



Psalm 139

Learning to know
the Inescapable God

Psalm 139

For the Choir Director, a Psalm of David. LORD, You have searched me and known me.

2 You know when I sit down and when I get up;
You understand my thought from far away.
3 You scrutinize my path and my lying down,
And are acquainted with all my ways.
4 Even before there is a word on my tongue,
Behold, LORD, You know it all.
5 You have encircled me behind and in front,
And placed Your hand upon me.
6 *Such* knowledge is too wonderful for me;
It is *too* high, I cannot comprehend it.

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 up 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 take hold of me.

11 If I say, "Surely the darkness
will overwhelm me,
And the light around me will be night,"

12 Even 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 created my innermost parts;
You wove me in my mother's womb.

14 I will give thanks to You, because I am awesomely 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 formed in the depths of the earth;

16 Your eyes have seen my formless substance;
And in Your book were written
All the days that were ordained for me,
When as yet there was not one of them.

How precious also are Your thoughts for me, God!
How vast is the sum of them!

18 Were I to count them,
they would outnumber the sand.
When I awake, I am still with You.

19 If only You would put the wicked to death, God;
Leave me, you 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, 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, God, and know my heart;
Put me to the test and know my anxious thoughts;

24 And see if there is any hurtful way in me,
And lead me in the everlasting way.

Learning to know the Inescapable God

Omniscient verses 1-6

Omnipresent verses 7-12

Omnifigent verses 13-18

Righteous verses 19-22

Approachable verses 23-24

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they would outnumber the sand.
When I awake, I am still with You.

Omnificence: God made and sustains all

Created, formed, possessed, acquired

'My innermost parts' literally, my kidneys.

- The fist-sized filter and pressure regulators
- The seat of emotions: 'the way I think and feel'

Omnificence: God made and sustains all

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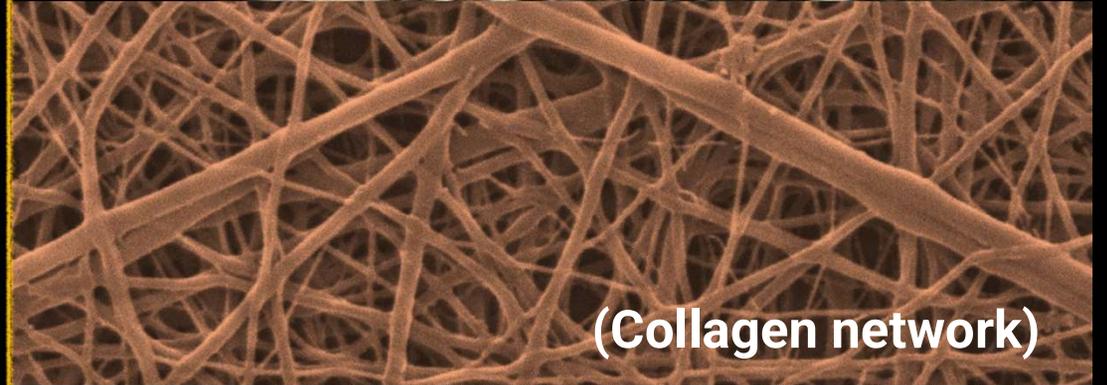
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When I awake, I am still with You.

knit



weave

hedge



(Collagen network)

cover



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Omnificence: God made and sustains all

Fearfully: like Jacob at Bethel: How Dreadful/awesome is this place...!" a trembling awe at what just happened.

Wonderfully: distinguished, set apart:

(~~"my body, my choice"~~)—I was set apart and distinguished from my mother's body

God's intimate work in the forming and weaving of me and you is *wonderful*. His work is infinitely set apart and distinguished from lesser creative works of men and animals.

Do I give thanks to God for the wonderful way he made me?

13 For You created my innermost parts;

You wove me in my mother's womb.

