



Psalm 139

1 To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me. 2 Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. 3 Thou compassed my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. 4 For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether. 5 Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me. 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it.

7 Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? 8 If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. 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. 11 If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. 12 Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.

13 For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. 14 I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. 15 My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. 16 Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them. 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.

19 Surely thou wilt slay the wicked, O God: depart from me therefore, ye bloody men. 20 For they speak against thee wickedly, and thine enemies take thy name in vain. 21 Do not I hate them, O LORD, that hate thee? and am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee? 22 I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them mine enemies.

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.

Introduction:

1. To the chief Musician (Asaph) (1 Chr. 15:16-17)
2. "A Psalm of David" – Inspired heading revealing to us that David wrote this Psalm. This is part of verse 1 in the Hebrew Masoretic Text.

Outline:

- A. The Lord's Discernment of Individuals (vv.1-6)
- B. The Lord's Perception of Individuals (vv.7-12)
- C. The Lord's Purpose for Individuals (vv.13-18)
- D. Prayer for Vindication (vv.19-24)

Or

- A. The LORD is Omniscient (vv.1-6)
- B. The LORD is Omnipresent (vv.7-12)
- C. The LORD is Omnipotent (vv.13-18)
- D. The LORD is Omnirighteous (vv.19-24)

Observations:

1. David was judged by others on the externals, but only God is the proper judge of the integrity of his heart.
2. David magnifies the all-seeing providence of God (Pss. 137:1-16).
3. He magnifies God's great and tender mercies towards him before he was even born (vv.17, 18).
4. David has no relationship with wicked men (vv.19-22).
5. David prays for and testifies of his sincerity (vv.23-24).

Lesson: "There is none like unto the LORD our God." (Exo. 8:10) (cf. Isa. 46:9; Mic. 7:18).