

**Psalm 139**

**The All-knowing and Ever-present God**

To the choirmaster

A Psalm of David

I

**(1-6 God is all-knowing)**

1. O Lord, you have searched me and known me!
2. You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.
3. You search out my path and my lying down,  
and are acquainted with all my ways.
4. Even before a word is on my tongue,  
behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.
5. You beset me behind and before,  
and lay your hand upon me.
6. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,  
it is high, I cannot attain it.

II

**(7-12 God is All-present)**

7. Where shall I go from your Spirit?  
Or where shall I flee from your presence?
8. If I ascend to heaven, you are there!  
If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!
9. If I take the wings of the morning  
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,  
10. even there your hand shall lead me,  
and your right hand shall hold me.
11. If I say, "Let only darkness cover me,  
and the light about me be night,"
12. even the darkness is not dark to you,  
for darkness is as light with you.

III

**(13-18 God creates with care)**

13. For you formed my inward parts,  
you knitted me together in my mother's womb.
14. I praise you, for I am wondrously made.  
Wonderful are your works!

You know me right well;  
15.my frame was not hidden from you,  
when I was being made in secret,  
intricately wrought in the depths of the earth.  
16.Your eyes beheld my unformed substance;  
in your book were written, every one of them,  
the days that were formed for me,  
when as yet there was none of them.  
17.How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!  
How vast is the sum of them!  
If I would count them, they are more than the sand.  
When I awake, I am still with you.”

#### IV

#### **(19-24 A plea for retribution)**

19.O that you would slay the wicked, O God,  
and that men of blood would depart from me,  
20.men who maliciously defy you,  
who lift themselves up against you for evil!  
21.Do I not hate them that hate you, O Lord?  
And do I not loathe them that rise up against you?  
22.I hate them with perfect hatred;  
I count them my enemies.  
25.Search me, O God, and know my heart!  
Try me and know my thoughts!  
And see if there be any wicked way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting!