

Psalm 139

This Psalm can work in two ways to every human being.

Bring great confidence to all who have yielded their whole life to the Creator God.

Or bring great fear to all who are still rejecting even the existence of the Creator God.

As we read how wonderful it is for the Psalmist to know the omnipresence of the God he worships, we have to keep in mind the judgement statement of our life.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 [New King James] *“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man’s all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.”*

There is nothing that can be hidden from the Creator God who will judge our future beyond the end of this brief human life.

Ecclesiastes 11:9-10 [New King James] *“Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth; walk in the ways of your heart, and in the sight of your eyes; but know that for all these God will bring you into judgment. Therefore remove sorrow from your heart, and put away evil from your flesh, for childhood and youth are vanity.”*

The sooner in life we realise the omnipresence of our future Judge the better it will be for us to learn to be in harmony with His will for us, as found in His Word, the Christian Bible.

There is **no** escape, [**2 Corinthians 5:10-12**] so **no** regrets, [**1 Corinthians 11:31-32**].

Psalms 139:1-2 [New King James] *“O LORD, You have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off.”*

We are known to the extent that God is aware of the thoughts that motivate our actions, even if He is outside of time and space, both of which are part of His creation.

“Thought afar off” could mean long before as the Creator God has seen the motivation in our heart, our plans, even before we entertained them.

Psalms 139:3-4 [New King James] *“You **comprehend** my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.”*

The Hebrew word translated “comprehend” is “zârâh” meaning to winnow, from a root word meaning sensed, that is to be painstaking familiar with.

Psalms 139:5-6 [New King James] *“You have hedged me behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain it.”*

Such knowledge that the Creator God has about us could be a terrifying thing except when we read [**verse 5**] it is designed to give us perfect protection, correction and guidance.

Psalms 139:7-12 [New King James] *“Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me. If I say, ‘Surely the darkness shall fall on me,’ even*

the night shall be light about me; indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, but the night shines as the day; the darkness and the light are both alike to You.”

The Triune God is everywhere by the Holy Spirit, the absolute reality of this is clarified in a series of contrasts, [verses 8-9] the contrasting dimensions of height and depth [verse 8] and uttermost parts [verse 9].

This omnipresence is the essence of blessedness, for it means our Creator God is present to lead and hold on to our life [verse 10], remaining constant in all the varied circumstances of life, [verses 11 and 12].

The active presence of the Holy Spirit in an individual was limited to a few of the people that God used to guide His people. The Psalmist, King David, was among those few with the prophets and other religious leaders of Israel.

1 Peter 1:10-12 [New King James] *“Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things which angels desire to look into.”*

Prophets looked forward for the time when the Holy Spirit would be available to all people, [Joel 2:28-29].

Psalms 139:13-16 [NIV] *“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 know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.”*

When we pause to consider what the Psalmist was inspired by God to reveal to us in these verses, we are overwhelmed by such knowledge.

The Creator God personally superintended both the psychological, [“inmost being” verse 13] and physical structure, [“knit together” verse 13].

Even before we were conceived the Creator God had plans for our life and had decided how long we would live as physical human beings, [verses 15-16].

Psalms 139:17-18 [New King James] *“How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; when I awake, I am still with You.”*

That the Creator God should have such personal concern for us, continually, is beyond our full comprehension.

“When I awake” refers both to the experience of awaking from sleep on a daily basis throughout our lives, and to the awakening in a resurrection after our physical death.

Psalms 139:19-22 [New King James] *“Oh, that You would slay the wicked, O God! Depart from me, therefore, you bloodthirsty men. For they speak against You wickedly; Your enemies take Your name in vain. Do I not hate them, O LORD, who hate You? And do I not loathe those who rise up against You? I hate them with perfect hatred; I count them my enemies.”*

When we consider these words in the revealed circumstances of this prayer, and his security in the Creator God, the request “*depart*” was **not** considering his own comfort but detestation of the moral and spiritual values which these wicked people embody, [verse 20].

The abhorrence voiced in the Psalmist’s prayer arises from his unreserved commitment to the Creator God and His way of life.

The Psalmist hates these people because of their way of life that is a “slap in the face” for the Creator God who had given and sustained their lives.

Only the Creator God knows all there is about these wicked people, [verses 1-16] so only He can be their Judge.

Psalms 139:23-24 [New King James] *“Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”*

The Psalmist wants no part in the attitude that these wicked people have towards the Creator God, so he asks again for God to reveal to him any wicked thing that was still in his heart or mind, that could cause him to stumble on the path he was taking to receive the gift of eternal life, [Romans 6:23].

For me personally, as the writer of this article, I meditate often on this Psalm that reveals so much about the true Creator God and seek to respond to such knowledge by seeking to apply on a daily basis the valuable advice that the Creator God inspired the apostle Paul to give to the Church in Rome.

Romans 12:1 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship.”*

This is the attitude of mind that every true Christian must have, so that the Holy Spirit may re-educate our natural Satan-motivated mind, [Romans 12:2].

In so doing, the Holy Spirit will create in us the very characteristics of our Creator God, the “fruits” of such a re-education.

Galatians 5:22-25 [New King James] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”*

This is the way of life that will please our Creator God and fulfil His goal for every human being, [Genesis 1:26-27] to form in us His “likeness.”