

Psalm 139: The Theology of Life, Part III

Brandon Phillips

Psalm 139 / Abortion; Life / Psalm 139

In Psalm 139:7-12, King David meditates on the third of four massive truths about the God of Creation. You serve a God who Is Omnipotent (all-powerful)

Pre-sermon Comments

*I sing the mighty pow'r of God, that made the mountains rise,
That spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at His command, and all the stars obey.*

[Psalm 139](#) (LSB) For the choir director. Of David. A Psalm.

[Ephesians 5:18-19](#) (LSB) ¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;

Application Questions

Why is it important for a church to carefully vet the songs used in worship? How does singing theology impact our understanding of biblical truths?

Pastor Brandon mentioned that music helps God's people learn and memorize truth. Can you share a time when a song helped you remember or reflect on a particular biblical truth?

[Psalm 139](#) was intended by David to be sung by God's people. How do you think singing this Psalm enhances meditation on God's attributes such as His omnipresence, omnipotence, and omniscience?

Pastor Brandon expressed concern about using music from sources like Elevation Worship and Bethel Music. What do you think the criteria should be for selecting songs to sing in worship?

How does music contribute to the overall worship experience in the church? Do you think it can play a unique role in communicating doctrinal truths?

How can we better incorporate doctrinally sound music into our daily lives as a way to meditate on Scripture and grow spiritually?

Sermon Introduction

[Genesis 1:1](#) (LSB) ¹ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

[Genesis 1:3](#) (LSB) ³ Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.

- **Day one: Light and separated light from darkness.**

[Genesis 1:3](#) (LSB) ³ Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.

- **Day two: The expanse of the sky.**

[Genesis 1:6](#) (LSB) ⁶ Then God said, “Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.”

- **Day 3: The dry land, vegetation, and trees**

[Genesis 1:9](#) (LSB) ⁹ Then God said, “Let the waters below the heavens be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear”; and it was so.

- **Day 4: The sun, moon, and stars**

[Genesis 1:14](#) (LSB) ¹⁴ Then God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years;

- **Day 5: Swarms of living creatures and birds**

[Genesis 1:20](#) (LSB) ²⁰ Then God said, “Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the expanse of the heavens.”

- **Day 6: The cattle, creeping things, and beasts of the earth**

[Genesis 1:24](#) (LSB) ²⁴ Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind”; and it was so.

- **Day 6: Man as male and female**

[Genesis 1:26](#) (LSB) ²⁶ Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness, so that they will have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

[Genesis 1:31](#) (LSB) ³¹ And God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Day 7: God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it -

[Genesis 2:3](#) (LSB) ³ Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because on it He rested from all His work which God had created in making *it*.

[Psalm 24:1–2](#) (LSB) ¹ The earth is Yahweh’s, as well as its fullness, The world, and those who dwell in it. ² For He has founded it upon the seas And established it upon the rivers.

[Genesis 2:7](#) (LSB) ⁷ Then Yahweh God formed man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and so the man became a living being.

[Genesis 2:21–22](#) (LSB) ²¹ So Yahweh God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. ²² And Yahweh God fashioned the rib, which He had taken from the man, into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

[Genesis 4:1](#) (LSB) ¹ Now the man knew his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, and she said, “I have gotten a man with *the help of Yahweh*.”

Application Questions

Pastor Brandon emphasized Genesis as foundational to biblical doctrine. Why do you think [Genesis 1](#) is crucial to understanding the power and authority of God? How does it shape your view of God's role in creation?

Many today, including prominent teachers, question the historical accuracy of [Genesis 1](#). How would you respond to someone who views the creation account as mere poetry or myth? Why is it important for Christians to defend a literal interpretation of Genesis?

In [Genesis 1](#), we see the repeated phrase "Then God said." What does this repetition reveal about the nature of God's power and authority? How does this understanding impact your faith in God's ability to work in the world today?

Pastor Brandon suggests that abandoning a literal interpretation of [Genesis 1-11](#) has led to justifying cultural issues such as abortion and euthanasia. How does your understanding of Genesis influence your view on the sanctity of life?

[Genesis 1:26](#) teaches that humanity is made in God's image. How should this truth affect how we view ourselves, others, and cultural issues like racism or the marginalization of human life?

[Genesis 2:7](#) and [Genesis 2:21-22](#) show God's intimate involvement in the creation of man and woman. How does the personal and intentional nature of God's creation impact your understanding of human relationships, marriage, and family?

Pastor Brandon mentioned that procreation involves a partnership between God and humans. How does this truth shape the way you view the value of human life, from conception to natural death?

Pastor Brandon expressed concern over modern Christians not recognizing God's power in creation. How has this sermon challenged or affirmed your understanding of God's creative work, and how will this impact your daily life or conversations with others?

How can we, as believers, better defend the biblical account of creation in a culture that often rejects it? What are some ways we can lovingly engage others who hold different views on this topic?

