

Psalm 139:7–12

<sup>7</sup> Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?

<sup>8</sup> If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.

<sup>9</sup> If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

<sup>10</sup> Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.

<sup>11</sup> If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me," Even the night shall be light about me;

<sup>12</sup> Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light are both alike to You.

### ***You are There*** **Psalm 139:7-12**

INTRO:

We listened to David's song of praise about the God that we serve. He wrote in the first stanza of his hymn about the fact that God knows all things. Theologians call this attribute God's omniscience. David's meditation is not complete with this first stanza. He picks up His theme and expands upon it in stanza two. Here he focuses in on the fact that Our God is present everywhere. This is called God's omnipresence. Leupold says about the verses that we are about to explore: "*Never has the pen of man more effectively described the omnipresence of God.*"

As we together with David consider this wonderful truth about our God, our study will involve two heads.

***I. Where Can I Go To Flee From God? (v. 7-10)***

***II. Where Can I Hide From God? (v. 11-12)***

***I. Where Can I Go To Flee From God? (v. 7-10)***

**Psalm 139:7-10**    "*Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.*"

A. While David is considering theological truth in these verses, he is not couching these realities in academic language. As before, David takes this truth and involves it in the intricacies of his life.

***“Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?”***

1. He again introduced his subject with a summary statement. He used two parallel questions. Where could I go if I wanted to run away from You? LORD, if I felt this knowing me that we talked about in the first stanza seemed to close for me, where would I go to get away from you?

2. Jonah, the prophet, tried desperately to accomplish what David described here. He tried to run from the presence of God. Remember **Jonah 1**?

***“Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, ‘Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me.’ But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.”***

Jonah went to Joppa and found a ship headed to Tarshish to get as far from Nineveh as he could get. However, he did not go where God could not find him. The LORD sent a storm. Then prepared a whale to swallow Jonah and to give him the first submarine ride back toward Nineveh. Jonah discovered in the real world what David wrote.

B. So David thought about the highest and lowest extremes he could imagine.

***“If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.”***

1. If I ascend into heaven, you are there! We say, of course God is there! David probably did not think of *heaven* and *Sheol* as we normally think of them.

2. He is using them in the sense of **Amos 9:1-2**

***“I saw the Lord standing by the altar, and He said: ‘Strike the doorposts, so that the thresholds may shake, and break them on the heads of them all. I will slay the last of them with the sword. He who flees from them shall not get away, and he who escapes from them shall not be delivered. Though they dig into [Sheol], From there My hand shall take them; Though they climb up to heaven, From there I will bring them down”***

If God is seeking us, we can flee to the highest heaven or the lowest part of Sheol and we will not be able to escape Him!

C. In **verse 9**, David’s thoughts returned to the horizontal level. He wrote, ***“If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea.”***

1. This is picturesque language. The image David painted is our watching the horizon for the sun rise. As soon as the sun peaks over the horizon the first rays of light shoot out to every corner of the earth. David wrote, if I could put a saddle on one of those rays of light and ride it as fast as it would go, I cannot out run God!

2. And if my ray of light mount were to take me to the farthest place I could get from here, when I got there, I would find the LORD already waiting for me. This is because God is everywhere.

3. We must not forget the difference between pantheism and God's omnipresence. Pantheism teaches God is everything. He is everywhere because everywhere is not distinct from the person of God. Notice David did not write God is heaven and Sheol. Nor did he say, God is the light or the uttermost part of the sea. God is distinct from His creation even though He is everywhere in His creation.

D. **Verse 10** gives the precious promise.

***“Even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me.”***

This is the blessing of this reality. Even if we go as far from this place as we can possibly get, we can never get away from the LORD's presence nor His protection.

David was not terrified of God's presence. God's presence was a blessing to him.

The concept of God's hand is an important one. David wrote in the **37<sup>th</sup> Psalm**.

***“The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, and He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the Lord upholds him with His hand.”*** Psalm 37:23-24.

## ***II. Where Can I Hide From God? (v. 11-12)***

**Psalm 139:11–12** ***“If I say, ‘Surely the darkness shall fall on me,’ Even the night shall be light about me; Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light are both alike to You.”***

A. While David had no desire to hide from God, others at times do have that desire.

So, he explored the feasibility of hiding from the presence of the living God.

***“If I say, ‘Surely the darkness shall fall on me,’ Even the night shall be light about me.”***

1. We cannot run from God nor can we hide from Him. The LORD said to Jeremiah in

**Jeremiah 23:23-24** ***“Am I a God near at hand,’ says the LORD, ‘and not a God afar off? Can anyone hide himself in secret places, so I shall not see him?’ says the LORD; ‘Do I not fill heaven and earth?’ says the LORD.”***

2. David did not debate the fact that God fills heaven and earth. He asked if darkness can hide a person. He answers the question immediately. Even the dark is as light to God He sees everything we do and say!

B. Then to re-iterate his statement he rhymes the thought in **verse 12**.

***“Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light are both alike to You.”***

1. Although this is undeniably true, still some would try to hide in darkness from our God. Remember what Jesus said in **John 3:19-21**.

***“And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”***

So, those who do not know the Lord Jesus as their Savior scurry away from the light like so many cockroaches. All their scurrying does not allow them to escape God’s all seeing eye.

2. Several places the Bible reiterate David’s point. For example, Daniel said in **Daniel 2:22**

***“It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things; He knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with Him.”***

And the writer of Hebrews reminds us.

***“And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”***

### ***What Can We Take From This?***

1. We have to deal with God and the gospel. We cannot put Him in a box in the corner of our lives and only let Him out on Sunday. God made it all and sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ that He might die for us so we can be rightly related to Him.

2. We can also count on His always being with us working His will out in our lives.