

Psalm 139: The God Who Knows Me



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PSALM 139

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

- ¹ O LORD, you have searched me and known me!
- ² You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar.
- ³ You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.
- ⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.

PSALM 139

⁵ You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.

⁷ Where shall I go from your Spirit?
Or where shall I flee from your presence?

⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there!
If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

PSALM 139

- 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 cover me, and the light about me be night,”
¹² even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.

PSALM 139

¹³ For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

PSALM 139

- ¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.
- ¹⁷ How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!
- ¹⁸ If I would count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with you.

PSALM 139

- ¹⁹ Oh that you would slay the wicked, O God! O men of blood, depart from me!
- ²⁰ They speak against you with malicious intent; your enemies take your name in vain.
- ²¹ Do I not hate those who hate you, O LORD? And do I not loathe those who rise up against you?
- ²² I hate them with complete hatred; I count them my enemies.

PSALM 139

²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts!

²⁴ And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

God Knows Me Intimately

vs. 1-6

¹ O Lord, you have searched me and known me! ² You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. ³ You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. ⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether. ⁵ You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. ⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.

God Is With Me Constantly

vs.7-12

⁷ Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? ⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, 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 cover me, and the light about me be night,” ¹² even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.

Jeremiah 23:24

Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the Lord.

God Made Me Wonderfully

vs.13-18

¹³ For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. ¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them. ¹⁷ How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! ¹⁸ If I would count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with you.

Here David has moved on from contemplating his own thoughts and their nakedness before God, to considering God's innumerable thoughts toward him, such divine knowledge is not only wonderful, but precious, since it carries its own proof of infinite commitment, God will not leave the work of His own hands either to chance or to ultimate extinction.

D. Kidner

God Will Judge Righteously

vs. 19-24

¹⁹ Oh that you would slay the wicked, O God! O men of blood, depart from me! ²⁰ They speak against you with malicious intent; your enemies take your name in vain. ²¹ Do I not hate those who hate you, O Lord? And do I not loathe those who rise up against you? ²² I hate them with complete hatred; I count them my enemies. ²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! ²⁴ And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!