

Psalm 139 - Intimacy with God

O Lord, Thou hast **searched me** and **known¹** me. (vs. 1)

Thou understandest **My thought** afar off...such knowledge is to wonderful for me. (vs. 2, 6)

Darkness shall cover Me / the night shall be light about Me. (vs. 11)

Darkness and light are both alike to Thee (*Your Presence is there*) (vs. 12)

The Cross reveals the
humiliation of Christ

Thou hast possessed My reins² (*the Father brought about the incarnation/conception of Christ*). (vs. 13)

I will **praise** Thee – for I am **fearfully** and **wonderfully** made.³ (vs. 14)

Marvellous are Thy works, my soul knoweth right well. (vs. 14)

God made My “humanity” in the secret of the womb—conception. (vs. 15)

Thine eyes did see My unformed substance, in thy book all were written

The days that were **ordained** for me, when as yet there were none of them (vs. 16)

My/Christ's predestination

My birth/Christ's lowly birth
reveals the humiliation of
Son of God

How precious also are **thy thoughts unto Me**. (vs. 17)

They are more in number than the sand; When I awake I am still with Thee. (vs. 18)

Resurrection

Search Me, O God, and know My heart and **try Me** and know My thoughts. (vs. 23)

And **see** if any wicked way is in Me and **lead Me** in the way everlasting. (vs. 24)

{H2713} – *examine, investigate*

{*implying instruction*}

1. Cf Matt.11:27 - as the Father knows the Son and the Son, the Father.

3. This phrase “for I am fearfully and wonderfully made is a

2. Cf John 14:10 – I am in My Father and My Father in Me.

result of the prior verses, esp. those leading up to vs. 14.

Unpacking the passage

By Pondering the words of this chiasm, we begin to see a picture take shape in concentrated form. God searches me, He understands me, though in the darkness or light, Your presence is there. You possess me—thus Thy marvelous works, being crafted and redeemed by the Master Architect, I come to recognize this awe-inspiring sublime reality, awaiting all who respond to Him with a heart appreciation of faith and love:

“I am fearfully and wonderfully made”

This is cause alone to praise Thee.” Just as you understood my thought (vs.2,6), How precious are Your thoughts of me (vs.17). With the eyes of faith, You (Father) saw what I would become, what you ordained for me, even pre-determined me to be, before I came into being (vss. 15-16). How precious are Your thoughts to me. The fact that the text (vs.18) says, “when I awake I am still with Thee” is indicative of the hope of the Christian--reference in my mind to the resurrection—first Christ’s resurrection (for the chapter applies to Him first), and then the resurrection of the just (when His children who trusted in Him shall arise). It is a promise, just as Ps. 16:9 expresses of Jesus, so we can rest in hope, trusting in Him, who is “the Resurrection and the Life” against that day.

It is a very real possibility that the Psalmist understood the ‘justification of God’ in writing this chapter. John 5:19-30 reveals the three aspects of judgment. In the heart of John 5, a verse stands out indicating the verdict--that all who hear Christ’s word and believe in the Father which sent Him, “hath everlasting life and shall not come into judgment”, but hath “passed (or been acquitted) from death unto life.” Could the Psalmist have understood this concept? I believe so, for in His concluding words (vs. 23 & 24), he invites the Lord to “search me” and “know my heart and try me and know my thoughts” and “see (my Lord) if there be any wicked way in me.” This is not a sign of someone who wants to cover up sin, but one who wants to have the Lord ‘examine’ his life for he knows it to be in harmony with God. It is an invitation also, for the Lord to “lead me” in the way everlasting, the way which will bring glory, honor and great joy to Him who ransomed us and sees the outcome by living faith of a redeemed purchased possession.

In essence, this chapter is an invitation for the Lord to judge me, for I know Him to be “just and the justifier of [His child] out of His own faith.” His faith always brings for corresponding works or as John 15 states: *much fruit*. {see John 15:1-7 – *Abiding in Jesus* chiasm.}