Sermon Text

[Psalm 139:13-18](#) (LSB) ¹³ For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well. ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, *And* intricately woven in the depths of the earth; ¹⁶ Your eyes have seen my unshaped substance; And in Your book all of them were written The days that were formed *for me*, When as yet there was not one of them. ¹⁷ How precious are Your thoughts to me, O God! How vast is the sum of them! ¹⁸ If I should count them, they would outnumber the sand. When I awake, I am still with You.

Series Proposition and Outline

In [Psalm 139](#), King David meditates on four massive truths about the God of Creation and His perfections:

According to David, you serve a God:

- Who Is Omniscient (All-Knowing) – [Ps 139:1-6](#) [Review]
- Who Is Omnipresent (All-Present) – [Ps 139: 7-12](#) [Review]
- **Who Is Omnipotent (All-Powerful) – [Ps 139:13-18](#) [Today's Sermon]**
- Who Is Worthy of our Obeisance (All-Holy) – [Ps 139:19-24](#) [Future]

Review

You serve a God who Is Omniscient (All-Knowing) – [Ps 139:1-6](#)

[Psalm 139:1-6](#) (LSB) ¹ O Yahweh, You have searched me and known *me*. ² You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from

afar. ³ You scrutinize my path and my lying down, And are intimately acquainted with all my ways. ⁴ Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O Yahweh, You know it all. ⁵ You have enclosed me behind and before, And You have put Your hand upon me. ⁶ *Such* knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is *too* high, I cannot attain to it.

You serve a God Who Is Omnipresent (All-Present) – [Ps 139: 7-12](#)

[Psalm 139:7-12](#) (LSB) ⁷ Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? ⁸ If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. ⁹ If I lift up the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, ¹⁰ Even there Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will lay hold of me. ¹¹ If I say, “Surely the darkness will bruise me, And the light around me will be night,” ¹² Even the darkness is not too dark for You, And the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are alike *to You* In last week’s sermon, we saw three truths of God’s perfect presence -

He pursues you to the heights and depths – [Ps 139:7-8](#)

[Psalm 139:7-8](#) (LSB) ⁷ Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? ⁸ If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there.

He is present in your pilgrimage – [Ps 139:9-10](#)

[Psalm 139:9-10](#) (LSB) ⁹ If I lift up the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, ¹⁰ Even there Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will lay hold of me.

He perceives you through your perceived darkness – [Ps 139:11-12](#)

[Psalm 139:11-12](#) (LSB) ¹¹ If I say, “Surely the darkness will bruise me, And the light around me will be night,” ¹² Even the darkness is not too dark for You, And the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are alike *to You*.

[1 Timothy 6:14-16](#) (LSB) ¹⁴ that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which He will bring about at the proper time—He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King

of kings and Lord of lords,¹⁶ who alone has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him *be* honor and eternal might! Amen.

Sermon 3 Outline

In [Psalm 139:13-18](#), King David meditates on the third of four massive truths about the God of Creation. According to David:

You serve a God who Is Omnipotent (All-Powerful) – [Ps 139:13-18](#)

- a. You were fashioned with care ([Ps 139:13](#))
- b. You were formed with intricacy ([Ps 139:14-16](#))
- c. You were fitted for intimacy ([Ps 139:17-18](#))

You serve a God who Is Omnipotent (All-Powerful) – [Ps 139:13-18](#)

Divine omnipotence is the doctrine of a revival. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

The explanation of God's Omnipotence (all-powerful)

Wayne Grudem defines God's omnipotence as His own power to do what He decides to do.

[Job 42:2](#) (LSB) ² “I know that You can do all things, And that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.

[Luke 18:27](#) (LSB) ²⁷ But He said, “The things that are impossible with people are possible with God.”

[Ephesians 3:20-21](#) (LSB) ²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or understand, according to the power that works within us, ²¹ to Him *be* the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

[Psalm 115:3](#) (LSB) ³ But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases.

God's power is perfectly limited by His nature

John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue say God's omnipotence describes His ability to do anything consistent with His nature.

[Numbers 23:19](#) (LSB) ¹⁹ “God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not establish it?

[Matthew 3:9](#) (LSB) ⁹ and do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham for our father’; for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham.

God's ability to limit Himself perfectly - Further demonstrates His perfect power

God's ability to limit Himself perfectly while accomplishing His sovereign will also further demonstrates His perfect power

"Everybody has a plan until they get punched in the mouth." ~ Mike Tyson

[Ephesians 1:11](#) (LSB) ¹¹ In Him, we also have been made an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,

[Ephesians 1:19](#) (LSB) ¹⁹ and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe according to the working of the might of His strength,

God's goodness in wielding His power

"Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely." ~ John Emerich Edward Dalberg-Acton

[Psalm 145:8-9](#) (LSB) ⁸ Yahweh is gracious and compassionate; Slow to anger and great in lovingkindness. ⁹ Yahweh is good to all, And His compassions are over all His works.