14 I will give thanks to You,

because I am awesomely and wonderfully made;

Wonderful are Your works,

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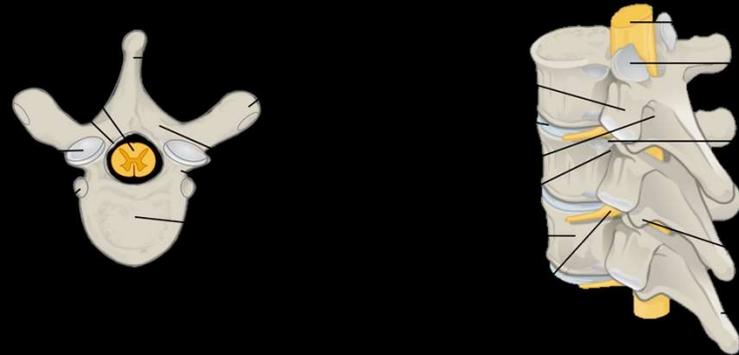
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Omnificence: God made and sustains all

My Frame. Bones. The internal skeletal structure: Cranium, vertebrae, femur, phalanges, all 300 of them. Which fuse to make about 206 in an adult. Stronger and more flexible than wood, lighter than steel, adaptable, and containing in their hollow middle a brilliant red blood-cell making factory.



Skillfully formed: *needlework, embroidered, woven*. The complex network of systems were developed day by day in the multiplication of cells. From the moment of conception –with its spark of light– to birth, I was expanded from the two cells which met from my parents into 26 billion cells.

Omnificence: God made and sustains all

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You wove me *in my mother's womb*.

14 I will give thanks to You,

because I am awesomely 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 formed *in the depths of the earth*;

16 Your eyes have seen my formless substance;

And in Your book were written

All the days that were ordained for me,

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Omnifcience: God made and sustains all

Covered up, out of sight, behind the scene, in the dark:

This is no limitation to the Omnificent God!

John the baby...

God could see my shape before it had a shape. He could envision my substance before it existed. Into this possibility the information database of DNA was written, and then in time it was read and obeyed to make me, me and you, you.

The Predictive, omniscient God has already seen and ordained the days of my life and yours. David was seen even back in the fields by God; and God's prophet Samuel knew that there must be more sons of Jesse. Your life *in utero* and your life *postpartum* is all known and ordained by God

Romans 4:17b The God who gives life to the dead and calls things into existence that do not exist

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Omnificence: God made and sustains all

The Almighty thinks about me - wow. These thoughts are precious. What God thinks, he says. The Bible is God's self-initiated sharing of his thoughts.

The Value of God's thoughts is only matched by the vastness.

Am I aware and thankful for his inescapable Presence?

19 If only You would put the wicked to death, God;

Leave me, you 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, 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.

Righteous: God will deal with evil

David is proclaiming, confessing his alignment with God's righteousness

("Shut up, get out of here. I'm talking to God")

David's prayer was and will be fulfilled:

At the Cross, in the body of Jesus Christ, God put the wickedness of you and me to death in him. The genius of God's Wonderful exchange, how He can execute the sin but save the sinner! I am crucified with Christ

At the final judgment, when the unrepentant wicked will be cast into The lake of fire, prepared for the Devil and his angels.

Do I hate what God hates, and love what God loves?

23 Search me, God, and know my heart;

Put me to the test and know my anxious thoughts;

24 And see if there is any hurtful way in me,

And lead me in the everlasting way.

Approachable: God can be prayed to

David invites that to which he previously reacted: God's searching and knowing

Isaiah: "Woe is me, I am undone!....."here am I, send me"

Peter: "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man... "Lord, wash not only my feet but also my hands and my head"

Paul: who art thou, Lord?.... I've counted all things but loss that I may know him

23 Search me, God, and know my heart;

Put me to the test and know my anxious thoughts;

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And lead me in the everlasting way.

Approachable: God can be prayed to

David trusts the examination of his soul to this God who knows him.

Anxious thoughts, worries, cares,

Psalm 94:19 In the multitude of my thoughts within me,
Thy comforts delight my soul

1 Peter 5:6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of
God, so that he may exalt you at the proper time,
casting all your cares on him, because he cares about you.

23 Search me, God, and know my heart;

Put me to the test and know my anxious thoughts;

24 And see if there is any hurtful way in me,

And lead me in the everlasting way.

Approachable: God can be prayed to

Pain, idolatry, hurtful

O Lord who knows me, shine your searchlight around my heart and I invite you to find and expose any way in my thoughts, nervous system, habits, mindset that is idolatrous in a way of finding relief/comfort/security from trying to avoid you and latching on to other gods, idols, or created things.

The eternal way vs. the wicked way:

“Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many rooms; if that were not so, I would have told you, because I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I am coming again and will take you to Myself, so that where I am, there you also will be. 4 And you know the way where I am going.” Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going; how do we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me. – Jesus in John 14:1-6