

Bible Geeks



Season 6, Winter 2021

What Does God Know and When Does He Know it? Exploring Foreknowledge, Suffering, and Human Freedom

Topic Description

The remarkable suffering, disorder, and disruptions to our daily lives at a scale that hasn't been seen in decades (at least). We know that God could have caused the past year to go differently if God has chosen to do so, but alas, it happened as it did. Looking back on the past year, it's hard for us to not want to ask God "why did you let all of this happen?" The church has wrestled with this question over the centuries in a variety of circumstances, and I thought I could share some of the answers that theologians have given through the course of church history to help us think through our present day.

Schedule

Date	Topic	Supplemental Material
1/17	Introduction to Problems of Suffering & Human Freedom, Overview of Models of Foreknowledge	Bart Ehrman Opening Statement on Problem of Suffering (15 minutes) Can Free Will Survive God's Foreknowledge?
1/24	Simple Foreknowledge Model	Understanding God: God and Time by Jack Cottrell David Hunt - Does God Know the Future?
1/31	Divine Decree Model	RC Sproul – Sovereignty of God Unbelievable Podcast – Free Will vs. Determinism (Leighton Flowers vs. Chris Date) Youtube Spotify Apple Podcasts

2/7	Open Model	Greg Boyd – Understanding Open Theism
2/14	Middle Knowledge Model	William Lane Craig – God’s Middle Knowledge
2/21	<i>Off</i>	
2/28	Freedom or Bondage of the Will?	Bondage of the Will – RC Sproul Free Will – Leighton Flowers (long)
3/7	Can Divine Determinism be Compatible with Human Freedom?	James White vs. George Bryson on Bible Answer Man (esp 13:00-15:00; 21:50-
3/14	What Should We Think About God Amidst Suffering? – The Book of Job	What the Book of Job Is All About – John Walton
3/21	God and the Coronavirus – What Should We Make About God Amidst Present Suffering	NT Wright – God and the Coronavirus John Piper – Coronavirus and Christ Job & the Coronavirus – John Walton

Format

- **Class will take place 11:15-12:00 pm on Sunday mornings, from 1/17 to 3/21.**
 - I've decided to take advantage of the disruption of our regular schedules to try bringing Bible Geeks into the daylight hours and doing it during the normal Sunday School hour. We'll see how attendance is!
- Class will take place **over Zoom**
 - Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85819264640>
 - Password: maxwell
 - As much as I wanted to do it after the in-person Sunday service and broadcast it via Zoom, there's too much uncertainty about whether or not we could sustain that method.
- Classes will be **45 minutes weekly**, rather than 90 minutes every other week.
 - Reduce Zoom fatigue, which is a real thing
 - Make it easier for people to still participate even if a class is missed. 90 minutes every 2 weeks made it such that people would miss a lot of content if schedules prevented them from attending.
- **YouTube lectures will still be recorded.** Some material that we don't get to in class will be available via the YouTube lectures.