The greatest single distinguishing feature of the omnipotence of God is that our imagination gets lost thinking about it. ~ **Blaise Pascal (French Scientist, Polemicist and Christian Apologist)**

To contend against Omnipotence is insanity. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

You were fashioned with care ([Ps 139:13](#))

[Psalm 139:13](#) (LSB) ¹³ For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb.

God displays His power through creation and procreation

[Psalm 24:1](#) (LSB) ¹ The earth is Yahweh's, as well as its fullness, The world, and those who dwell in it.

[Job 39:1-4](#) (LSB) ¹ "Do you know the time the mountain goats give birth? Do you keep watch over the calving of the deer? ² "Can you count the months they fulfill, Or do you know the time they give birth? ³ "They kneel down; they bring forth their young; They send out their labor pains. ⁴ "Their children become strong; they grow up in the open field; They leave and do not return to them.

David conveys a sense of intimacy

[Psalm 139:13](#) (LSB) ¹³ For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb.

[Ps 139:13](#) (NLT) 13 You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body

[Psalm 139:13](#) (NET) ¹³ Certainly you made my mind and heart; you wove me together in my mother's womb.

The kidneys were sometimes viewed as the seat of one's emotions and moral character (cf. [Pss 7:9; 26:2](#)). The present translation, by using a hendiadys (one concept expressed through two terms), links the concepts of emotion (heart) and moral character (mind). ~ NET Translation Notes

God knit him like a skilled artisan would weave a beautiful tapestry. This work of creation was done in his mother's womb, beginning nine months before he was born. ~ Steve Lawson

Application Questions

Reflect on [Job 42:2](#) and [Psalm 115:3](#). How do these verses help you understand that nothing is too difficult for God? How does this truth impact your daily trust in Him, especially in situations that seem impossible?

God's omnipotence is perfectly limited by His nature. How does knowing that God cannot lie or go against His word ([Numbers 23:19](#)) deepen your trust in His promises? Can you think of a time when God's faithfulness gave you hope?

Discuss how power tends to corrupt humans (e.g., dictators) but not God. How does God's perfect power prove His perfect goodness? How can we reflect God's goodness when we are given power or authority in our own lives?

[Ephesians 1:11](#) states that God works all things according to the counsel of His will. How does understanding that God has a plan for everything, without needing to adjust or change it, give you peace during difficult times?

In light of [Psalm 139:13](#), consider the miracle of human life and procreation. How can recognizing the supernatural work of God in creation encourage a sense of awe and wonder in your everyday life? How can this inspire you to worship?

Reflect on how God's ability to keep His promises perfectly demonstrates His power. Are there areas of your life where you struggle to trust in God's promises? How can the truth of His omnipotence help you find assurance?

How does God's perfect balance of power and goodness give us comfort in a world where human power is often misused? How can this truth shape the way you view God's actions in both your life and the world at large?

How does the fact that God continues to create (as seen in procreation and nature) demonstrate His ongoing involvement in the world? How can this perspective change how you view everyday occurrences, such as the growth of a plant or the birth of a child?

You were formed with intricacy ([Ps 139:14-16](#))

[Psalm 139:14](#) (LSB) ¹⁴ I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well.

David confesses God made him

David understands that God intricately wove him in the womb

[Psalm 139:15](#) (LSB) ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, *And* intricately woven in the depths of the earth;

David's purpose is not to suggest that humans are gestated in deep places under the earth's surface. He merely alludes to realities unseen by people but known to God. People do not perceive how babies receive life and are shaped and grown by the divine hand, but God fully knows and understands every detail of the miracle. ~ James M. Hamilton

[Job 10:8](#) (LSB) ⁸ 'Your hands fashioned and made me altogether, And would You swallow me up?

[Psalm 139:16](#) (LSB) ¹⁶ Your eyes have seen my unshaped substance; And in Your book all of them were written The days that were formed *for me*, When as yet there was not one of them.

God knew him from before the foundation of the world!

[Psalm 139:16](#) (LSB) ¹⁶ Your eyes have seen my unshaped substance; And in Your book all of them were written The days that were formed *for me*, When as yet there was not one of them.

[Job 14:5](#) (LSB) ⁵ "Since his days are determined, The number of his months is with You; And his limits You have set so that he cannot pass.

Application Questions

How does recognizing that God intricately formed us in the womb impact your understanding of human value and dignity?

Reflect on how this truth shapes your view of yourself and others.

David responds to God's creation with thanksgiving and awe. In what ways can we cultivate a deeper sense of gratitude for how God created us?

What practical steps can you take this week to express gratitude for your life and your unique design?

[Psalm 139](#) emphasizes both God's transcendence and immanence. How does knowing that God is both majestic and relational affect your personal relationship with Him?

How does this truth challenge or encourage your walk with God?

In verse 16, David acknowledges that God ordained his days before any of them came to be. How does this knowledge influence the way you approach your life and decisions?

How can this truth give you peace in difficult seasons?

