

About Psalm 139: famous for its beauty and lofty themes. Some Jewish teachers considered it the very best of David’s psalms. We can see four distinct sections.

First Section: God’s Knowledge – His Omniscience

1 For the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. O LORD, you have searched me, and known me.

- Dedicated to the Chief Musician: intended for public worship.
- The word for *search* means to dig into the earth like a miner.
- David also acknowledges that God “has investigated” David.

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.

- God is able to observe all of David’s activity and habits.
- He knows every word in our tongue.
- God comprehends our path: “sifting” or “winnowing” us like seeds.

5 You have hedged me behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me.

- This verb was commonly used to describe the siege of a city.

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

- We should marvel at God’s vast knowledge of us, as complex as we are! David possessed the humility to know that he could not attain to the knowledge of God.

Second Section: God’s Omnipresence

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.

- God’s omnipresence made Him very different from the gods of the nations.

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.

- The uttermost parts of the sea was the “end” of the Mediterranean, or Tarshish.

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.

- In Hebrews we read that everything is naked and open to our God with whom we are dealing.

Third Section: God’s Omnipotence – His Power

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.

- The “inward parts” here are the kidneys.
- Human beings are fearfully and wonderfully made, and each life deserving of respect and dignity, as being personally designed by the Lord.

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.

- “Wrought” literally means “embroidered.”
- God knows and plans for our days before we are even made!

17 How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! Wow 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.

- God also has thoughts and plans about us which are literally uncountable.

Fourth Section: Prayer for Protection Against Enemies & Sin

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.

- For the Christian believer, our disapproval of the things done by even the fiercest enemies of God must never rise to the level of wishing ill towards them.

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.

- He invites God to examine again every part his being.
- I don't think there is any way to find and live a blessed life if we are not willing to put ourselves under the examining lens of the Holy Spirit.
