

*Search me, O God,  
and know my  
heart; test me  
and know my  
anxious thoughts.  
See if there is  
any offensive way  
in me, and lead  
me in the way  
everlasting.*

*- Psalm 139:23-24 -*

 heartlight.org

**Psalm 139 individual lament.** It laments the violence of those who would draw God's people into their way of life, and it is a lament that contains an imprecation against evil. Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts, point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

**Author:** David

David felt that he was surrounded by much wickedness, godlessness, and faithlessness.

David comments upon the greatness of God in the three "Omni's" –omniscience, omnipresence, and omnipotence.

- I. His Omniscience (139:1-6): God knows all about us.
  - A. What we do (139:3)
  - B. What we think (139:2)
  - C. What we say (139:4-6)
- II. His Omnipresence (139:7-12): God is always with us.
  - A. He is in heaven (139:7-8).
  - B. He is in the place of the dead (139:8).

- C. He can be found by the farthest oceans (139:9-10): God's hand will guide and support us wherever we go.
  - D. He shines forth in the darkness (139:11-12): Darkness and light are the same to God.
- III. His Omnipotence (139:13-24): God can do all things for us.
- A. David's review (139:13-18).
    1. God creates and arranges our bodies within the womb (139:13-15): He knows us before we are born.
    2. He schedules each day of our lives before we are born (139:16).
    3. He records our every day in his book (139:16).
    4. He thinks wonderful and innumerable thoughts about us constantly (139:17-18).
  - B. David's request (129:19-24)
    1. "O God, if only you would destroy the wicked!" (139:91-22).
    2. "Search me, O God, and know my heart" (139:23-24): He wants God to test him and point out anything that offends him.

The **deeper meaning** of Psalm 139 combines praise of, appeal to, and wisdom meditation on God who knows all and who encompasses all. The psalmist admits to God, in effect, "You know where I live" which is to say, God can get at me as God wills and there is no place to hide.

The **moral lesson** of Psalm 139 is that he wanted God to "slay the wicked." He gets angry that his enemies misuse the name of the Lord, he has hated and asks God to search his heart and his thoughts and see if there is any sin in him. Then, he boldly requests that the Lord lead Him on His path away from sin.

**Big Picture:** Psalm 139 reveals the relationship between the glory of God and the sanctity of life by showing how we are known by God, created by God, and judged by God. If God is the author of life, then it changes how we understand issues related to the sanctity of life like abortion.

David was surrounded by wickedness, bloodshed and deceit. He knows God to be good, holy, and righteous. How will he himself stand up to the scrutiny of such an all-knowing Creator? In this last section of the psalm, his confession is, in effect: "Lord, you know me."

#### God's Word in Psalm 139

If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast, even the darkness will not be dark to you: the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.

In verse 2, David acknowledges that the Lord's knowledge is thorough and perfect. God knows when David sits down and gets up. He even knows David's thoughts. He knows David's every motion and discerns everything about his thoughts.

Verse 12- God can see clearly through the darkness as though it were bright light. Nothing obscures His vision. He sees both sin and suffering distinctly. He notices what we do, whether it's righteous or sinful (Hebrews 4:13). Psalm 139 not only falls under the Hebrew poetry genre but is also classified as a Psalm of trust. These support the theme of God's:

God's omniscience (vv. 1-6)

Omnipresence (vv. 7-12)

Omnipotence (vv. 13-18).

God is involved in every person's life from the very beginning. Psalm 139: 13-14: For you created my inmost being: you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful.

I will praise you because I have been fearfully and wonderfully made". Fearfully when translated from the Hebrew means with great reverence, heart-felt interest, and with respect. Wonderfully means unique and set apart.

God knows our ways, our condition, and our conduct. For believers, the greatest prospect of heaven is entering the presence of the Lord. Paul was unafraid of death. He viewed it as an escort into the presence of Christ. (v. 8)

Verse 17 David marvels at God's amazing characteristics. God knows everything about him: where he goes, all David's thoughts and everything about his conduct. The Lord knows what David will say even before David says it. There is no place David can go that God isn't already present.

Although David despised the wicked who spoke against God and took His name in vain, he realized he was not perfect. He was keenly aware that sin might be lurking in his heart and mind. Therefore, ~~he asked the Lord to search his heart and know his thoughts.~~

The three main points of the Psalm are Joy, Pain, and Prayer. Through the Psalms, we learn about the importance of prayer and the acknowledgment of pain, as well as the power of praise and fulfillment of prophecy. This book has been designed as a prayer book for God's people as they wait for the arrival of the Messiah and the fulfillment of God's promises.

The three most important Psalms are:

**Psalm 23**—God protects, guides, and blesses. It shows us a poetic image of a powerless sheep being tended by an unfailingly careful shepherd. In a world of dangerous ditches and ravenous wolves, we need more than abstract explanations. We need pictures to hang on to.

**Psalm 91**—a trusting and faithful person who affirms his status as safe and secure even during a time of calamity and distress. This is because this righteous person is protected by God above, who provides shelter, shadow, refuge, and more.

**Psalm 121**—a poem that reminds us of what we somehow keep forgetting—that we do not have to live in fear, because we have a God who keeps us. Provides words of assurance that if the faithful fix their eyes squarely on the source of their “help.” A Psalm of confidence meant to celebrate God’s providential care and is the second Psalm in the Songs of Ascent. “He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.” Our God always watches over us,

## Psalm 12

The Psalmist breaks out into praise of the purity of His words, and declares that Jehovah will keep them, and preserve them. The "them" refers to the words. There is no promise made of widespread revival or renewal. It is the salvation of a remnant and the preservation of His own words which Jehovah promises.

David expresses assurance that God will intervene on behalf of the oppressed. The wicked spoke lies and deceptive words, but David reflects upon the Lord's words as pure and dependable. He is confident that the Lord will protect the afflicted.

**Selah** indicates a pause in the text. We do not read it when reading the Bible.

**Amen** is used adverbially to mean "Certainly," "it is so," or "so it be." Amen can be used in formal prayers within a prescribed script. But it is also used to punctuate personal prayers as well. Amen can also be used as an affirmation outside of religious settings.

**God speed** means "may God cause you to succeed", "God speed" is found only in the King James version of the Bible which was translated from 1600 and only in one passage. One can conclude that it was not used with a religious connotation.

How to pray properly?

1. Know to whom you are speaking.
2. Thank Him.
3. Ask for God's will.
4. Say what you need.
5. Ask for forgiveness.
6. Pray with a friend.
7. Pray the Word.
8. Memorize Scripture.

God speed is not appropriate to say to those bereaved or mourners. However, if you are making a statement to the decedent or in reverence to the person who passed then it can be appropriate. 2 John 1: 9-11. "He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds." I wish you God speed is very similar to saying, "May God bless you." God speed is found as a parting salutation in printed texts as early as 1300, whereas Goodbye, meaning "God be with you." Doesn't appear until about 1500.