The sermon touches on modern technologies related to reproduction. How should Christians approach these technologies in light of God's sovereignty over life?

What biblical principles can guide our thinking and decision-making regarding life and reproductive technology?

Reflecting on [Psalm 139:16](#), how does the fact that God knows and has ordained all your days affect your perspective on the sanctity of life, including controversial topics like abortion?

How can this belief influence your conversations with others on these topics?

David's soul knew "very well" that God's works are wonderful (v. 14). How can we develop a deeper internal conviction of God's goodness in our own lives?

What areas of your life do you need to surrender to God's sovereign will?

You were fitted for intimacy ([Ps 139:17-18](#))

[Psalm 139:17-18](#) (LSB) ¹⁷ How precious are Your thoughts to me, O God! How vast is the sum of them! ¹⁸ If I should count them, they would outnumber the sand. When I awake, I am still with You.

Conclusion

[Habakkuk 1:13](#) (LSB) ¹³ *Your* eyes are too pure to see evil, And You cannot look on trouble. Why do You look On those who deal treacherously? *Why* are You silent when the wicked swallow up Those more righteous than they?

[Romans 3:23](#) (LSB) ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

[Ephesians 2:4-10](#) (LSB) ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶ and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; ⁹ not of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

The gospel carries with it the omnipotence of God, whose power alone is sufficient to save men from sin and give them eternal life. ~ **John F.**

MacArthur

[2 Corinthians 5:20-21](#) (LSB)²⁰ So then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as God is pleading through us. We beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Application Questions

In [Psalm 139:17-18](#), David is overwhelmed by God's thoughts and power. How often do you take time to reflect on God's omnipotence and His intimate knowledge of you? How can this truth shape your daily life and decisions?

[Habakkuk 1:13](#) speaks of God's purity and inability to look upon sin with favor. How does this truth challenge the way you view your sin considering your current relationship with God?

[Ephesians 2:4-9](#) shows God's rich mercy in saving us through Christ. How does understanding God's mercy and grace impact the way you approach Him in prayer and worship?

[2 Corinthians 5:20-21](#) calls us to be reconciled to God through Christ. For those who may struggle with guilt or feeling distant from God, how does this passage encourage you to embrace reconciliation and trust in Christ's work on the cross?

If you have not turned to Christ, does this passage change the way you think of salvation?

How does the knowledge of your salvation through grace ([Ephesians 2:8-9](#)) stir you to praise God? How can you cultivate a heart of gratitude for His merciful work in your life?

The Gospel

God

Created and owns everything

[Gen 1:1](#)—*In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth*

[Psalm 24:1](#)—*The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, the world and those who dwell in it.*

Is Perfectly Holy

[1 John 1:5](#)—*This is the message we heard from Him and announce to you that God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all.*

[Matt 5:48](#)—*Therefore you are to be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

Requires perfect obedience to His Law

[James 2:10](#)—*for whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.*

Man

Has broken God's law

[Rom 3:10,23](#)—*there is none righteous, not even one...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*

Will pay the eternal penalty for his sin

[Rom. 6:23](#)—*For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord*

Cannot save himself by his good works

[Titus 3:5](#)—*He saved us not based on works which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.*

Christ

Came to earth both as God and sinless man

[Col 2:9](#)—*For in Him the fullness of deity dwells in bodily form*

Demonstrated God's love by dying on the cross to pay sin's penalty

[Rom 5:8](#)—*But God demonstrated His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us*

[2 Cor 5:21](#)—*He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

Rose from the grave and is alive today

[1 Cor 15:4](#)—*And that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures*

Sinners

Must repent of all that dishonors God

[Isa 55:7](#)—*Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have compassion on him and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.*

[Luke 9:23](#)—*if anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.*

Must believe in Christ as Lord and Savior

[Rom 10:9](#)—*that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved.*

Will you repent and believe in Christ?

[Acts 17:30](#)—*therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance God is declaring to men that all everywhere should repent.*

Don't hesitate to contact Pastor Brandon or Pastor Keith if you have any questions about this sermon or if you would like to know how to follow Christ.

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Upcoming Sermons in this series

Sermon 1 Outline [Preached 9/8/2024]

In [Psalms 139:1-6](#), King David meditates on the first of four massive truths about the God of Creation. According to David:

1. You serve a God who Is Omniscient (All-Knowing) – [Ps 139:1-6](#)
 - a. He knows your paths – [Ps 139:1-2](#)
 - b. He knows your practices – [Ps 139:3-4](#)
 - c. He knows your personality – [Ps 139:5-6](#)

Sermon 2 Outline [Preached 9/15/2024]

In [Psalm 139:7-12](#), King David meditates on the second of four massive truths about the God of Creation and His perfections. According to David:

1. You serve a God Who Is Omnipresent (All-Present) – [Ps 139: 7-12](#)
 - a. He pursues you to the heights and depths – [Ps 139:7-8](#)
 - b. He is present in your pilgrimage – [Ps 139:9-10](#)
 - c. He perceives you through your perceived darkness – [Ps 139:11-12](#) -

