



Sing unto  
the Lord a  
new song

## A STUDY ON SOME OF THE PSALMS

### WEEK SIX – PSALM 139

This Psalm has been described as “a profound meditation on the **omniscience** (the state of knowing everything, “the notion of divine omniscience”); **omnipresence** (the presence of God everywhere at the same time); and **omnipotence** (one who has unlimited power or authority – as one hymn writer puts it: *The Potentate of Time*), **ALSO** his intimate knowledge of each individual”.

In simple terms: GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING, IS EVERYWHERE AT THE SAME TIME, AND HAS UNLIMITED POWER AND AUTHORITY OVER EVERYTHING. As our friends across the Atlantic would say: “**AWESOME**”.

I’ve sent the NKJV of this Psalm as I just love the majesty of the language of the older version.

One writer says this: “*What we say in prayer gives a good indication of how we view God and our relationship with Him. The prayer of the writer of Psalm 139, King David, showed that he obviously wanted to be in the centre of the will of God. In the Psalm he recalls the attributes (see above) of the God to whom he prays.*”

Sam contributed the following, which I thought was very helpful:

*“At a training course at work, a psychologist talked to my group about how different people think- it really helps to have a mix of people to make up an effective group There are those with an eye for detail, a gift for teasing out items others miss and there are those who only see the big picture, strategists if you like. Little chunkers and big chunkers he called them. Most of us are somewhere in between, but try as we might, we cannot cover both bases thoroughly. This Psalm shows how God covers ALL bases perfectly, from our smallest, most intimate detail, to the whole of creation.”*

### **Read Verses 1-6**

David acknowledges God’s omniscience: that God knows him inside out: what he does, what he thinks, where he goes, and what he says.

- From these verses, how do you think David views God? Does this knowledge that God has concern him?
- How do we feel if we apply these verses to ourselves? Is it too much for us to take in?
- Have you ever thought of God as being overwhelmingly powerful?
- Do we see it as comforting or as threatening that God knows our every thought?
- Are you encouraged that God's hand is upon you and his protection surrounds you?

### **Read verses 7-12**

These verses reflect God's omnipresence in knowing what is happening all the time. The language is beautiful and uplifting. He talks about *'the wings of the morning'*. This made me think about the birds and their dawn chorus which acknowledges a new day with all its potential.

- What are the implications of God knowing us in this way?
- Is it important to know that we cannot hide from God – even though sometimes we may want to?
- Think of people in the Bible who tried to hide from God? What was the outcome? Look at the following scripture verses: Genesis 3:8-13 (Adam and Eve), Genesis 4 (Cain), 1 Samuel 15:10-23 (Saul, by explaining that the Lord told Samuel that Saul had turned back from following Him and had disobeyed His commandments), (David), (2 Samuel 11)
- What do you think verses 11 and 12 mean? Have you ever experienced God's light in the darkness?

### **Read verses 13-18**

There are two important things here: God's personal involvement and knowledge.

- What do you think David means in verses 13 to 16?

The NLT version says this:

**13** *You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb.*

**14** *Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvellous—how well I know it.*

**15** *You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb.*

**16** *You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.*

- Does that make you feel special?

### **Verses 17 and 18**

The website BIBLEREF says the following: "Understanding that God is all-knowing causes David to reflect on God's intimate understanding. He treasures the fact that God thinks about him. He considers those thoughts highly valuable, weighty, and innumerable. Likewise, David wanted to know and honour God's other thoughts, including His will

[\(Psalm 25:4-5\)](#).

It is inconceivable to the human mind that our Creator would think so often and deeply about each of His children, but it is true. We are constantly on His mind. He has plans for us ([Proverbs 3:5-6](#); [Ephesians 2:10](#); [Romans 8:28-30](#)), and He cares for us ([1 Peter 5:7](#)). He created and controls the universe, but He condescends to think about us. We may fall sick or face a job loss or a financial crisis, but God's thoughts are upon us to carry us through the harrowing situation. If we want to learn what God's thoughts are for us, we can read His Word. There we will discover His love for us, what He has promised to do for us, and what He wants us to do for Him.”

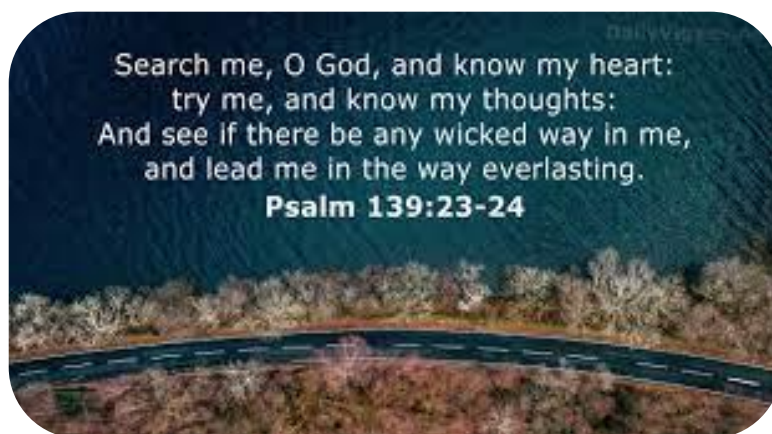
- Do we even begin to grasp how important we are to God? How much he thinks about us and cares for us?

### ***Read Verses 19-24***

Here David prays for Divine examination and guidance by inviting God to examine his heart, thoughts, and ways, asking for cleansing from any wickedness or hurtful ways within him. He also demonstrates wanting to be in line with God's will and expresses a desire to be led in the way everlasting and to walk in the path of righteousness.

In the closing two verses, David appeals to God to search his heart and know his thoughts and asks for guidance into the everlasting way. He also realises the need to surrender to God's examination and guidance, trusting in His wisdom and leading.

- We have prayed those last two verses many times, but we can never do it too often. God cares so much and wants the absolute best for each one of us.
- Even if we have never felt deep love and care from our earthly fathers, we can be certain how God feels about us.



### **PRAYER**

**Thank you for your tremendous love for us, for your thoughts towards us and your loving care. May we stay close to you and walk in your ways.**

**Amen**