

Limitless Knowledge and Sovereign Power August 31, 2025

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” -AW Tozer

Recommended Resources:

- The Knowledge of the Holy by A.W. Tozer
- Evangelical Convictions by the EFCA
- Knowing God by J.I. Packer
- The Doctrine of God by Gerald Bray
- Delighting in the Trinity by Michael Reeves

_____ is translated a shortened form of “God” (Elohim).

“Yah (jah/iah)” is a _____.

_____ is a popular name for God made up of the consonants of Yahweh and vowels of Adonai.

What does the name Elijah mean?

Article 1 of the EFCA Doctrinal Statement

We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His own glory.**

Limitless Knowledge and Sovereign Power

This is a sub-issue in the God’s Sovereignty vs Human Free Will continuum. Is God sovereign or do people have free will?

Does God know the future or is it “open” to him?

⁸ “Remember this and stand firm, recall it to mind, you transgressors, ⁹ remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, ¹⁰ **declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done**, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,’ ¹¹ calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. **I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it.** - Isaiah 46:8–11 (ESV)

¹⁴ And Absalom and all the men of Israel said, “The counsel of Hushai the Archite is better than the counsel of Ahithophel.” **For the Lord had ordained to defeat the good counsel of Ahithophel, so that the Lord might bring harm upon Absalom.** -2 Samuel 17:14 (ESV)

³⁴ ...I (Nebuchadnezzar) blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; ³⁵ all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and **he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth**; and none can stay his hand or say to him, “What have you done?” -Daniel 4:34-35 (ESV)

But?

⁹ And the Lord said to Moses, “I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people. ¹⁰ Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, in order that I may make a great nation of

you.” ...¹⁴ And **the Lord relented from the disaster that he had spoken of bringing on his people.** - Exodus 32:9–10, 14 (ESV)

⁹ Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish.” ¹⁰ **When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.** - Jonah 3:9–10 (ESV)

“Certainly, among Evangelicals there are various ways of understanding how this electing purpose of God plays out in human history, and various views, including both the Arminian/Wesleyan and Reformed versions, with their different conceptions of the mysterious interplay of the human and divine wills, are acceptable within the parameters of our EFCA Statement of Faith. While affirming God’s sovereignty, we believe that sovereignty never minimizes human responsibility. And while we are morally responsible creatures, making significant choices to obey, rebel, believe, etc., and are rightly held responsible for our actions, we can never make God absolutely contingent upon our wills.

However we may formulate the notion of human freedom, we affirm that nothing can thwart God’s gracious purpose. **We believe that God has limitless knowledge and sovereign power, ensuring that he will bring that purpose to fulfillment. His exhaustive foreknowledge includes even the future acts of human beings, even future acts regarded as “free” acts, and his omnipotence entails that nothing is outside his sovereign will.** He “who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will,” Paul writes (Eph. 1:11). The Lord himself declares: “I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, ‘My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please’” (Isa. 46:10).

This is not a deterministic fatalism of the sort expressed in Islam, but the outworking of the gracious will of a personal God. Our heavenly Father is working for the good of those who love him and are called according to his purpose (Rom. 8:28). Our response is not simply submission to an impersonal Power but faith and trust in a loving Father.”

-EFCA. Evangelical Convictions, 2nd Edition (pp. 51-52). Free Church Publications. Kindle Edition.

There is a mystery here. God does know everything even the future acts of human beings, and at the same time human beings make free choices.

²⁹ “The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law. - Deuteronomy 29:29 (ESV)

We, as the EFCA, affirm that open-theology lies outside the bounds of traditional orthodox Christian faith as revealed in the Bible and affirmed throughout the church through time.

Any ?’s about anything we’ve gone over?