

Psalm 139:title–24

For the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.

- ¹ O LORD, You have searched me and known me.
² You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off.
³ You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways.
⁴ For there is not a word on my tongue, But behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.
⁵ You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me.
⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it.
⁷ Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?
⁸ If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.
⁹ If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
¹⁰ Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.
¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me," Even the night shall be light about me;
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.
¹³ For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb.
¹⁴ I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.
¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.
¹⁶ Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them.
¹⁷ How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!
¹⁸ If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You.
¹⁹ Oh, that You would slay the wicked, O God! Depart from me, therefore, you bloodthirsty men.
²⁰ For they speak against You wickedly; Your enemies take Your name in vain.
²¹ Do I not hate them, O LORD, who hate You? And do I not loathe those who rise up against You?
²² I hate them with perfect hatred; I count them my enemies.
²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties;
²⁴ And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.

Yahweh Knows Me Intimately
Psalm 139:1-24

INTRO:

Do we think about how great God really is? We easily say, "Oh yes, God is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent. God both close at hand and above and above-all. God is all love and all holy. Do we really understand the implications of all of

this? As we study **Psalm 139** today, we should feel David's emotions. We should be left with a sense of great comfort and great unease.

I. Yahweh is the God who knows Me (verses 1-6)

II. Yahweh is the God Who is Always with Me (verses 7-12)

III. Yahweh is the God who created Me (verses 13-16)

I. Yahweh is the God who knows Me (verses 1-6)

Psalm 139:1-6 *“O LORD, You have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O LORD, You know it altogether. You have hedged me behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it.”*

A. David who wrote this Psalm wanted us to experience the wonder and fear of the living God. The first word in this Psalm is the personal, covenant name of God. This is not a statement about an impersonal God. He is not just a God He is our God He knows us personally and He loves us personally.

1. It is as if the I Am had searched me out and probed every nook and cranny of my being. He knows my thinking, my motivation, and the secret places of my being. God is all-knowing. He knows us already without searching us. Nothing is hid from Him.

2. He knows when I move.

v.2 *“You know my sitting down and my rising up.”*

He also knows *“You understand my thought afar off.”*

He even knows our every thought before we think them,

v.4 *“For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.”*

3. Finally, David thinks about God's intimate knowledge in terms of space.

v.3 *“You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways”*

v.5 *“You have hedged me behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me.”*

God is all around me and no one can touch me because God's hand is upon me.

B. These assertions tend to raise two emotions in us. First, we are blessed because our LORD loves us so much He knows everything there is to know about each of us.

The new Testament equivalent is **Matthew 10:29-31**.

“Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.”

The second emotion is fear.

Hebrew 4:13 *“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.”*

C. This knowledge is far too great for David to understand or wrap his mind around it (v6). We must not think we can get it also.

II. Yahweh is the God Who is Always with Me (verses 7-12)

Psalm 139:7–12 *“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. 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. The LORD’s Omniscience now flows into the LORD’s Omnipresence. David expresses this in describing how useless it is to try to run from God.

v.7 *“Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?”*

Although this is a rhetorical question, the obvious answer is, no where.

1. He begins with the vertical and horizontal directions. If he could somehow climb up to the heavens God is there. Or, if David could go to the lowest place he can imagine, the grave, the storage place of the dead, even there the LORD is there.

2. From the highest and lowest David then posits the furthest away he could go and the fastest possible means of getting there.

v.9 *“If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea”*

The LORD is there waiting for us.

3. (v.10) *“Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.”*

He LORD’s protection and strength will still be there with me. Distance does not diminish God’s power or ability.

B. This no escape from the LORD anywhere.

vs.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.”*

III. Yahweh Is The God Who Created Me (verses 13-16)

vs.13–16 *“For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother’s womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are*

Your works, And that my soul knows very well. My frame was NOT hidden from You, when I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them.

A. God's Personal knowledge and care began before I was born. The LORD's omniscience, omnipresence, and omnipotence is *timeless*. He made David in his mother's womb. In the most unseeable place the Lord saw him.

B. God personally created David's future.

v.16 ***"And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them."***

What kind of omnipotence is this that can create the future?

Application (v. 17-23)

A. David suggested several important applications in the text. First, we need to think God's thought after Him.

vs.17-18 ***"How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You"***

If God is so great and we are His creation should not what He thinks be the most important things?

B. Second, it should bother us that people oppose our God.

vs.19-22 ***"Oh, that You would slay the wicked, O God! Depart from me, therefore, you bloodthirsty men. For they speak against You wickedly; Your enemies take Your name in vain. Do I not hate them, O LORD, who hate You? And do I not loathe those who rise up against You? I hate them with perfect hatred; I count them my enemies"***

Those who oppose the LORD are His enemies. But God sometimes loves and saves some of His enemies. He saved us.

C. Lastly, David asks the LORD to search Him again. The Psalm began with a statement that God searched him and knew him. Now David says search me and help me change to please you.

vs.23-24 ***"Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting."***

Do we share David's desire? Can we run into the Apostle Peter's assurance in John 21? ***"Lord you know all things, you know I love You."***

Hymn #439 Cleanse Me