GOD’S OMNIPRESENCE, OMNIPOTENCE, AND OMNISCIENCE

IN SCRIPTURE

Paul Hahn, Theology Department

University of St Thomas, Houston TX 77006

© 2023

Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version updated edition.

How do know that God has omnipresence, omnipotence, and omniscience, since these words are not used in scripture?

Here are scriptural passages that, without using the words, nevertheless describe these attributes of God.

omnipresence

Deut 4:39, “the Lord is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath . . .”

Job 11:7-9, “Can you find out the deep things of God? Can you find out the limit of the Almighty? 8 It is higher than heaven—what can you do? Deeper than Sheol—what can you know? 9 Its measure is longer than the earth and broader than the sea.”

Job 42:2, “I know that you can do all things and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.”

Ps 139:7, “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, you are there.”

Wis 7:24-25, God’s wisdom “pervades and penetrates all things. 25 For she is a breath of the power of God and a pure emanation of the glory of the Almighty . . .”

Wis 8:1, “She [God’s wisdom] reaches mightily from one end of the earth to the other, and she orders all things well.”

Sir 23:19-20, “the eyes of the Lord are ten thousand times brighter than the sun; they look upon every aspect of human behavior and see into hidden corners. 20 Before the universe was created, it was known to him, and so it is since its completion.”

Isa 66:1, “Thus says the Lord: Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool . . .”

Jer 23:23-24, “Am I a God near by, says the Lord, and not a God far off? 24 Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the Lord.”

Acts 17:25-28, “The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands . . . 25 . . . [He] gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. . . . 27 indeed he is not far from each one of us. 28 For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’ . . .”

omnipotence

Ps 24:1, “The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it . . .”

Ps 147:4, “He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names.”

Mark 9:23, “All things can be done for the one who believes.”

Mark 14:36, “Father, for you all things are possible . . .”

Matt 19:26, “for God all things are possible.”

Luke 1:37, “For nothing will be impossible with God.”

omniscience

Job 28:24, “For he looks to the ends of the earth and sees everything under the heavens.”

Ps 50:11, “I know all the birds of the air, and all that moves in the field is mine.”

Ps 139:1-6, “O Lord, you have searched me and known me. 2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. 3 You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. 4 Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely. 5 You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.”

Sir 1:1-9, “1 All wisdom is from the Lord, and with him it remains forever. 2 The sand of the sea, the drops of rain, and the days of eternity—who can count them? 3 The height of heaven, the breadth of the earth, the abyss, and wisdom—who can search them out? 4 Wisdom was created before all things and prudent understanding from eternity. 6 The root of wisdom—to whom has it been revealed? Her subtleties—who knows them? 8 There is but one who is wise, greatly to be feared, seated upon his throne: the Lord. 9 It is he who created her; he saw her and took her measure; he poured her out upon all his works . . .”

Matt 6:26-32, “Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. . . . 28 Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, 29 yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. . . . 32 your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.”

Matt 10:29-30, “Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. 30 And even the hairs of your head are all counted.”

John 16:30, (disciples to Jesus) “we know that you know all things . . .”

Acts 15:8, “God . . . knows the human heart . . .”

Rom 11:33, “O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!”

1 Cor 2:10, “the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.”