosing or electing sinners. There are two interpretations

**One:** God, in eternity past, knew certain individuals. God sovereignly decided to bless them.

**Two:** God knew beforehand the ones who will trust Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. God's choice of them was based on His foreknowledge.

Ponder:

God's choosing or electing sinners. There are two interpretations

**One:** God, in eternity past, knew certain individuals and sovereignly decided to bless them.

Emphasizes the sovereignty of God in the matter of Salvation. However, it doesn't exclude the necessity of individuals responding to the gospel call.

**Two:** God knew beforehand the ones who will trust Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. His choice of them was based on His foreknowledge.

Emphasizes people's responsibility and makes God's choice of certain individuals dependent on their repentance and faith.

Which view should we hold Biblical? It is up to us.

However, we must hold these two truths in balance.

FIRST: God is sovereign and He has the right to choose whomever, He wishes, entirely apart from any merit on anyone's part

SECOND: God makes a bona fide offer of Salvation to all and people cannot be saved unless they put their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

I sought the Lord, and afterward I knew  
He moved my soul to seek Him, seeking me;  
It was not I that found, O Savior true;  
No, I was found of Thee.

I find, I walk, I love; but O the whole  
Of love is but my answer, Lord, to Thee!  
For Thou wert long beforehand with my soul;  
Always Thou lovedst me.

(~ Anon)

What a Great & Awesome God we serve!



