

# MOLINISM

College and Career Life Class  
First Baptist Church of Golden

Caleb Farnie  
8 August 2024

# ORIGINS

# LUIS DE MOLINA

1535-1600

- In the Society of Jesus, a Jesuit
- Counter-reformer tasked to spread Catholicism in the midst of the spread of Protestantism
- Born to a wealthy family in Cuenca, Spain
- Had a “life-changing conversion experience” while reading Ignatius of Loyola’s work
- Committed to the Society of Jesus
- Pursued education at the Universities of Coimbra and Évora in Portugal

## THE CONCORDIA

*Liberi arbitrii cum gratiae donis, divina  
praescientia, providentia, praedestinatione et  
reprobatione concordia*

## THE CONCORDIA

*A Reconciliation of Free Choice with the  
Gifts of Grace, Divine Foreknowledge,  
Providence, Predestination and Reprobation*

Molina wanted to bring together  
God's sovereignty and man's free will.

What is it that he did?

What is Molinism?

It all starts with knowledge.

# MIDDLE KNOWLEDGE

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Natural Knowledge</b></p>	<p>God knows His own nature in all the various modes in which that nature can be copied outside Himself. In knowing this, He knows the ideal order, every detail and all inter-relations of details in any possible universe.</p> <p>God's knowledge of necessary truths prior to His decree to create a certain world, including the whole range of possible worlds that He could create.</p>	<p>“All bachelors are unmarried”</p> <p><math>2 + 2 = 4</math></p> <p>Logical truths (tautologies)</p> <p>It is possible that <math>p</math></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Free Knowledge</b></p>		



<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Natural Knowledge</b></p>	<p>God knows His own nature in all the various modes in which that nature can be copied outside Himself. In knowing this, He knows the ideal order, every detail and all inter-relations of details in any possible universe.</p> <p>God's knowledge of necessary truths prior to His decree to create a certain world, including the whole range of possible worlds that He could create.</p>	<p>“All bachelors are unmarried”</p> <p><math>2 + 2 = 4</math></p> <p>Logical truths (tautologies)</p> <p>It is possible that <i>p</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Free Knowledge</b></p>	<p>God further knows things outside Himself as they actually and individually exist, inasmuch as all things are of His causation and creation, and exist and act under His will and power.</p> <p>God's knowledge of the actual world after he has chosen to create that world, which is not necessary but rather dependent on His choice to actualize that world.</p>	<p>“Caleb Farnie exists”</p> <p><i>It is the case that p</i></p>

# *Scientia Media*



Text, Images, Documents, Websites

Latin - Detected, Greek, English, Spani, English, Greek, Spanish

scientia media

middle knowledge

Send feedback

<p><b>Natural Knowledge</b></p>	<p>God knows His own nature in all the various modes in which that nature can be copied outside Himself. In knowing this, He knows the ideal order, every detail and all inter-relations of details in any possible universe.</p> <p>God's knowledge of necessary truths prior to His decree to create a certain world, including the whole range of possible worlds that He could create.</p>	<p>"All bachelors are unmarried"</p> <p><math>2 + 2 = 4</math></p> <p>Logical truths (tautologies)</p> <p>It is possible that <i>p</i></p>
<p><b>Middle Knowledge</b></p>	<p>Truths which refer to what would be the case if various states of affairs were to obtain.</p> <p>Knowledge of counterfactuals.</p> <p>God's knowledge of what creatures would freely do in various sets of circumstances prior to His decree to create a world, which thus narrows down the possible worlds to the ones that are feasible for God to create based on creaturely free choices.</p>	<p>If person, P, were in situation, S, then P would freely perform action, A</p> <p>"If Caleb were to have the opportunity to teach on Molinism, then Caleb would freely prepare his lesson."</p>
<p><b>Free Knowledge</b></p>	<p>God further knows things outside Himself as they actually and individually exist, inasmuch as all things are of His causation and creation, and exist and act under His will and power.</p> <p>God's knowledge of the actual world after he has chosen to create that world, which is not necessary but rather dependent on His choice to actualize that world.</p>	<p>"Caleb Farnie exists"</p> <p><i>It is the case that p</i></p>

## The Three Moments of Molinism in terms of “Could,” “Would,” and “Will”

God uses His omniscience to perfectly accomplish His will.

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Moment: God’s Natural Knowledge</b>	“Could” Everything that could happen	God knows all possibilities
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Moment: God’s Middle Knowledge</b>	“Would” Everything that would happen	God knows which possibilities are feasible
<b>Between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> moment:</b> God freely and sovereignly chooses this particular world from the infinite number of feasible possibilities		
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Moment: God’s Free Knowledge</b>	“Will” Everything that will happen	God exhaustively knows all things

# BIBLICAL EVIDENCE

- I Samual 23:8-14
- Matthew 11:21-24
- Ezekiel 3:5-7
- Jeremiah 38:17-18

# DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CALVINISM AND ARMINIANISM

## Molinism: A Middle Way between Calvinism and Arminianism

### The five “Calvinistic” tenets of Molinism

1. God controls all things.
2. Man does not contribute to his salvation.
3. God is Author and Completer of salvation.
4. Individual election is unconditional.
5. The believer is eternally secure in Christ.

### The five “Arminian” tenets of Molinism

1. God is not the author of sin.
2. God desires the salvation of all.
3. Christ died for all people.
4. God’s grace is resistible.
5. At crucial times, humans have the ability to choose.



# OBJECTIONS

*Rejection of Libertarian Free Will*

*The Grounding Objection*

*The Usefulness of Middle Knowledge for God's Creative Decision*

# Group Work

What are the implications of Middle Knowledge?

## REFERENCES

- <https://www3.nd.edu/~afreddos/papers/molina.htm>
- <https://www.ccel.org/ccel/molina/>
- <https://www.jesuits.org/stories/free-will-luis-de-molina/>
- <https://ccel.org/ccel/aquinas/gentiles/gentiles.iv.xlv.html>
- <https://www.gotquestions.org/molanism.html>
- <https://iep.utm.edu/middlekn/>
- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Molinism>
- Keathley, Kenneth. *Salvation and Sovereignty: A Molinist Approach*. B & H Publishing Group, 2014.