

## Psalm 139: The Theology of Life, Part IV

---

Brandon Phillips

Psalm 139 / Abortion; Life / Psalm 139

In Psalm 139:19-24, King David meditates on the fourth of four massive truths about the God of Creation. You serve a God who Is Omnipotent (all-powerful).

---

## Pre-sermon Comments

Evangelicals were defined by LifeWay Research as people who strongly agreed with the following four statements:

The Bible is the highest authority for what I believe.

It is very important for me personally to encourage non-Christians to trust Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Jesus Christ's death on the cross is the only sacrifice that could remove the penalty of my sin.

Only those who trust in Jesus Christ alone as their Savior receive God's free gift of eternal salvation.

The 2022 State of Theology survey reveals that Americans increasingly reject the divine origin and complete accuracy of the Bible. With no enduring plumb line of absolute truth to conform to, U.S. adults are also increasingly holding to unbiblical worldviews related to human sexuality. In the evangelical sphere, doctrines including the deity and exclusivity of Jesus Christ, as well as the inspiration and authority of the Bible, are increasingly being rejected. ~

<https://thestateoftheology.com/>

[James 2:10](#) (LSB) <sup>10</sup> For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one *point*, he has become guilty of all.

[Genesis 6:5](#) (LSB) <sup>5</sup> Then Yahweh saw that the evil of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

[Exodus 3:5-6](#) (LSB) <sup>5</sup> Then He said, “Do not come near here. Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.”  
<sup>6</sup> He said also, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” Then Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

[Exodus 19:12](#) (LSB) <sup>12</sup> “And you shall set bounds for the people all around, saying, ‘Beware that you do not go up on the mountain or touch the border of it; whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death.

[2 Samuel 6:6-7](#) (LSB) <sup>6</sup> Then they came to the threshing floor of Nacon. And Uzzah reached out toward the ark of God and took hold of it, because the oxen nearly upset *it*. <sup>7</sup> And the anger of Yahweh burned against Uzzah, and God struck him down there for his irreverence; and he died there by the ark of God.

[Isaiah 6:3](#) (LSB) <sup>3</sup> And one called out to another and said, “Holy, Holy, Holy, is Yahweh of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory.”

[Isaiah 6:5](#) (LSB) <sup>5</sup> Then I said, “Woe is me, for I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, Yahweh of hosts.”

[Hebrews 10:31](#) (LSB) <sup>31</sup> It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

[1 Peter 4:17](#) (LSB) <sup>17</sup> For *it is* time for judgment to begin with the house of God; and if *it begins* with us first, what *will be* the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

## Application Questions

What are some of the factors Pastor Brandon mentioned that might explain the decline in church attendance among [Gen X](#) and Boomers? How do you interpret

the rise in Millennial church attendance post-COVID? What might be driving this trend?

Pastor Brandon spoke about the exit of older generations and the need for leadership. What role do you think older generations should play in church leadership today?

How does the frequent exposure to moral failures among pastors affect your view of church leadership? How can churches better protect and restore trust in leadership?

How can younger generations be encouraged to step into leadership roles, while also learning from the older members of the church?

Pastor Brandon mentioned the increasing acceptance of unbiblical worldviews. What do you think contributes to this theological drift in today's culture?

How can churches and individuals safeguard their beliefs against such trends?

How do the biblical passages Pastor Brandon referenced (e.g., [Exodus 3:5-6](#), [Isaiah 6:5](#), [Hebrews 10:31](#)) shape your understanding of God's holiness? Why is it important to maintain a reverence for God's holiness in our lives and in the church

Pastor Brandon suggested that the loss of the understanding of God's holiness affects the wider culture. How can a church's reverence for God influence the surrounding culture?

What practical steps can we take as a church to model reverence for God in our daily lives?

[1 Peter 4:17](#) mentions that judgment begins with the household of God. How does this verse apply to the modern church and to our church in particular, and how should we respond to times of testing or purification?

