

## Studying the Psalms “Psalms of Praise”

### Psalms 139

February 13, 2022

### Psalms 139 – A Psalm of Praise

A song of praise. For God’s omniscience and omnipresence, and a supplication to God that grows of this recognition of His greatness.

1. The omniscience of God. Verses 1-6
  - God Knows Me.
2. The omnipresence of God. Verses 7-12
  - God Sees Me.
3. The omnipotence of God. Verses 13-18
  - God Made Me.
4. A supplication to God. Verses 19-24
  - God Direct Me.

### Psalms 139 – A Psalm of Praise

1. The omniscience of God.

God Knows Me. Verses 1-6

*1 “O Jehovah, thou hast searched me, and known (me).*

*(cf. Psalms 44:21)*

*2 Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising; Thou understandest my thought afar off.* (cf. Genesis 6:5; Psalms 94:11)

*3 Thou searchest out my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways.* (Isaiah 30:28; Amos 9:9; Luke 22:31)

*4 For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Jehovah, thou knowest it altogether.* (cf. Matthew 12:37)

*5 Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thy hand upon me.*

*6 (Such) knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it.”* (cf. Psalms 8)

### Psalms 139 – A Psalm of Praise

2. The omnipresence of God.

God Sees Me. Verses 7-12

*7 “Whither shall I go from thy Spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence?”* (cf. John 4:24)

*8 If I ascend up into heaven (Original – “heavens”), thou art there: if I make my bed in Sheol, behold, thou art there.”*

### Psalms 139 – A Psalm of Praise

“Heavens” – Genesis 1

“Sheol” – “Into ‘sheol,’ Korah, Dathan, and Abiram went down alive (Num 16:30,33). In ‘sheol’ the body is corrupted and consumed by worms (Job 17:13-14; Ps 16:10; 49:14). They that rest together in the dust are said ‘to go down to the bars, or strong gates of sheol’ (Job 17:16). In ‘sheol’ there is no knowledge, nor can any praise God or give thanks there (Ps 6:5; Eccl 9:10; Isa 38:10-11). ‘Sheol’ and the pit, death and corruption, are synonymous (Ps 16:10; 89:48; Prov 1:12; 7:27; Ezek 31:16; Hos 13:14).” (Barnes’ Notes)

### Psalms 139 – A Psalm of Praise

2. The omnipresence of God.

God Sees Me. Verses 7-12

*9 “If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea;*

*10 Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.* (Jonah tried this)

*11 If I say, surely the darkness shall overwhelm me, and the light about me shall be night;*

*12 Even the darkness hideth not from thee, but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike (to thee).”* (cf. John 3:19)

### Psalms 139 – A Psalm of Praise

#### 3. The omnipotence of God.

God Made Me. Verses 13-18

13 *"For thou didst form my inward parts: Thou didst cover me in my mother's womb.*

14 *I will give thanks unto thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: Wonderful are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.*

15 *My frame was not hidden from thee, when I was made in secret, (and) curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.*

16 *Thine eyes did see mine unformed substance; and in thy book they were all written, (even) the days that were ordained (for me), when as yet there was none of them."*

### The Bible Views the Unborn as "Children"!

- Genesis 25:22-23, *"The children struggled together within her ..."*
- Jeremiah 1:5, *"Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations."*
- Jeremiah could have been killed before birth. Jeremiah 20:17-18, *"... because he slew me not from the womb; and so my mother would have been my grave, and her womb always great. Wherefore came I forth out of the womb to see labor and sorrow, that my days should be consumed with shame?"*

### The Bible Views the Unborn as "Children"!

- Luke 1:41, *"The babe (brephos) leaped in her womb"*
- Luke 2:12, *"And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe (brephos) wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."*
- NOTE: Luke, qualified both by profession (**Colossians 4:14, "Luke, the beloved physician"**) and by inspiration, used this same word to describe the infants put to death in ancient Egypt under the command of Pharaoh,
  - Acts 7:19, *"It was he who took shrewd advantage of our race and mistreated our fathers so that they would expose their infants (brephos) and they would not survive."* (NASU)

### The Bible Views the Unborn as "Children"!

- Pregnant women were described as being *"with child,"* Genesis 16:11; 1 Samuel 4:19; Genesis 19:36

### Other Scriptures Which Infer that the Unborn are Human Beings:

- Psalms 119:13-16 – God formed David in his mother's womb. He used the pronouns "I" and "My" to describe himself before birth!
 

