

Intro:**What do we know about God?**

We only know what God reveals about Himself, either through discerning about Him through what He made (creation), or hearing and understanding his voice through what He said (Scriptures).

Why must God be trustworthy?

We can only fully know God by self-revelation

God's works (actions) are self-revelatory, but ambiguous

God's words provide clarity and meaning to God's actions and reveal more than mere actions can reveal

Therefore: God's words must be trustworthy

We could say: Trustworthiness foundational for knowing God

When unbelievers charge God with unjustified anger and wrath, what do they lack? Trust in God's written record which explains his character and actions.

The core of trustworthiness is being and doing what one claims about oneself.

1. A failure to follow through on a promise erodes trust
2. Deliberate deception destroys trust
3. Even slight errors can erode trust (reporting something "mostly" true)

What needs to be true for God's words to be trustworthy?

1. Veracity: always telling the truth without any deception
2. Omniscience: always knowing all the truth and never deceived
3. Omnipotence: always able to deliver all he promised
4. Clarity: communicating truth understandably

I. Veracity**A. The word of man**

Ps 12.1-4 Help, LORD, for the godly man ceases to be, For the faithful disappear from among the sons of men.² They speak falsehood to one another; With flattering lips and with a double heart they speak.³ May the LORD cut off all flattering lips, The tongue that speaks great things;⁴ Who have said, "With our

tongue we will prevail; Our lips are our own; who is lord over us?"

B. The character of God

Tit 1.2 in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago,

Heb 6.18 so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us.

"It is useless to try to limit [truth] to God's *person* and not to God's *statements*."¹

C. The word of God

Ps 12.6 The words of the LORD are pure words; As silver tried in a furnace on the earth, refined seven times.

Num 23.19 "God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"

2 Sa 7.28 "Now, O Lord GOD, You are God, and Your words are truth, and You have promised this good thing to Your servant.

Ps 119.160 The sum of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting.

Jn 17.17 "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

What if...??

Everything God says is true *as far as he knows*, but perhaps he missed something...

"Does veracity mean that what God says can always be trusted? Or does it mean simply that he does not knowingly tell an

¹ Layton Talbert, *The Trustworthiness of God's Words: Why the Reliability of Every Word from God Matters* (Geanies House, UK: Christian Focus, 2022), 78 (All other quotations will be noted merely by a page number [in brackets]).

untruth? The omniscience of God, however, combines with his veracity to guarantee the truth of everything he tells us.”²

II. Accuracy (due to Omniscience)

A. Definition

“Omniscience means that God knows everything, things actual and possible, effortlessly and equally well.”³

1. Not only is it impossible for God to deceive
2. It is also impossible for God to be deceived

B. The extent of God’s knowledge

1. In the world

Job 37.16 “Do you know about the layers of the thick clouds,
The wonders of one perfect in knowledge,

Job 39.1 “Do you know the time the mountain goats give birth?
Do you observe the calving of the deer?”

2. In our persons

Mt 10.29-30 “Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰ “But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

Ps 139.2-5 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.

Ps 139.11-12 If I say, “Surely the darkness will overwhelm me, And the light around me will be night,” ¹² Even the darkness

² Millard J. Erickson, *Christian Theology*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Book House, 1998), 317.

³ Charles Caldwell Ryrie, *Basic Theology* (Chicago, Ill.: Moody Press, 1999), 47.

is not dark to You, And the night is as bright as the day.
Darkness and light are alike *to You*.

Ps 139.15-16 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.

3. In all the world

Ps 33.13-15 The LORD looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men; ¹⁴ From His dwelling place He looks out On all the inhabitants of the earth, ¹⁵ He who fashions the hearts of them all, He who understands all their works.

Heb 4.13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

4. Even in all our possibilities

1 Sa 23.7-13 When it was told Saul that David had come to Keilah, Saul said, "God has delivered him into my hand, for he shut himself in by entering a city with double gates and bars." ⁸ So Saul summoned all the people for war, to go down to Keilah to besiege David and his men. ⁹ Now David knew that Saul was plotting evil against him; so he said to Abiathar the priest, "Bring the ephod here." ¹⁰ Then David said, "O LORD God of Israel, Your servant has heard for certain that Saul is seeking to come to Keilah to destroy the city on my account. ¹¹ "Will the men of Keilah surrender me into his hand? Will Saul come down just as Your servant has heard? O LORD God of Israel, I pray, tell Your servant." And the LORD said, "He will come down." ¹² Then David said, "Will the men of Keilah surrender me and my men into the hand of Saul?" And the LORD said, "They will surrender you." ¹³ Then David and his men, about six hundred, arose and departed from Keilah, and they went wherever they could go. When it was told Saul that David had escaped from Keilah, he gave up the pursuit.

C. God's knowledge is complete: he can never be mistaken or misinformed

Ps 147.5 Great is our Lord and abundant in strength; His understanding is infinite.

Isa 40.28 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable.

Isa 46.10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure';

"But suppose He predicts or promises something that He fully intends to do and tries His best to accomplish, but cannot quite pull off? One more divine attribute works with these others to seal the rock-solid reliability of every word he utters." [79]

III. Omnipotence

Next week...