## Sermon Text

[Psalm 139:19-24](#) (LSB) <sup>19</sup> Oh that You would slay the wicked, O God! O men of bloodshed, depart from me. <sup>20</sup> For they speak against You wickedly, And Your

enemies take *Your name* in vain. <sup>21</sup> Do I not hate those who hate You, O Yahweh? And do I not revile those who rise up against You? <sup>22</sup> I hate them with the utmost hatred; They have become my enemies. <sup>23</sup> Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; <sup>24</sup> And see if there be any hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way.

## 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](#) [Review]
- **Who Is Worthy of our Obeisance (All-Holy) – [Ps 139:19-24](#) [Today's Sermon]-**

## Review

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

[Psalm 139:1-6](#) (LSB) <sup>1</sup> O Yahweh, You have searched me and known *me*. <sup>2</sup> You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar. <sup>3</sup> You scrutinize my path and my lying down, And are intimately acquainted with all my ways. <sup>4</sup> Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O Yahweh, You know it all. <sup>5</sup> You have enclosed me behind and before, And You have put Your hand upon me. <sup>6</sup> *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) <sup>7</sup> Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? <sup>8</sup> If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in

Sheol, behold, You are there.<sup>9</sup> If I lift up the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea,<sup>10</sup> Even there Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will lay hold of me.<sup>11</sup> If I say, “Surely the darkness will bruise me, And the light around me will be night,”<sup>12</sup> 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)<sup>7</sup> Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?<sup>8</sup> 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)<sup>9</sup> If I lift up the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea,<sup>10</sup> 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)<sup>11</sup> If I say, “Surely the darkness will bruise me, And the light around me will be night,”<sup>12</sup> 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*.

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

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

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

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

Sermon 4 Outline [9/29/2024]

In [Psalm 139:19-24](#), 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](#)

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

[Genesis 3:11-12](#) (LSB) <sup>11</sup> And He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” <sup>12</sup> And the man said, “The woman whom You gave *to be* with me, she gave to me from the tree, and I ate.”

[Romans 3:10-18](#) (LSB) <sup>10</sup> as it is written, “THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE; <sup>11</sup> THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD; <sup>12</sup> ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME WORTHLESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE.” <sup>13</sup> “THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN TOMB, WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY KEEP DECEIVING,” “THE POISON OF ASPS IS UNDER THEIR LIPS”; <sup>14</sup> “WHOSE MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS”; <sup>15</sup> “THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD, <sup>16</sup> DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS, <sup>17</sup> AND THE PATH OF PEACE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN.” <sup>18</sup> “THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES.”

### He is sovereign over sinners – [Ps 139:19-20](#)

[Psalm 139:19-20](#) (LSB) <sup>19</sup> Oh that You would slay the wicked, O God! O men of bloodshed, depart from me. <sup>20</sup> For they speak against You wickedly, And Your enemies take *Your name* in vain.

[Romans 1:20](#) (LSB) <sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, both His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

[Psalm 19:1](#) (LSB) <sup>1</sup> The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And the expanse is declaring the work of His hands.

[Psalm 139:20](#) (LSB) <sup>20</sup> For they speak against You wickedly, And Your enemies take *Your name* in vain.

[Romans 3:13-14](#) (LSB)<sup>13</sup> “THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN TOMB, WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY KEEP DECEIVING,” “THE POISON OF ASPS IS UNDER THEIR LIPS”;<sup>14</sup> “WHOSE MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS”;

[Ephesians 2:1-3](#) (LSB) <sup>1</sup> And you were dead in your transgressions and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience, <sup>3</sup> among whom we all also formerly conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, doing the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

[John 8:44](#) (LSB) <sup>44</sup> “You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

[1 Thessalonians 1:10](#) (LSB) <sup>10</sup> and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

## Discussion Questions

[Psalm 139:19-24](#) presents a stark contrast between God's holiness and mankind's rebellion. Why do you think mankind has consistently rebelled against God, as seen from the time of Adam and Eve to the present day?

How does this affect our view of God's worthiness of worship?

How does [Psalm 139:19-20](#) help us understand God's sovereignty over sinners? If God is sovereign, how do we reconcile His patience with the wickedness in the world?

