Psalm 139 – God's Omniscience and Omnipresence

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Outline

I. He is omniscient (1-6)
II. He is omnipresent (7-18)
III. David's zeal for God's reputation (19-22)
IV. David requests God's evaluation (23-24)

I. He is omniscient (1-6)

FIRST: David spent time meditating on God's character – The Psalms are clear: David often meditated on the Lord. He thought about God's character, personality, and deeds. When he considered these things, his love for and awe of God grew. And in this Psalm, it is the first thing he does. (**REF: Matt 6:9, Psa 63:6**) David was very intentional about meditating on who God is! The names of Jesus represent His Character!

Name (JEHOVAH-)	Meaning
TSIDKENU	Our Righteousness
M'KADDESH	Who Sacrifices
SHALOM	Is Peace
SHAMMAH	Is There
ROPHE	Heals
NISSI	My Banner
ROHI	My Shepherd

APPLICATION – Be intentional about meditating on God's character and deeds.

SECOND: God knows everything about us – David is talking about God's **Omniscience**.
God's **Omniscience** is His perfect, exhaustive, and immediate knowledge of all things—past, present, and future, including all possibilities, the depths of human hearts, and every detail of His creation.

APPLICATION – In theory, most of us, most believers, understand that God is omniscient. But we have likely not meditated on that character quality, nor fully grasped or understood its implications for us.

THIRD: As stated, David knows that **Such knowledge is too wonderful for me** – David was blown away by the implications of God's omniscience.
APPLICATION – REFLECT on God's OMNISCIENCE! • What exactly does God know about you?, • What does this teach you about Him?, • How does God's omniscience affect you?, • Because God is omniscient, what should you do? *(**REF:** **Hebrews 4:13, Proverbs 15:3, Matthew 10:30**.)*

II. He is omnipresent (7-18)

FIRST: HERE, David meditates on God's **Omnipresence** – God's **Omnipresence** is His perfection in being everywhere at all times, without being limited, divided, or contained by space. He is not merely "spread out" across the universe, but is fully and intimately present in every point of creation, sustaining all things by His power. While He dwells uniquely in the fullness of His glory in heaven, there is no place in the created order—or even in the depths of Sheol—where a person can hide from His immediate presence. David continues meditating on God's character, this time focusing on God's omnipresence. Specifically, David considered how God's omnipresence affects him.

SECOND: It is impossible to flee from God's presence (**REF: *Psalms 53:1***)

THIRD: God's omnipresence encourages believers and terrifies the wicked.

APPLICATION – Think about a situation you recently faced where remembering God's omnipresence would have helped you.

REFLECT: Is God's omnipresence a good or bad thing for people? (**REF: John 3:20, 2 *Chronicles 16:9***) • He knows when you are sad and need comfort., • He knows when you are weak and need strength., • He knows when you are repentant and is ready to forgive you., • He knows the obstacles, disappointments, and trials you face., • And during all of these, He is with you., • His presence can guide, encourage, comfort, and strengthen you to live a life for Him.

FOURTH: (**V9**) In the most God-forsaken" places, He is there. "God-forsaken" is used by many to describe a place that seems totally devoid of God's presence. However, no such places exist.
(**REF: Isaiah 55:6-7**).

FIFTH: **V10***:* God is not only observing but leading His people. God is not an impersonal force. Neither does He keep aloof and, from a distance, just to watch US, His people, struggle or fail. (**REF: *Jude 1:24***)

SIXTH: (**V13-16**): David recognized that God designed him from the womb. There is a bigger concept here: God is not only present with us in the here and now, God was also **with us** from the very beginning. Time itself could not separate us from the Lord's presence. (**REF: *Romans 8:38-39***) **Reflect** – How does that fact encourage you?

APPLICATION – God personally designed us. Understanding that truth affects how we take on challenges, how we face obstacles, or how we handle success. A successful person should not take personal credit. Everything we have, whether an athletic skill or a high IQ, was given to us by God.

REFLECT: • ***V7****: Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?,* • Have you ever fled or tried to flee from God or what He has called you to do?, • Does God's omnipresence encourage or frighten you? Why?, • What aspect of you was designed by God?, • How does meditating on God's design of you personally influence your perspective?, • How does knowing you were designed by God affect your response to challenges? Limitations? Trials? Successes? (**REF: *Jer 23:24, Isa 43:2, Col 1:16-17***)

SEVENTH*: God SEES you, HEARS you, GOD Knows you!*

III. David's zeal for God's reputation (19-22)

FIRST*: Imprecatory Psalms* – An imprecatory prayer means to "invoke evil upon or curse one's enemies." We must understand David's motivation here in praying this. He is concerned for God's reputation, saying, "Do I not hate those who hate you?" David seems so close to God that God's own righteous anger is affecting him. He cannot see the evil and remain calm. (**REF: Ephesians 4:26-27, John 15:25, Romans 11:9-10**, **Rev 6:10**

SECOND: Can we pray like that? If we are honest with ourselves, we would probably be far more likely to pray like this out of pride, bitterness, or envy than out of a righteous desire to see God glorified and His enemies humbled.

APPLICATION – We should seek the Holy Spirit's leading when praying for our enemies, and ensure we are motivated by God's glory, and remember to love them and share the gospel with them.

REFLECT: • What are your thoughts on asking God to punish/destroy the wicked?, • Why was David so emotional about those people?, • What really bothered him about them?, • What can you learn about David from that?, • Jesus commanded us to love our enemies, but should we love God's enemies?
(**REF: Matt 5:43-46, Psa 55:15, Psa 69:28**)

IV. David requests God's evaluation (23-24)

FIRST: Instead of hiding from God, we should ask Him to bring to mind any sinful way in us.

APPLICATION – We should regularly ask the Holy Spirit to bring to mind any wrong thinking or behavior in us.

REFLECT: • Do you regularly ask for God to "search" and "try" your heart/mind?, • Do you regularly ask God to "know" your heart and mind?, • How do prayers of this nature help you grow spiritually?, • What should you do when the Lord brings something to mind? (**REF: 2 Corinthians 13:5)**