

## Father, do you see me? – Psalm 139:1-16

In today's message, we will explore this psalm in three parts (verses 1-16):

1. God is omniscient – knows everything
2. God is omnipresent – is everywhere
3. God is omnipotent – created everything

### Background

- David is most likely the writer. He approaches God, seeking divine intervention
- Seemed to be under personal attack and accusation. Protests his innocence, calls out for vindication
- Parallels Jeremiah's cry for justice (Jer 12:3)
- *<sup>3</sup>But You, O LORD, know me; You have seen me, And You have tested my heart toward You. Pull them out like sheep for the slaughter, And prepare them for the day of slaughter.*
- Previous chapter (11:19), Jeremiah felt like a sheep for the slaughter
- Three questions sum up the heart of this psalm:

### Do you really know?

<sup>1</sup> O LORD, You have searched me and known *me*.

<sup>2</sup> You know my sitting down and my rising up;  
You understand my thought afar off.

<sup>3</sup> You comprehend my path and my lying down,  
And are acquainted with all my ways.

<sup>4</sup> For *there is* not a word on my tongue,  
*But* behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.

<sup>5</sup> You have hedged me behind and before,  
And laid Your hand upon me.

<sup>6</sup> *Such* knowledge *is* too wonderful for me;  
It is high, I cannot *attain* it.

- David is desperate with nowhere to turn. He turns to God

- Throughout the psalm, the verb “*yada*” = “to know,” occurs seven times = verses 1, 2, 4, 6, 14, twice in 23
- David uses four verbs to describe God’s intimacy: “to know” (*yada*); “to perceive” (*bin*); “to discern” (*zarah*); and “to be familiar with” (*sakan*)
- The verb “hedges / hem” (*tsur*) = “to bind” = to secure
- God’s perfect knowledge produces an action. He moves when necessary
- David realises his own self-limitation and inadequacy

**Jer 23:23-24** “Am I a God near at hand,” says the LORD, “And not a God afar off? <sup>24</sup> Can anyone hide himself in secret places, **So I shall not see him?**” says the LORD; “Do I not fill heaven and earth?” says the LORD.

**Job 42:1-4** Then Job answered the LORD and said: <sup>2</sup> “I know that You can do everything, And that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You. <sup>3</sup> You asked, ‘Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?’ Therefore, I have uttered what I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.

### Are you with me?

<sup>7</sup> Where can I go from Your Spirit?

Or where can I flee from Your presence?

<sup>8</sup> If I ascend into heaven, You *are* there;

If I make my bed in hell, behold, You *are there*.

<sup>9</sup> If I take the wings of the morning,

And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

<sup>10</sup> Even there Your hand shall lead me,

And Your right hand shall hold me.

<sup>11</sup> If I say, “Surely the darkness shall fall on me,”

Even the night shall be light about me;

<sup>12</sup> 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.

- David wherever he went, finds himself with God who was already there.
- We can only be in a specific place in the world at a time, but God is everywhere

- Verse 7, from Your presence: "*Mippaneycha* = "from thy faces" (Clarke)
- Perpetual presence of God's love that not even death could separate

**Rom 8:38-39** <sup>38</sup> For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, <sup>39</sup> nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### Am I worthy?

<sup>13</sup> For You formed my inward parts;

You covered me in my mother's womb.

<sup>14</sup> I will praise You, for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made;

Marvelous are Your works,

And *that* my soul knows very well.

<sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from You,

When I was made in secret,

*And* skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

<sup>16</sup> Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed.

And in Your book they all were written,

The days fashioned for me,

When *as yet there were* none of them.

- God see our substance unformed with His own eyes
- What humans could not see naturally, God sees perfectly
- "**Unformed body,**" appearing only here in OT = ***golem***
- Means formless and incomplete vessel = something shapeless
- Verb "**embroider**" / "**weave**". Example: specialty of embroidering

**Exo 26:36** <sup>36</sup> "You shall make a screen for the door of the tabernacle, *woven of* blue, purple, and scarlet *thread*, and fine woven linen, made by a weaver.

**Psalm 104:24**

O LORD, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all.  
The earth is full of Your possessions

### **Psalm 138:6-8**

<sup>6</sup>Though the LORD *is* on high,

Yet He regards the lowly;

But the proud He knows from afar.

<sup>7</sup>Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You will revive me;

You will stretch out Your hand

Against the wrath of my enemies,

And Your right hand will save me.

<sup>8</sup>The LORD will perfect *that which* concerns me;

Your mercy, O LORD, *endures* forever;

Do not forsake the works of Your hands.

### **Conclusion**

1. God is omniscient – knows everything – *He know me*
2. God is omnipresent – is everywhere – *He pursues me*
3. God is omnipotent – created everything – *He designed me*