

do not fret because of the wicked  
do not be terrified because of them,  
for they will soon fade like the grass,  
and wither like the green herb.

I trust in the LORD, and do good,  
so you will live in the land, and enjoy security,  
take delight in the LORD.

## The Psalms

# He Knows My Name

### Psalm 139:1-24

Do still before the LORD, and wait patiently for him,  
do not fret over those who prosper in their way,  
over those who carried out evil devices.

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## What does G-O-D mean for me?

Heschel

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## Of all the Psalms, 139 speaks of a personal relationship with Abba – a living, divine presence in relationship with us.

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## A God Who Knows Us

- » Entire Psalm is bracketed by being known:
- » “O Lord, you have searched me and known me.” (v1) &
- » “Search me, O God, and know my heart;” (v23)

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- » Everything between verses 1 & 23 speak to this “knowing God”

You know my physical actions (v2)  
You know my thoughts (v2b)  
You know my paths (v3)  
You know my words (v4)

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I – Thou Relationship

These are not abstract ideas about God but a God who is active in our lives – repetition of ‘me’ & ‘my’ in all verses 1-6

God as a present actor in our lives

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## A God Present With Us

### “Can I flee from God?” (v7)

Perhaps thinking of Adam & Eve  
hiding from God in the garden  
We may try to flee from God (in our  
disappointment/anger) but we  
cannot achieve it – consider Jonah  
fleeing to Tarshish

### “You are there”

If I go to heaven (v8) – sheol  
(v8) – farthest islands (v9) –  
hide in the dark (v11-12)  
Even in sheol/death you are  
there – sheol replaced by  
paradise in New Testament

We are real people before God  
He is with us in every situation  
and every circumstance  
regardless of any travel or  
movement

## All Creative God

“You created me – formed me  
in my mothers womb.” (v13)

- All my days are known to you  
before they happen (v16)
- God’s present with us at every  
point of our existence – “From  
the womb to the tomb”  
(Vanier)

God’s knowledge regarding  
you/me is more than the  
‘grains of the sand’ (v17,18)

» Not a frightening knowledge  
but a wonderful knowledge

“I come to the end – I am still  
with you” (v18) – through it all  
God is with me

- At every moment – even at the  
point of death ‘I am still with  
you’
- God’s creative power in our  
lives – ‘I wake up to you’

## All Holy God)

- In verses 19-24 the Psalmist condemns the evil in life that opposes God's goodness – not identifying specific individuals but the evil opposing powers

- The evil does not make sense – it is counterproductive
- It disintegrates life rather than integrating life

## Test me / Know me

» The Psalmist asks the Lord to test him “see if there is any wicked way in me” – he does not want any vestiges of evil to be found (v23,24)

## Why

He only wants to ‘travel in the way everlasting’ (v24) – to travel with God and to know his life

## In Conclusion

This entire Psalm presents a God in relationship with people

- He is interested in you at every level of your life
- ‘He knows your name’ and all of who you are

This Psalm is personified in the person of Jesus who knows us personally.

» Consider Jesus meeting the woman at the well (John 4): “I will give you water that will quench your thirst forever” “Give me this water”