Sermon 4 Outline [9/29/2024]

In [Psalm 139:7-12](#), King David meditates on the fourth and final massive truth about the God of Creation. According to David:

You serve a God who Is Worthy of our Obeisance (All-Holy) – [Ps 139:19-24](#)

- a. He is sovereign over sinners – [Ps 139:19-20](#)
- b. He expects us to stand against wickedness – [Ps 139:21-22](#)
- c. He expects us to submit to His scrutiny – [Ps 139:23-24](#)

Additional Quotes for this series

God's Omniscience

The omniscience of God is a wonder. The omnipotence of God is a wonder. God's spotless holiness is a wonder. None of these things can we understand. But the greatest wonder of all is *the mercy of God*. ~ **Andrew Murray**

In an ultimate and absolute sense you and I simply cannot reconcile God's omniscience and foreknowledge and sovereignty with this fact of prayer that we find so clearly taught in Scripture. ~ **David Martyn Lloyd-Jones (Welsh Preacher and Writer)**

God's omniscience, which in the previous section has been attributed to his omnipresence, is now attributed to his omnipotence. God can search man out

not only because he sees him, but because he made him. ~ **James Montgomery Boice**

The omniscience of God combines with his veracity to guarantee the truth of everything he tells us. ~ **Millard J. Erickson**

In fact, an implication of God's omniscience is that the future is determined. God knows the future exhaustively because he has decreed the future exhaustively. ~ **Michael Horton**

For an unsaved person this powerful, pervasive knowledge seems intrusive and frightening, and with good reason. God is the end-time judge with whom we must reckon. Strikingly, the response of the psalmist is not fear. He is not trembling when he thinks of God's omniscience. On the contrary, he shelters himself in God's knowledge and marvels at it. For the psalmist, God's knowledge is not a threat; it is a refuge. ~ **James Montgomery Boice**

God's omnipotence (his power to do anything he chooses to do) is intimately connected with some of God's other characteristics, some of God's other "omni" characteristics: omnipotence, all power; omniscience, all knowledge; omnipresence, presence everywhere. ~ **D. A. Carson**

God's omniscience is a truth fraught with much comfort. ~ **Arthur Walkington Pink**

Objections to the biblical doctrine of God's exhaustive omniscience are at root philosophical and not exegetical. Moreover, they are *vain* philosophy, refusing to learn the lesson which God intended—*i.e.* that men should fear before Him. ~ **Douglas Wilson**

Is it not clear that God foreknows what will be because he has decreed what shall be? God's foreknowledge is not the cause of events, rather are events the effects of his eternal purpose. ~ **Arthur Walkington Pink**

God's omniscience is a necessary condition for complete sovereignty, for if God does not know for sure everything that will happen in advance, then He cannot be sure how free creatures will use their free will. ~ **Norman Geisler**

God's omniscience is his perfect knowing of himself, all actual things outside himself, and all things that do not become reality in one eternal and simple (not having any parts but having distinctions) act (exertion of energy) ~ **John F. MacArthur; Richard Mayhue**

Suppose for a moment that Jehovah could not see the works and know the thoughts of man. Would you then become more careless concerning him than you are now? I think not. In nine cases out of ten, and perhaps in a far larger and sadder proportion, the doctrine of divine omniscience, although it is believed, has no practical effect on our lives at all. The mass of mankind forget God. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

Perhaps this is the most astounding fact about God's omniscience: He knows every detail about us, yet He still loves us. ~ **John F. MacArthur**

Omniscience cannot be separated from omnipotence. ~ **Matthew Henry (Nonconformist Biblical Exegete)**

His omniscience provides the knowledge for His wise choices; His omnibenevolence assures that they will be good choices; and His omnipotence enables Him to achieve His ends by the means He chooses. ~ **Norman Geisler**

This speaks of the omniscience of God. He knows you. ~ **J. Vernon McGee**

We must remember that we are not only to live in the fear of the Lord, but we are to live in the comfort and the knowledge of God. He not only sees what is happening to you when you are taken ill, He not only knows when you are suffering bereavement and sorrow, He knows every pang of the heart, He knows every heartache; He knows everything; there is nothing outside His omniscience. He knows all about us in every respect and He therefore knows our every need. From that our Lord draws this deduction. You need never be anxious, you must never be worried. God is with you in this state, you are not alone, and He is your Father. Even an earthly father does this in a measure. He is with his child, protecting, doing everything he can for him. Multiply that by infinity, and that is what God is doing with respect to you, whatever your circumstance. ~ **David Martyn Lloyd-Jones (Welsh Preacher and Writer)**

A great Christian of nearly 300 years ago, Nicholas Herman of Lorraine said that in his early Christian life he determined to cut through the tangle of religious means and “nourish his heart on high thoughts of God.” I have always treasured that expression.

