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God's Foreknowledge

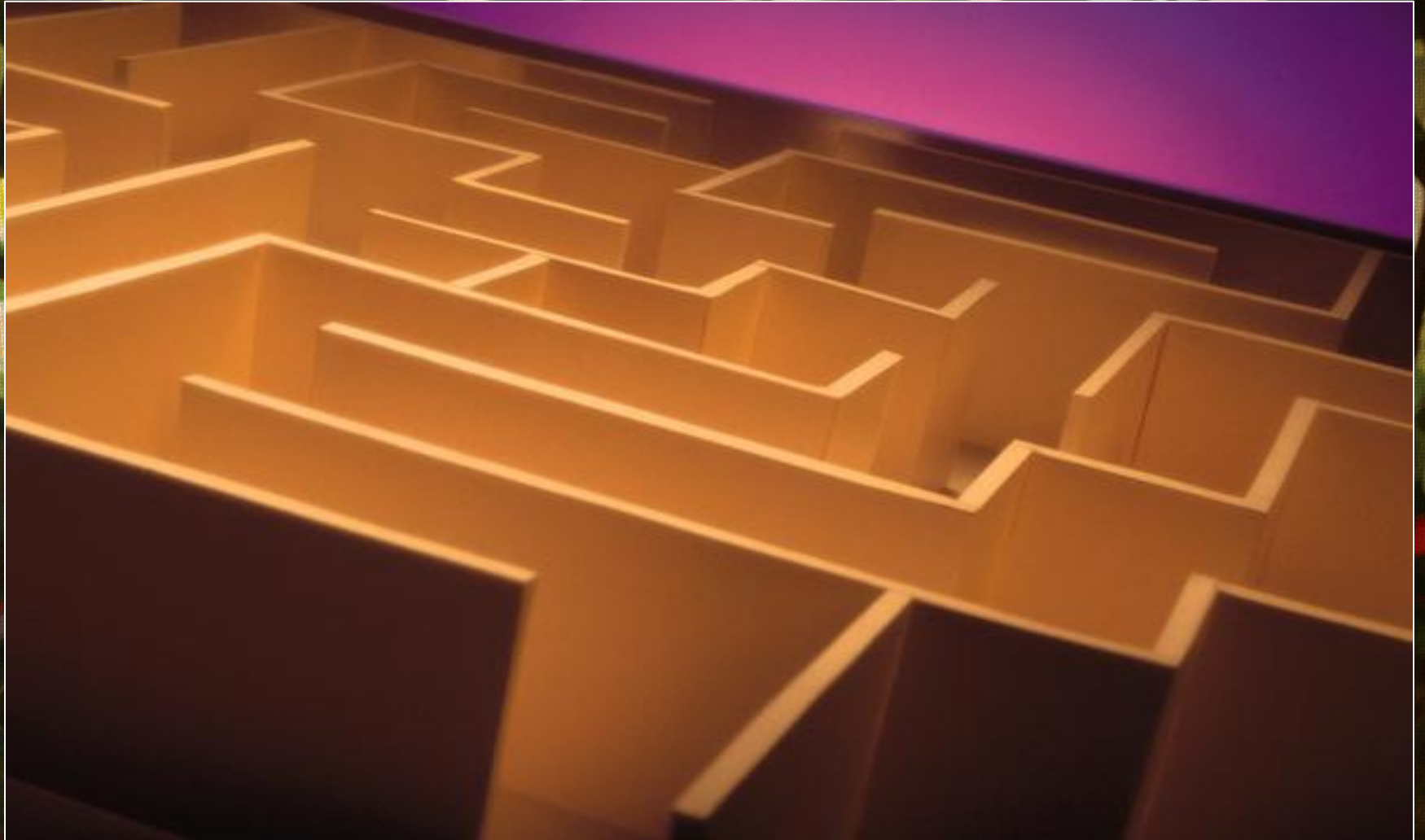
**Even before there is a word on my tongue,
behold, O Lord, Thou dost know it all**

Psalm 139:4

**Declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient
times things which have not been done**

Isaiah 46:10

God's Foreknowledge



God's Foreknowledge



Does It Neutralize Free Will?

- *“God’s knowledge of future actions does not by itself hinder human freedom since knowledge does not actually cause anything” (That’s Just Your Interpretation, Paul Copan, p. 78).*
- We all know that judgment is coming (Hebrews 9:27f, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18), but that does not cause it to happen. God also knows how many will respond to judgment (Matthew 7:22, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3). Nevertheless, His knowledge does not ultimately make Him responsible for our actions.

Plan “B”

- God has the ability to know different outcomes, depending on our choices. Perhaps we should say God doesn't know THE future, but many possible futures.
- 1 Samuel 23:11-12 – In spite of God's assurance that they would act a certain way, the people of Keilah are never even given the chance to betray David.
- Jonah 3:4ff – God promises Nineveh's overthrow in forty days. It never happens. Why? What changed? See Jeremiah 18:7-10 for an explanation.

“Some people will say that if God knows past and future truths, then both sets of truths are logically the same in that they are ‘locked in place’. The future is just as unpreventable as the past. But besides being counter-intuitive, such a fatalistic position is simply not true. By definition, we cannot act on or cause anything in the past (backward causation). We simply have no power over it, whereas we can act in the present to bring about future events” (Copan, p. 79).

The Past And Future

How God's Foreknowledge Frees Us

- Knowledge of judgment is a great motivator.
- We already know the standard (John 12:48). No surprises!
- We already know the means to salvation (Mark 16:16).
- The very fact that God reaches out to us means He knows some will be saved! Don't regard His confidence in you lightly.
- God's foreknowledge is not a weapon used against us – but FOR us! He wants us saved (Ezekiel 18:23, 2 Peter 3:9).
- “For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you” (1 Peter 1:19).