[Romans 1:20](#) and [Psalm 19](#) both emphasize that creation reveals God's attributes, leaving mankind without excuse. How does this reality shape our understanding of human responsibility and the judgment to come?

In both [Psalm 139:20](#) and [Romans 3:13-14](#), David and Paul highlight how people speak wickedly against God. Why do you think speech is such a significant

indicator of rebellion against God? How can we guard our own speech and honor God with our words?

David calls for God to slay the wicked, while we know from Scripture that God's judgment will come in His time ([1 Thess. 1:10](#)). How should we, as Christians, respond to the evil we see in the world today, knowing God's judgment is coming?

Given that we await the Day of the Lord, how should the knowledge of God's sovereignty and the coming judgment affect the way we live our daily lives? How does it shape our witness to those who have not yet bowed their knee to Christ?

He expects us to stand against wickedness – [Ps 139:21-22](#)

[Psalm 139:21-22](#) (LSB) <sup>21</sup> Do I not hate those who hate You, O Yahweh? And do I not revile those who rise up against You? <sup>22</sup> I hate them with the utmost hatred; They have become my enemies.

[Psalm 139:19](#) (LSB) <sup>19</sup> Oh that You would slay the wicked, O God! O men of bloodshed, depart from me.

How does the “God of love” hate someone?

[Deuteronomy 12:31](#) (LSB) <sup>31</sup> “You shall not do thus toward Yahweh your God, for every abominable act which Yahweh hates they have done for their gods; for they even burn their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods.”

[Deuteronomy 16:22](#) (LSB) <sup>22</sup> “And you shall not set up for yourself a *sacred* pillar which Yahweh your God hates.

[Psalm 5:4-6](#) (LSB) <sup>4</sup> For You are not a God who delights in wickedness; Evil does not sojourn with You.

<sup>5</sup> The boastful shall not stand before Your eyes; You hate all workers of iniquity.

<sup>6</sup> You destroy those who speak falsehood; Yahweh abhors the man of bloodshed and deceit.

[Psalm 11:5](#) (LSB) <sup>5</sup> Yahweh tests the righteous, But the wicked and the one who loves violence His soul hates.



[Proverbs 6:16-19](#) (LSB) <sup>16</sup> There are six things which Yahweh hates, Even seven which are an abomination to Him: <sup>17</sup> Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood, <sup>18</sup> A heart that devises wicked thoughts, Feet that hasten to run to evil, <sup>19</sup> A false witness *who* breathes out lies, And one who spreads strife among brothers.

[Ezekiel 18:23](#) (LSB) <sup>23</sup> “Do I have any pleasure in the death of the wicked,” declares Lord Yahweh, “is it not that he should turn from his ways and live?”

[Ezekiel 18:32](#) (LSB) <sup>32</sup> “For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies,” declares Lord Yahweh. “Therefore, turn back and live.”

How does God love sinners like us?

His robes for mine, O wonderful exchange  
Clothed in my sin, Christ suffered  
beneath God’s rage. Draped in His righteousness,  
I’m justified, in Christ I live, for  
in my place He died.

[Psalm 7:11](#) (LSB) <sup>11</sup> God is a righteous judge, And a God who has indignation every day.

[John 3:16](#) (LSB) <sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Are we supposed to hate those who hate God?

[Matthew 5:43-46](#) (LSB) <sup>43</sup> “You have heard that it was said, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.’ <sup>44</sup> “But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup> so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on *the* evil and *the* good, and sends rain on *the* righteous and *the* unrighteous. <sup>46</sup> “For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?”

[Deuteronomy 32:35](#) (LSB) <sup>35</sup> ‘Vengeance is Mine, and retribution, In due time their foot will stumble; For the day of their disaster is near, And the impending things are hastening upon them.’

[Romans 12:17-19](#) (LSB) <sup>17</sup> Never paying back evil for evil to anyone, respecting what is good in the sight of all men, <sup>18</sup> if possible, so far as it depends on you,

being at peace with all men,<sup>19</sup> never taking your own revenge, beloved— instead leave room for the wrath of God. For it is written, “VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY,” says the Lord.