A cultivation of God through prayer, humble soul-searching and avid feasting upon the Scriptures would go far to awaken the church. ~ **A. W. Tozer**

In our desire after God let us keep always in mind that God also has desire, and His desire is toward the sons of men, and more particularly toward those sons of men who will make the once-for-all decision to exalt Him over all. Such as these are precious to God above all treasures of earth or sea. In them God finds a theater where He can display His exceeding kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. With them God can walk unhindered; toward them He can act like the God He is. ~ **A. W. Tozer**

Christians, and especially very active ones, should take time out frequently to search their souls to be sure of their motives. Many a solo is sung to show off; many a sermon is preached as an exhibition of talent; many a church is founded as a slap at some other church. Even missionary activity may become competitive, and soul winning may degenerate into a sort of brush-salesman project to satisfy the flesh. Do not forget, the Pharisees were great missionaries and would compass sea and land to make a convert. ~ **A. W. Tozer**

God's Omnipresence

Well, then, wherever you are, you are near to God; he is a God at hand, and a God afar off. ~ **Thomas Manton**

His *omnipresence*. This means that God is present everywhere. ~ **David Martyn Lloyd-Jones (Welsh Preacher and Writer)**

“Immensity” points to the fact that God transcends all space and is not subject to its limitations, while “omnipresence” denotes that He nevertheless fills every part of space with His entire Being. The former emphasizes the transcendence, and the latter, the immanence of God. ~ **Louis Berkhof (American Calvinist Theologian)**

The evidence of incredible antiquity in the universe would then serve as a vivid reminder of the even more amazing nature of God's eternity, just as the incredible size of the universe causes us to wonder at God's even greater omnipresence and omnipotence. ~ **Wayne Grudem**

The infinitude of God, so far as space is concerned, includes his immensity and his omnipresence. These are not different attributes, but one and the same attribute, viewed under different aspects. His immensity is the infinitude of his being, viewed as belonging to his nature from eternity. He fills immensity with his presence. His omnipresence is the infinitude of his being, viewed in relation to his creatures. He is equally present with all his creatures, at all times, and in all places. He is not far from any one of us. "The Lord is in this place," may be said with equal truth and confidence, everywhere. ~ **Charles Hodge (American Presbyterian Theologian)**

"As eternity is the perfection whereby he hath neither beginning nor end, immutability is the perfection whereby he hath neither increase nor diminution, so immensity or omnipresence is that whereby he hath neither bounds nor limitation." ~ **Joel Beeke; Mark Jones**

Holy Father, Thy wisdom excites our admiration, Thy power fills us with fear, Thy omnipresence turns every spot of earth into holy ground; but how shall we thank Thee enough for Thy mercy which comes down to the lowest part of our need to give us beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, and for the spirit of heaviness a garment of praise? We bless and magnify Thy mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. ~ **A. W. Tozer**

God is perfectly present with himself, transcending all limitation of space, and yet present with every point of space with all that he is. Transcendence means that God is greater than and independent of the creation. Immensity refers to the fact that God transcends and fills all space. And omnipresence indicates that God is present with every point of space in his entire being. ~ **John F. MacArthur; Richard Mayhue**

Not only near by his omnipresence, but to sympathize and favour. He does not leave praying men, and men who confess his name, to battle with the world alone, but he is ever at their side.~ Charles Spurgeon

Literally, omnipresence means that God is everywhere present at once (omni=everywhere + present). Negatively stated, there is nowhere that God is absent. ~ **Norman Geisler**

Omnipresence, on the other hand, signifies that God is present in the totality of his being at each point in space. ~ **John S. Feinberg**

Whether or not one differentiates omnipresence from immensity is not critical, so long as one recognizes that this attribute involves two ideas, namely, God transcends spatial limitations and so is present at all places at once in his total being.~ **John S. Feinberg**

As eternity is the perfection whereby he hath neither beginning nor end, immutability is the perfection whereby he hath neither increase nor diminution, so immensity or omnipresence is that whereby he hath neither bounds nor limitation. ~ **Stephen Charnock (English Puritan Theologian)**

The infinitude of God relatively to space, is his immensity or omnipresence; relatively to duration, it is his eternity. As He is free from all the limitations of space, so He is exalted above all the limitations of time. As He is not more in one place than in another, but is everywhere equally present, so He does not exist during one period of duration more than another. With Him there is no distinction between the present, past, and future; but all things are equally and always present to Him. With Him duration is an eternal now.~ **Charles Hodge (American Presbyterian Theologian)**

This is a theological psalm in that it reveals something of the attributes of God in relation to His creation. It reveals His omniscience, His omnipresence, and His omnipotence. ~ **J. Vernon McGee**

From this greatness and immensity of God also your soul must reverently stay all its busy, bold inquiries, and know that God is to us, and to every creature, incomprehensible. If you could fathom or measure him, and know his

greatness by a comprehensive knowledge, he were not God. A creature can comprehend nothing but a creature. You may know God, but not comprehend him; as your foot treads on the earth, but does not cover all the earth. The sea is not the sea, if you can hold it in a spoon. ~ **Richard Baxter (Puritan Divine)**

The Bible teaches plainly enough the doctrine of the divine omnipresence, but for the masses of professed Christians this is the era of the Absentee God. Most Christians speak of God in the manner usually reserved for a departed loved one, rarely as of one present; but they do not often speak to Him....

