

The Awareness of God

Our worship of the Lord is not restricted to a certain place, a certain day and a certain time. Psalms 139 is very personal. David doesn't mention worshipping with others. It reveals a detailed awareness of God. In this powerful chapter David weaves the two major components of our worship together: Head and Heart. Head is what we know. Heart is how we feel about it. Fact & feeling, head and heart—both essential to the proper worship of God. **WHY?**

Theology is the study of God. Psalms 139 is viewed as one of the most "theological" descriptions of God in the Bible. There are three major sections, each comprising of six verses.

Psalms 139

O LORD, You have searched me and known *me*.

² You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar.

³ You scrutinize my path and my lying down, And are intimately acquainted with all my ways.

⁴ Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O LORD, You know it all. ⁵ You have enclosed me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me. ⁶ *Such* knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is *too* high, I cannot attain to it.

⁷ Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? ⁸ If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. ⁹ If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, ¹⁰ Even there Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will lay hold of me. ¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me, And the light around me will be night," ¹² Even the darkness is not dark to You, And the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are alike *to You*.

¹³ For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well. ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, *And* skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth; ¹⁶ Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; And in Your book were all written The days that were ordained *for me*, When as yet there was not one of them.

¹⁷ How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How vast is the sum of them! ¹⁸ If I should count them, they would outnumber the sand. When I awake, I am still with You.

The Omniscience of God (1-6)

- Omniscience means: _____

1. This is demonstrated by:

Knowledge of what I am _____

Knowledge of what is in my _____

Thorough _____ with me

2. David knew that God _____
3. This understanding did not make David fearful

The Omnipresence of God (7-12)

- Omnipresence means: _____

1. This is demonstrated by:

Extreme _____ or _____

Extreme _____ or _____

Hide in _____

2. David knew that God was _____
3. This can be a scary thought. It wasn't for David. Why?
4. What is "Sheol" (8)?

The Omnipotence of God (13-18)

- Omnipotence means: _____

1. This is demonstrated by:

Detailing the _____ of David

God recognized David before he was _____

2. This is a powerful example of not just God's creative power, but of life in the womb

Knowing what David knew about God amazed him. This was the source of his worship and honor of God.

Why would these characteristics of God be a source of comfort?

Psalms 139

¹⁹ O that You would slay the wicked, O God; Depart from me, therefore, men of bloodshed.

²⁰ For they speak against You wickedly, And 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 the utmost hatred; They have become my enemies.

²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; ²⁴ And see if there be any hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way.

David's awareness of God led to two practical conclusions:

- (1) David wanted a _____ from those that do evil (19-22)
 - David stood with God

- (2) David wanted God to _____ him of anything that was offensive to God (23-24)
 - This thought reveals the humbleness of David

 - Rather than keeping things secret, David _____ God to run through his heart and mind and see if anything wasn't right

A.W. Tozer: *"God has never learned from anyone. God cannot learn. Could God at any time or in any manner receive into His mind knowledge that He did not possess and had not possessed from eternity; He would be imperfect and less than Himself. To think of a God who must sit at the feet of a teacher, even though that teacher be an archangel or a seraph, is to think of someone other than the Most High God..."*

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...God knows all...

James Boice: *"For an unsaved person this powerful, pervasive knowledge seems intrusive and frightening, and with good reason. God is the end-time judge with whom we must reckon. Strikingly, the response of the psalmist is not fear. He is not trembling when he thinks of God's omniscience. On the contrary, he shelters himself in God's knowledge and marvels at it. For the psalmist, God's knowledge is not a threat; it is a refuge."*

Psalms, pg 1204

