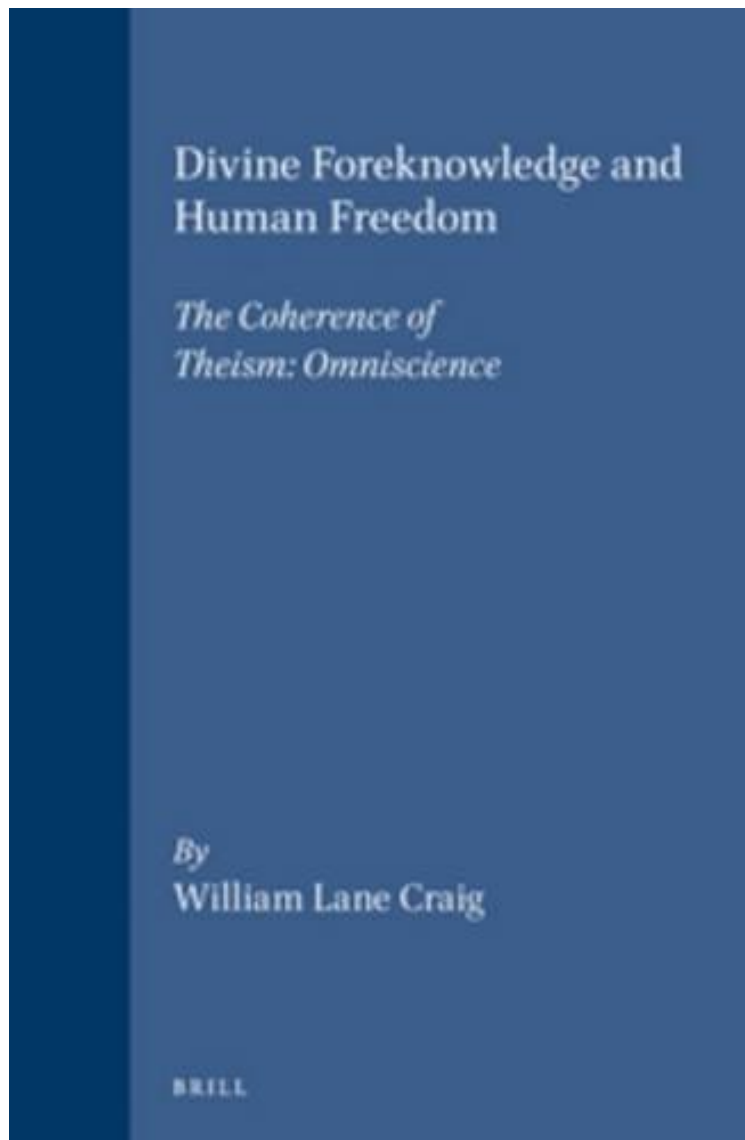


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Divine Foreknowledge and Human Freedom: The Coherence of Theism : Omniscience (Brill's Studies in Intellectual History)