At the far end of the spectrum are the conventional churches. I think it is the deep-seated notion that God is absent that makes so many of our church services so insufferably dull. When true believers gather around a present Christ it is all but impossible to have a poor meeting. The drabest sermon may be endured cheerfully when the sweet fragrance of Christ's presence fills the room. But nothing can save a meeting held in the name of an Absentee God. ~ **A. W. Tozer**

A theology that is all of the head is cold, dry, barren, and of little practical value. A theology that is all heart may be warm, comforting, and practical, but it will lack substance, and because it does it will be subject to every theological fad that comes along and will not hold up in hard times. [Psalm 139](#) has both head and heart. It is strongly theological, dealing with such important doctrines as God's omniscience (it is probably the weightiest part of the Bible for discussing God's omniscience), omnipresence, and omnipotence; but it is also wonderfully personal, because it speaks of these attributes of God in ways that impact the psalmist and ourselves. ~ **James Montgomery Boice**

God's Omnipotence

God's omnipotence means that God is able to do all his holy will. ~ **Wayne Grudem**

What can we do without your prayers? They link us with the omnipotence of God. Like the lightning rod, they pierce the clouds and bring down the mighty and mysterious power from on high. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

God's omniscience, which in the previous section has been attributed to his omnipresence, is now attributed to his omnipotence. God can search man out not only because he sees him, but because he made him. ~ **James Montgomery Boice**

It is easy to get black by sin, but remember that it is so hard to get clean that only God's Omnipotence, in the Person of Christ, could provide a Cleanser for your sins. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

Fight on! For God himself is with you; *Jehovah Nissi* is your banner, and *Jehovah Rophi* is the healer of your wounds. Fear not, you shall overcome, for who can defeat Omnipotence? Fight on, "looking unto Jesus" ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

Faith links me with divinity. Faith clothes me with the power of God. Faith engages on my side the omnipotence of Jehovah. Faith ensures every attribute of God in my defence. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

The evidence of incredible antiquity in the universe would then serve as a vivid reminder of the even more amazing nature of God's eternity, just as the incredible size of the universe causes us to wonder at God's even greater omnipresence and omnipotence. ~~ **Wayne Grudem**

Omnipotence means that God is all-powerful and able to do anything consistent with His own nature. ~ **Charles C. Ryrie**

God's omnipotence (his power to do anything he chooses to do) is intimately connected with some of God's other characteristics, some of God's other "omni" characteristics: omnipotence, all power; omniscience, all knowledge; omnipresence, presence everywhere. ~ **D. A. Carson**

God's omnipotence describes his ability to do anything consistent with his nature. ~ **John F. MacArthur; Richard Mayhue**

It is a wonderful thing when omnipotence overcomes omniscience, when omnipotent love will not allow omniscience to recollect. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

My faith has no bed to sleep upon but omnipotence. ~ **Samuel Rutherford (Scottish Presbyterian Divine)**

Everyone who is a man of God has omnipotence as his guardian, and God will sooner empty heaven of angels than leave a saint without defence. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

Do little things as if they were great, because of the majesty of the Lord Jesus Christ who dwells in thee; and do great things as if they were little and easy, because of his omnipotence. ~ **Blaise Pascal (French Scientist, Polemicist and Christian Apologist)**

“If God is omnipotent, he must be at liberty to set that omnipotence aside, and voluntarily to impose certain restrictions upon his course of action—to put it dramatically, but effectively, he must be free to have his hands tied behind his back. The *Christian* understanding of the omnipotence of God is that of a God *who voluntarily places limitations upon his course of action.*” ~ **Alister McGrath**

Out of every difficulty Omnipotence can bring us, only let us in childlike confidence cast our burden upon the Lord. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

The wicked howl, but I sing and will sing. Their power is weakness, but thine is omnipotence; I see them vanquished and thy power victorious, and for ever and ever will I sing of thee. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

Prayer is the easiest and hardest of all things; the simplest and the sublimest; the weakest and the most powerful; its results lie outside the range of human possibilities; they are limited only by the omnipotence of God. ~ **Edward McKendree Bounds (American Methodist Episcopal Minister)**

El-Shaddai signifies God's power (omnipotence) and sovereignty. The rendering “All Mighty” is the best English translation of this name because “it describes the God who makes things happen by means of his majestic power and might” (Youngblood) ~ **R. Kent Hughes**

