

Psalm 139:1-18:

For the director of music. Of David. A psalm.

- ¹ *You have searched me, Lord,
and you know me.*
- ² *You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.*
- ³ *You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.*
- ⁴ *Before a word is on my tongue
you, Lord, know it completely.*
- ⁵ *You hem me in behind and before,
and you lay your hand upon me.*
- ⁶ *Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too lofty for me to attain.*
- ⁷ *Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?*
- ⁸ *If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.*
- ⁹ *If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,*
- ¹⁰ *even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast.*
- ¹¹ *If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me
and the light become night around me,"*
- ¹² *even the darkness will not be dark to you;
the night will shine like the day,
for darkness is as light to you.*
- ¹³ *For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.*
- ¹⁴ *I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.*
- ¹⁵ *My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place,
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.*
- ¹⁶ *Your eyes saw my unformed body;
all the days ordained for me were written in your book
before one of them came to be.*
- ¹⁷ *How precious to me are your thoughts, God!
How vast is the sum of them!*
- ¹⁸ *Were I to count them,
they would outnumber the grains of sand—
when I awake, I am still with you.*

INTRO to series “Summer in Psalms” – The Hebrew Psalms in our Bible are filled with ancient prayers, poems, laments, hymns, and spiritual songs written by God’s people throughout many generations. As the Holy Spirit spoke through them, their words of praise and faith were collected into five books with 150 different psalms.

Our Summer series will survey several of the Psalms which proclaim God’s faithfulness in all generations. They also call on us to trust the Lord in our own generation, seeking His best purposes in our homes, our church, and the world in which we live. A special part of this summer series will be the incorporation of music and singing led by our worship teams based on the Psalms we study.

INTRO to **Psalm 139**: Psalm 139 has been called “glorious” among all of David’s psalms because of the richness of God’s knowledge, design, and love for human beings.

-The sections of **Psalm 139** are often separated according to three key attributes of God: 1.) His Omniscience (**vs. 1-6**), 2.) His Omnipresence (**vs. 7-18**), and 3.) His Omnipotence (**vs. 19-24**).

-Most of the genres of all 150 psalms are inside this one psalm – praise, thanksgiving, lament, confession, meditation, prayer, and even imprecation (calling for judgment on one’s enemies).

I. You are fully known by God. (vs. 1-6)

-The common theme of the word “know” permeates this entire psalm, occurring in seven different verses.

-Also, we see David using first person singular language – God knows “ME”, when “I” think, etc. more than is normal in the Bible—nearly 50 times in this psalm.

-David essentially says in these first verses: “God, You know me fully now; but You have always known me fully. You know everything about me and everyone else.”

-Using the language of an army encircling a city (**vs. 5**), David is not afraid but rather is thankful that the Lord surrounds him and keeps His hand upon him.

-When you consider the mind and thoughts of God, what do you imagine? Does it trouble you, or does it give you comfort that the Lord’s knowledge is “too wonderful, too lofty” for us to attain (**vs. 6**)?

II. Wherever you go, God is there. (vs. 7-12)

-In simpler terms these verses remind us there is nowhere we can hide from God and nowhere we can go that He is not there—whether to the East, West, North, or South; into the dark places, the secret places, or even the unseen places. Whether in the morning, in the afternoon, in the evening, at all times and in all places—God is there.

-**vs. 12** says that darkness is as light to God – whenever and wherever God looks, nothing is in the dark for Him! God is the true light shining throughout all that exists in heaven, throughout the universe, and on earth. (see also **Hebrews 4:12-13** below)

III. God formed and shaped every part of your being, as He has done in all of creation. (vs. 13-18)

-God forms and shapes every part of creation as the ultimate designer of all, including every single human life.

-These verses clearly articulate the importance of the sanctity of human life “from the moment of conception until the final breath.” (Danny Akin)

-We are “fearfully and wonderfully made” and therefore every human life has God-given dignity from the youngest to the oldest and from every walk of life.

-From The Message translation of the Bible: “You know exactly how I was made, bit by bit, how I was sculpted from nothing into something.”

-We are not only made in God’s image, our lives are given true purpose as God’s “handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (**Ephesians 2:10**)

-The importance of human dignity and value before God was never made more clear than when the Lord Himself put on flesh and became one of us. This is the incarnation, when that God came to earth in Christ, went through the gestation process, and was born as a fully human being to a human mother. Jesus experienced everything part of a fully human life (see **Hebrews 4:15-16** below).

-God has always cared for us, and He cares about still and cares about our tomorrow as well. (**vs. 18**)

CLOSING

-Looking at the bookends of this psalm—**Verse 1** is a declaration by David that the Lord has already searched him and knows him completely. But **vs. 23-24** are a request that God search David completely again: *Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. ²⁴ See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*

QUESTION: Would you consider using **vs. 22-23** frequently in your personal prayer times when asking the Lord to search your heart, lead you in confession and obedience, and in commitment to follow in His steps as He leads you forward each day?

Other Scriptures Referenced:

Hebrews 4:12-13: *For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. ¹³ Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.*

Ephesians 2:10: *For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

Hebrews 4:14-16: *Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. ¹⁶ Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*

Other Quotes/Resources:

-“God knows instantly and effortlessly all matter and all matters, all mind and every mind, all spirit and all spirits, all being and every being, all creaturehood and all creatures, every plurality and all pluralities, all law and every law, all relations, all causes, all thoughts, all mysteries, all enigmas, all feeling, all desires, every unuttered secret, all thrones and dominions, all personalities, all things visible and invisible in heaven and earth, motion, space, time, life, death, good, evil, heaven, and hell. Because God knows all things perfectly, He knows no thing better than any other thing, but all things equally well. He never discovers anything. He is never surprised, never amazed. He never wonders about anything nor (except when drawing men out for their own good) does He seek information or ask questions.” —A. W. Tozer