

Knowing God Is The Goal Of Creation

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The hope of future knowledge of God is the purpose and plan of God. One day, the impact of sin upon the mind and heart will be reversed. Our brains, body, and soul will completely serve and honor the Lord. Why? Because knowing God is the goal of creation and through him to know all things: "For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea" (Hab 2:14).

Ezekiel associates the restored knowledge of God with future redemption and cosmic renovation. "They shall know that I am the LORD when: I break the bars of their yoke, deliver them from the hand of those who enslaved them, multiply on you man and beast...cause you to be inhabited as in your former times, and do more good to you than ever before" (36:11). Or, "They shall know that I am the LORD when: the trees of the field shall yield their fruit, the earth shall yield its increase, and they shall be secure in their land" (34:27). At that time God's people will know with certainty their true identity, for "they shall know that I am the LORD their God with them, and that they, the house of Israel, are my people" (34:30).

In Jeremiah the Lord pledges divine enablement to know him. "I will give them a heart to know that I am the LORD, and they shall be my people and I will be their God, for they shall return to me with their whole heart" (24:7). More significantly, God proclaims an entirely new relationship with his people based upon a new covenant that enables a universal knowledge of God: "I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD" (31:33b-34a).

Finally, it is essential that the agent of insight, understanding, and knowledge is none other than promised Messiah, Jesus Christ. Isaiah stated that:

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of *wisdom and understanding*, the Spirit of *counsel and might*, the Spirit of *knowledge and the fear of the LORD*. (11:1-2)

And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or *decide* disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall *judge* the poor, and *decide* with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. (vs. 3-4)

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; *for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea*. (vs. 6-9)

This passage is one of several in Isaiah that designates the coming Messiah as he who is anointed by the Spirit of the Lord to restore paradise lost (42:1-4; 59:21; 61:1-3; 63:14). The

Messiah will “delight” in the “fear of the LORD,” so he will possess wisdom and his understanding of God will evidence piety and reverence (Prov 1:7). He will “judge” and “decide” on behalf of the needy of the earth with “righteousness.” He will bring peace, prosperity, and social justice, “like Eden” (Isa 51:3). He will possess the judicial and ruling capacities of “wisdom and understanding,” like Solomon (1Kings 4:9) and Daniel (Dan 1:20). The Messiah brings a “glorious hope” that will produce a “reconstituted world and people under a perfect king.” (Alec Motyer, *The Prophecy Of Isaiah*, p. 121)

Finally, the Messiah will fulfill Adam’s broken mandate (Gen 1:28). Once again, the nexus of divine presence (sanctuary), peace (shalom), and prosperity will appear on earth. The Messiah will “work and keep” God’s creation (2:15), bringing order, beauty, safety, and purity, and productivity to the entire earth. Likewise, the Messiah will guard God’s domain against evil and impurity. He will know “good and evil” *and* eat the fruit of the Tree Of Life (3:2). He lives forever because he gains all knowledge and wisdom from the only authenticated source, God himself. The “last Adam,” Christ (1Cor 15:45), will not fail as the first Adam or Israel or the church, for he will reject all knowing apart from listening to and obeying God.

And, most importantly, all this will be accomplished *because* (“for”) “the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.”