When God's power doth restrain himself, then it is power indeed, the power to curb power, the power that binds omnipotence is omnipotence surpassed. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

There is no greater proof of the omnipotence of God than his longsuffering, for it shows the greatest possible power for God to be able to control himself, to be able to keep in an anger which naturally must boil, and restrain a fury which else must burn. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

God sent the plagues to demonstrate *the uniqueness of his omnipotence*. ~ **Philip Graham Ryken; R. Kent Hughes**

To glorify God means to acknowledge him as being who he truly is; and, since one of God's attributes is omnipotence, clearly the resurrection of Lazarus caused many to acknowledge that great power and so glorify him. ~ **James Montgomery Boice**

Jesus demonstrated his *omnipotence* when he stilled the storm at sea with a word ([Matt. 8:26-27](#)), multiplied the loaves and fish ([Matt. 14:19](#)), and changed water into wine ([John 2:1-11](#)) ~ **Wayne Grudem**

However, there are some things that God cannot do. God cannot will or do anything that would deny his own character. This is why the definition of omnipotence is stated in terms of God's ability to do "all his holy will." It is not absolutely everything that God is able to do, but everything that is consistent with his character. ~ **Wayne Grudem**

Israel saw that God's power alone carried out the promises and the mercy. This is not mere omnipotence or omnipotence set over against mercy but omnipotence serving mercy. ~ **Richard Charles Henry Lenski (American Lutheran Pastor)**

¹⁵²The treasury of the church is the liberality of God. The power of the church is the omnipotence of Jehovah. The persuasions of the church are the irresistible influences of the Holy Ghost. The destiny of the church is an ultimate conquest over all the sons of men. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

We should never tire of the thought of God's power. ~ **Donald Grey Barnhouse (American Minister)**

God's simplicity also cautions us against raising God's omnipotence above his other attributes. God always exercises his power in wisdom, knowledge, and

truth. In fact, God is not able to exercise his power in a manner that is inconsistent with any of his other attributes. ~ **Michael Horton**

Sin is a revolutionary act in which the sinner seeks to depose God from His throne. Sin is a presumption of supreme arrogance in that the creature vaunts his own wisdom above that of the Creator, challenges divine omnipotence with human impotence, and seeks to usurp the rightful authority of the cosmic Lord. ~ **R. C. Sproul**

The power of God's word is nothing less than his own omnipotence. ~ **John Frame**

Divine sovereignty or God's sovereign will is closely related to divine omnipotence. Whereas omnipotence tells how much and which powers God has, sovereignty clarifies the extent to which God uses those powers. ~ **John S. Feinberg**

God lets himself be pushed out of the world on to the cross. He is weak and powerless in the world, and that is precisely the way, the only way, in which he is with us and helps us. Matthew makes it quite clear that Christ helps us, not by virtue of his omnipotence, but by virtue of his weakness and suffering. ~ **Dietrich Bonhoeffer (Lutheran Pastor)**

God's decretive will and preceptive will must be held in tension. To deny his preceptive will is to commit injustice against God's holiness and to ignore the gravity of sin, but to deny God's decretive will is to deny his omniscience, wisdom, omnipotence, and sovereignty. ~ **John F. MacArthur; Richard Mayhue**

God's power not only surpasses our power of expression, it surpasses our power of comprehension! Take all the dictionaries of the world, exhaust all the vocabularies, and when you have added them all together you have still not begun to describe the greatness of God's power. ~ **David Martyn Lloyd-Jones (Welsh Preacher and Writer)**

Omnipotence is not a name given to the sum of all power, but an attribute of a personal God whom we Christians believe to be the Father of our Lord Jesus

Christ and of all who believe on Him to life eternal. The worshiping man finds this knowledge a source of wonderful strength for his inner life. His faith rises to take the great leap upward into the fellowship of Him who can do whatever He wills to do, for whom nothing is hard or difficult because He possesses power absolute. ~ **A. W. Tozer**

The Word of God is true because God himself will make it true in us. You have much to learn, much to overcome, and much to surrender to see that power. But this will come about if you will approach your Bible study determined that God's Word has omnipotent power to work out every blessing it promises. ~ **Andrew Murray**

In prayer, human impotence casts itself at the feet of divine omnipotence. When God's people intercede for each other, His power and sovereign purposes are realized. Thus, the purpose of prayer is not to manipulate God but to exalt His power and submit to His will. ~ **John F. MacArthur**

Prayer is the slender nerve that moves the muscles of omnipotence. ~ **John F. MacArthur**

Omniscience cannot be separated from omnipotence. ~ **Matthew Henry (Nonconformist Biblical Exegete)**

Omnipotence, which is terrible to crush, is almighty to protect. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

The essential idea of omnipotence is that God has adequate ability to do whatever being God requires. God has sufficient power *to* do the divine will. ~ **Thomas Oden**

There is power in God to lay prostrate the whole world, and to tread it under his feet, whenever it may please him. ~ **John Calvin (French Reformer)**