“If you noticed when Larry Kudlow spoke on CNBC yesterday, he ended by saying, ‘However things work out, it will be God’s will.’” After laughing out loud, she added: “That’s an interesting way to talk about being the national economic adviser to the president, God’s will?” ~ Stephanie Ruhle

## Discussion Questions

In [Psalm 139:21-22](#), David expresses strong hatred toward God’s enemies. How does his use of the covenant name "Yahweh" in these verses emphasize his relationship with God? What can we learn about David’s closeness to Yahweh from this?

How do you define "righteous anger" as seen in David's declaration? How is this different from personal or sinful anger?

How might this passage challenge or conflict with modern perceptions of love and hatred? Do you think Christians today shy away from strong language like David's, and if so, why?

The sermon addresses the tension between hating sin and loving sinners. How do we navigate this tension in our everyday lives, especially when confronting wickedness around us?

The Bible shows that God hates sin and even those who persist in sin. What does this teach us about God’s holiness and justice? How does this affect the way we understand His love for sinners who repent?

In light of current events and the cultural climate, how should believers respond when faced with public displays of rebellion against God (like the commentator’s mockery of God's will mentioned in the sermon)?

How can we pray for those who are enemies of God without harboring personal resentment? What role does trusting God’s vengeance ([Romans 12:19](#)) play in our prayer life?

## He expects us to submit to His scrutiny – [Ps 139:23-24](#)

[Psalm 139:23-24](#) (LSB) <sup>23</sup> Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; <sup>24</sup> And see if there be any hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way.

[Jeremiah 17:9](#) (LSB) <sup>9</sup> “The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can know it?

[Psalm 23](#) (LSB) A Psalm of David. <sup>1</sup> Yahweh is my shepherd, I shall not want. <sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. <sup>3</sup> He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness For His name’s sake. <sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. <sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows. <sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and lovingkindness will pursue me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of Yahweh forever.

## Conclusion

[1 Peter 3:15](#) (LSB) <sup>15</sup> but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and fear,

[John 1:29](#) (LSB) <sup>29</sup> On the next day, he saw Jesus coming to him and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

[Matthew 11:28-30](#) (LSB)<sup>28</sup> “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> “Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. <sup>30</sup> “For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

## Application Questions

[Psalm 139:23-24](#) is a prayer asking God to search the heart. Why is it important for us, like David, to invite God to search our hearts? What might happen if we

rely solely on our own self-assessment?

[Jeremiah 17:9](#) warns us that the heart is deceitful and desperately sick. How have you seen this truth play out in your own life or in the lives of others? How does this shape the way we approach confession and repentance?

The sermon mentions that we have a tendency toward self-justification. How can we guard against justifying our sinful attitudes or actions, especially in a culture that often promotes self-justification?

David's request for God to search him is an act of humility. How does humility impact our willingness to confess our sins? In what ways can we cultivate a spirit of humility in our daily walk with God?

[Psalm 23](#) describes God's guidance in the paths of righteousness. How can we seek and recognize God's leading in our lives? How does submitting to His guidance affect our relationship with Him and with others?

The sermon challenges us to stand against unrighteousness without falling into sinful attitudes. How can we balance standing for truth with a heart that desires to see sinners come to Christ? What does it look like to speak the truth in love in today's culture?

We are called to share the gospel even with those who oppose us. How does [1 Peter 3:15](#) shape our approach to evangelism, especially when facing hostility? How can we maintain a spirit of gentleness and respect while boldly proclaiming the truth?

Jesus invites those who are weary to come to Him for rest ([Matthew 11:28-30](#)). How does this promise of rest impact your view of surrendering to God's scrutiny? What does it mean to find rest in Christ while also being called to holiness?

## 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.

Brandon.Phillips@gracegainesville.org

Keith.Kemp@gracegainesville.org

## Upcoming Sermons in this series

### Sermon 1 Outline [Preached 9/8/2024]

In [Psalm 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 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](#))

## 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)**

<sup>152</sup>The 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)**