William Lane Craig

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William Lane Craig : Divine Foreknowledge and Human Freedom: The Coherence of Theism : Omniscience (Brill's Studies in Intellectual History) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Divine Foreknowledge and Human Freedom: The Coherence of Theism : Omniscience (Brill's Studies in Intellectual History):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Tightly argued, mind expanding. By SacraPhilosophica This book takes an in depth look into the topic of divine foreknowledge and human freedom. It can be very technical in certain places, but to those who have a mind for deep inquiry it is great. He first discusses certain approaches to handling the problem of fatalism, as well as the problems that they contain. Later on, Craig tightly argues a case for molinism, in which he takes a step by step approach to spelling out not only the philosophical benefits for adopting such a view, but also reveals the theological benefits as well. He also methodically shows how to dismantle specific objections to Molina's view, which is a useful reference for research. To be honest, the bibliography alone is worth the buy. Specific contents are: Preface Introduction Coherence and Rationality Problems of Omniscience I. Theological Fatalism A.N. Prior Nelson Pike II. Reduction of Theological to Logical Fatalism III. Logical Fatalism Richard Taylor Taylor's Response to his Critics IV. Suggested Escapes From Fatalism Denial of the Principle of bivalence or the Law of Excluded Middle Status of the Principle of Bivalence Grounds for Denying Bivalence of Future Contingent Propositions Bivalence of All Propositions Falsity of All Future Contingent Propositions Logical Form of Future Contingent Propositions Unidentifiability of Future Individuals Timelessness of Truth Tensed vs. Tenseless Truth-Bearers Omnitemporal vs. Atemporal Truth Conclusion V. "Within One's Power" Taylor on "Within One's Power" Necessitas consequentiae and Personal Power Conditions and Consequences Fatalism about the Past vs. Fatalism about the Future Changing the Past vs. Changing the Future Causing the Future vs. Causing the Past VI. Backward Causation Part I: The Alleged Logical Impossibility of Retro-Causation Dummett's Defense of Backward Causation The Logical Objection to Backward Causation Antony Flew Michael Scriven Richard Gale Richard Swinburne Assessment of the Logical Objection Two Words of Caution Assessment Logical and Metaphysical Modality Part II: Purported Instances of Retro-Causation Nueral Physiology Particle Pair Creation/Annihilation Classical Electrodynamics Tachyons Superluminal Particles and Backward Causation The Reinterpretation Principle The Logically Pernicious Self-Inhibitor A Perspectival Special Theory of Relativity Precognition Experimental Evidence Retro-Causal Explanation Time Travel A Word of Caution The Possibility of Time Travel Stock Objections to Time Travel The Logically Pernicious Self-Inhibitor Circular Causation Part III: The Metaphysical Impossibility of Retro-Causation The A-Theory and Backward Causation Superiority of the A-Theory Application to Purported Instances of Backward Causation Conclusion VII. "Within One's Power" Once More Power and Counterfactual Openness Failure of Fatalism Conclusion VIII. Transition to Theological Fatalism Prior Pike Conclusion IX. Temporal Necessity Contemporary Debate from Pike to Plantinga John Turk Saunders vs. Nelson Pike Marilyn Adams John Fischer Alfred J. Freddoso Alvin Plantinga Assessment of the Debate Toward Understanding Temporal Necessity Backward Causation and Intuitions of the Past's Necessity Fatalism and Ability Conclusion X. Newcomb's Paradox The Puzzle Conditions Theological Implications Nozick's Dilemma Divine Foreknowledge and the One-Box Strategy Objections to the One-Box Strategy Backward Causation Backtracking Counterfactuals Newcomb's Paradox and Freedom Conclusion XI. Foreknowledge and Freedom of God Foreknowledge and Human Deliberation Foreknowledge and Divine Deliberation Conclusion XII. The Basis of Divine Foreknowledge God's Ability to Know Future Contingents Knowledge vs. True Belief Conclusion XIII. Middle Knowledge The Doctrine of Middle Knowledge Natural, Middle, and Free Knowledge Theological Ramifications Grounds for Affirming Middle Knowledge Objections to Middle Knowledge The Object of Middle Knowledge Middle Knowledge and Passivity in God Middle Knowledge and Divine Freedom Conclusion Appendix I: Is The Special Theory of Relativity Fatalistic? Notes Bibliography Index-----As you can see by the table of contents alone, Craig is very thorough. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Extremely thorough and rigorous study By Andrew T. E. Loke This work has not received as much attention as it is due. It is very thorough and tightly argued. and has proven to be very helpful for my PhD research. The chapter on 'The Basis of Divine Foreknowledge' contains an excellent rebuttal of John Feinberg's criticism of Molinism in his book 'No one Like Him'.

The ancient problem of fatalism, more particularly theological fatalism, has resurfaced with surprising vigour in the second half of the twentieth century. Two questions predominate in the debate: (1) Is divine foreknowledge compatible with human freedom and (2) How can God foreknow future free acts? Having surveyed the historical background of this debate in *The Problem of Divine Foreknowledge and Future Contingents from Aristotle to Suarez* (Brill: 1988), William Lane Craig now attempts to address these issues critically. His wide-ranging discussion brings together a thought-provoking array of related topics such as logical fatalism, multivalent logic, backward causation, precognition, time travel, counterfactual logic, temporal necessity, Newcomb's Problem, middle knowledge, and relativity theory. The present work serves both as a useful survey of the extensive literature on theological fatalism and related fields and as a stimulating assessment of the possibility of divine foreknowledge of future free acts.

'..the most sustained, scholarly treatment of the divine attribute of omniscience since the Middle Ages.' Alan G. Padgett, "The Evangelical Quarterly"..'the most sustained, scholarly treatment of the divine attribute of omniscience since the Middle Ages." Alan G. Padgett, "The Evangelical Quarterly"...'..the most sustained, scholarly treatment of the divine attribute of omniscience since the Middle Ages." Alan G. Padgett, *The Evangelical Quarterly*. About the

Author William Lane Craig is currently Associate Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Westmont College, Santa Barbara, California. Publications: *Assessing the New Testament Evidence for the Historicity of the Resurrection of Jesus* (1989); *'No Other Name': A Middle Knowledge Perspective on the Exclusivity of Salvation through Christ* (1989) and *Middle Knowledge: A Calvinist-Arminian Rapprochement?* in *The Grace of God, the Will of Man* (1989) The book surveys and critically assesses the contemporary debate over the possibility of divine foreknowledge of future human free acts, drawing upon related discussions of a wide variety of topics such as logical fatalism, multivalent logic, backward causation, precognition, time travel, relativity theory, Newcomb's Problem, and middle knowledge.