

The Omni God

Psalm 139

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Today we are going to consider Psalm 139. This is a theological psalm of King David in that it praises God for His almighty attributes. Specifically, God is omniscient, or all-knowing; He is omnipresent, always present everywhere; and omnipotent, all-powerful.

Omniscience – Psalm 139:1-4

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.*

Who knows you the best?

After being married for more than half my life, Teresa often knows what I'm going to say before I say it. But as much as she knows me, God knows me even better than I know myself.

Jesus said God knows us so much that, "*the very hairs of your head are all numbered*" (Luke 12:7). That verse has special significance for those of us who have lost hair on our heads.

It is comforting to be known by God...

Particularly when I realize He saved me despite His knowledge of me. Even with my flaws, God breathed His Spirit into me so that I may be with Him forever.

David understood the comfort of our all-knowing God. That is why He praised God for His omniscience, His knowing all about him.

David said God even *knows his thoughts from afar*...

Despite God being so far above us in so many ways, He even knows what we are thinking.

If that idea is disturbing to you, it is time to take the Apostle Paul's advice:

Romans 12:2 – *do not be conformed to this world,
but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,*

that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God

The more we can align our thoughts with that of God and not what is common in the world, the better off we'll be.

Also, King David knew God was *familiar with all [our] ways*. Nothing we do catches God by surprise.

What is the problem with our ways?

Our ways are not God's ways; God said in...

Isaiah 55:9 – *For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways*

As Ben talked about last Sunday, most people are on the broad way of the world to destruction.

- Man's way is to think either there is no life after death or, if there is, that they can earn God's favor for salvation.
- The soteriology of all religions of the world have this in common: salvation of works. Biblical Christianity is the only "religion" that is salvation by grace through faith.
- But God provided the only way of salvation by trusting in the sacrifice of His Son Jesus Christ as full payment for our sins...

John 14:6 – *Jesus said... "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."*

Psalm 139:5-6

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.*

Another translation uses the word *hedge* instead of *hem*. Both words here are instructive... God provides a hedge of protection around us.

Who here is familiar with Murphy's Law?

What is Murphy's Law?

Murphy's Law is an adage of this fallen world: If it can go wrong, it will go wrong.

- When you consider all the things that could harm us in this world, it is miraculous that we do as well as we do. That is God’s hedge of protection. God often uses His angels to protect us...

Hebrews 1:14 – *Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?*

Another way of looking at God’s hedge of protection is that He also *hems* us in.

What does it mean to be hemmed in?

He keeps us from veering too far off into the weeds from the narrow way of Jesus Christ. That too keeps us from suffering the consequences so common in this world.

The knowledge of God was wonderful to King David and so far above our human capacity for knowledge that we will never be able to attain everything God knows.

- That is why the revelation of God that He has provided us is so important, and wonderful!
- God has the ultimate “big picture” ...the more we can conform our understanding of things to God’s perspective, the better off we will be.

Omnipresence – Psalm 139:7-10

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.

Is there anywhere a person can go to get away from the presence of God? No...

Has anybody ever gone to the heavens?

Routinely... the first heaven is the atmosphere, the domain of the birds; the second heaven is outer space, the celestial domain where the planets, stars, and galaxies are found. The third heaven is the spiritual realm which is the domain of the angels and where God has His throne.

2 Corinthians 12:2 – *I know a man in Christ [himself] who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven.*

Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin allegedly remarked while in orbit, “I don’t see any God up here.” But his friends later said the phrase had originated from anti-religious Soviet propaganda.

- If Yuri Gagarin did say this, it was because he didn’t know God who created the heavens.

There is nowhere God can’t be in all of His creation. He is even actively holding together all the molecules that make up the universe...

Hebrews 1:3 – [Jesus is] *upholding all things by the word of His power*

Likewise, people go to the depths today in submarines.

What biblical character went to the depths long before there were submarines?

Jonah, who was 3 days and nights in the belly of a whale was a type of the resurrection of Christ.

David knew no matter where he went, God’s hand would guide him and hold him fast meaning God’s hand would keep him from being lost. David understood the doctrine of eternal security.

What is the doctrine of eternal security?

That once you’re saved, you’re always saved...

John 10:28 – *I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.*

Jesus said in John 3 that in order to enter the kingdom of God, people must be *born again*, or *born of the Spirit*. That is an act of God, not something we can do for ourselves. Once a person is born again, they cannot be unborn. They are eternally secure.

We don’t have to wonder if we are going to heaven or not... we can know. That is how God wants us to live; its what makes life sweet, knowing that no matter what happens in this world, we know we will be spending eternity with our Creator-Savior-God. Jesus put it this way...

John 10:10 – *I have come that they may have life and that they may have it more abundantly.*

Omniscience – Psalm 139:11-12

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.*

God can see in the dark even without night-vision goggles. Humans have limitations such as not being able to see without light. But God has no such limitation, He sees it all even without the light.

It is interesting to note that in eternity, we too in our glorified, resurrected bodies will have the capacity to see in the dark. Speaking of the New Jerusalem...