*"For thou didst form my inward parts: Thou didst cover me in my mother's womb. I will give thanks unto thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: Wonderful are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. My frame was not hidden from thee, when I was made in secret, (and) curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see mine unformed substance; and in thy book they were all written, (even) the days that were ordained (for me), when as yet there was none of them."*

### Other Scriptures Which Infer that the Unborn are Human Beings:

- Job 3:11 – Job asked, *"Why did I not from the womb? Why did I not give up the ghost when I came out of the belly?"*
- Job could not *"give up"* what he did not have.
  - Yet, he argues that had he so died he would have been *"at rest with kings and counsellors of the earth"* (verses 13-14).
  - If he had been *"as an hidden untimely birth"* (miscarriage), he would have been where *"the weary be at rest"* (verses 16-17).
- cf. Job 10:18-19 – Job continued by wishing he had *"given up the ghost, and no eye had seen (him)."* But again, one cannot give up what he does not have. He would have been carried from the womb to the grave.
- Job 31:15, *"Did not he that made me in the womb make him? And did not one fashion us in the womb?"*
- Fact: the unborn "child" constitutes human life!
  - We must appreciate the sanctity of human life! Genesis 9:6.

## Psalms 139 – A Psalm of Praise

17 *"How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! How great is the sum of them!"*

18 *If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee."*

- cf. Psalms 139:2, 23 – Just consider the number of God's thoughts, plans, and preparations for the existence of man.

## Psalms 139 – A Psalm of Praise

4. A supplication to God.

God Direct My Life. Verses 19-24

19 *"Surely thou wilt slay the wicked, O God: depart from me therefore, ye bloodthirsty men."*

20 *For they speak against thee wickedly, and thine enemies take (thy name) in vain."*

- Evil and dangerous association was frowned upon by David. He understood that wicked men were to be overthrown by the Lord, and did not want to be near them when that happened for fear of sharing in the penalty.

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4. A supplication to God.

God Direct My Life. Verses 19-24

21 *"Do not I hate them, O Jehovah, that hate thee? And am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee?"*

22 *I hate them with perfect hatred: they are become mine enemies."*

- So Jesus looked upon people. Mark 3:5, *"And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved at the hardening of their heart ..."*
- The Psalmist disapproved of their conduct. Did not want to be associated with them and regarded them as enemies. (Psalms 1:1; Isaiah 5:5; cf. James 4:4)
- He looked upon them with no approval whatever of their conduct; with no sympathy for the evil they do and with no words of apology for their sinful acts.

## Psalms 139 – A Psalm of Praise

4. A supplication to God.

God Direct My Life. Verses 19-24

23 *"Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts;*

24 *And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."*

- The Psalmist had already stated that God searches man. (verse 1)
- Note: Hebrews 4:12-13

## Psalms 148

### The Joy – Song of Creation

- The last five Psalms begin and end with, *"Praise ye Jehovah."* (ASV)
- Psalms 148 is the third Hallelujah Psalm.

## Psalms 148

### The Joy – Song of Creation

Psalms 148:1-6 – Praise Him – Creatures above the earth

1 *"Praise ye Jehovah. Praise ye Jehovah from the heavens: praise him in the heights."*

2 *Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his host."*

3 *Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light."*

4 *Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that are above the heavens."*

5 *Let them praise the name of Jehovah; for he commanded, and they were created."*

6 *He hath also established them for ever and ever: He hath made a decree which shall not pass away."*