Revelation 21:23 – *The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.*

This doesn't say there'd be no sun or moon-light, just that we wouldn't need it to see. In eternity, our close relationship with Jesus will give us the capacity to see in the dark. This effectively means there will be no dark in eternity. Everything in the universe will be illuminated to us by the glory of God.

Omnipotence our Creator – Psalm 139:13-16

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.*

How are we fearfully and wonderfully made?

The cells of our bodies regenerate at the rate of 25 million per second. We have 60 to 100 thousand miles of blood vessels which would circle the earth three times. We are made with irreducible complexity.

God blessed us mortals with the capacity to procreate... to participate with God to create new life. Of course, God does all the heavy lifting knitting us together in the womb according to the plan He has for us written in our DNA.

- Our beginning is in *the secrete place* because it is not obvious we are there in the early few weeks of a pregnancy.
- Our creation is *in the depths of the earth* which is the domain of mortal humans and is in many respects very far from God's domain in heaven.

This passage makes it clear that life begins at conception because...

- David knew he was a person, a human being, even as he was being formed in his mother's womb.
- Thus, personhood begins at conception.

Why is the issue of abortion so controversial?

It is the clash between God's narrow way and the world's broad way. People don't want to admit that abortion is murder to cover up sin or escape responsibility.

The world has re-branded abortion as pro-choice...

- That is that a lie because if an abortion is being considered, choices have already been made that resulted in a pregnancy.
- And it is not giving the baby a choice who would certainly choose to be born and live if they were consulted.

What is the book we are written in while we are still unformed, before we are even conceived?

Apparently, there is a book of God which has the plan for our life...

Jeremiah 29:11 – *For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*

There is nobody who is an accident. We were all wanted and planned for by God.

God has multiple books documenting our lives...

Revelation 20:12 – *And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.*

You don't want to be among those who are judged according to their works. Fortunately, all who are in the book of life will not be judged for their works...

The book of life is the record of all who have trusted in God's provision for salvation when they believed that Jesus Christ paid the penalty for their sins by His death on the cross. We also learn that this book of life was written before we were ever born...

Revelation 17:8 – *And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world God knows even before we were conceived who will embrace the provision He made for eternal life.*

How is it possible that God could know us so well that He would know the decision we would make about embracing His provision for eternal life before we are even born?

He is that Omniscient. God is outside the confines of time which is just a 4th dimension of our 3-dimensional physical universe. Thus, God is so all-knowing that He can declare the end from the beginning. Which He has revealed to us in His Word.

Omniscience – Psalm 139:17-18

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.*

David understood the high value that God's thoughts are to us...

How may we know God's thoughts?

God has revealed His thoughts to us in His Word. And God's Word passes the test of time. Jesus said...

Matthew 24:35 – *Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.*

God will re-create the current heaven and earth for the Eternal State and we will still be studying Psalm 139, and all of God's Word.

- God's Word is so valuable it is relevant to all people for all time.

David's Request – Psalm 139:19-22

¹⁹ *If only you, God, would slay the wicked!*

Away from me, you who are bloodthirsty!

²⁰ *They speak of you with evil intent;*

your adversaries misuse your name.

²¹ *Do I not hate those who hate you, Lord,*

and abhor those who are in rebellion against you?

²² *I have nothing but hatred for them;*

I count them my enemies.

The request King David made here was for God to slay the bloodthirsty wicked who blasphemed and hated Him.

What do you think God thought of David's request?

I could just see God saying in response, "Be patient with Me... justice will be served and the wicked will be punished in due time. Some of those you see as wicked will come around." We know this because...

2 Peter 3:9 – *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

David knew that those who hate God are in rebellion against Him and he hated them for it.

Should we hate God's enemies as David did?

It is hard not to hate those who hate us...

John 15:18 – *If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.*

But He also said we should adopt His perspective concerning those who hate us because some will repent...

Matthew 5:44 – *love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you*

How is it possible to love those who hate us?

Such love is not humanly possible, but God has given all believers in Christ His Spirit in us who enables us to have the willful, sacrificial agape love of God if we will allow Him to work in us.

David's desire for growth – Psalm 139:23-24

²³ *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.*

What is the way everlasting?

It is God's provision for eternal life by believing in God's anointed, the Messiah. We understand that provision was in Jesus, the Christ paying the penalty for our sins by His sacrifice on the cross.

Why do you think David wanted God to see his anxious thoughts?

God wants us to lift up our worries to Him. He already knows what is worrying us but the first step in getting past what worries us is to get Him involved.

Philippians 4:6-7 – *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

Nothing is too small or big for God. He is Omnipotent and He cares for us. That is the greatest comfort of all.

David concludes by inviting God to reveal to Him what he needed to change to be closer to Him. That is the key to our on-going relationship with our Creator-

Savior God... to seek to be more like Him with His help. That is a life-long journey that will extend into eternity...

Ephesians 2:7 – in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus

Those in the book of life will spend eternity engaged in activities that help us grow closer to our great Creator-Savior-Lord Jesus Christ. Hopefully everyone here is in that book! If you have any doubts, let's talk about it... I love discussing spiritual matters and especially God's grace.

Lets, pray...