

**Songs of Promise**  
**7. The searching God (Psalm 139v1-24)**

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**Introduction**

**God knows us (v1-6)**

- A personal knowledge
  
- A comprehensive knowledge

**God is with us (v7-12)**

- An ever-present God
  
- An ever-present care

**God purposes us (v13-18)**

- A careful creation
  
- A thoughtful God

**Our response to God (v19-24)**

- External righteousness
  
- Internal holiness

**Conclusion**

**Other references:** Gen 4:1; 48:14; Rom 8:38-39; Gen 3:1-10; Col 1:17; John 2:17

**Psalm 139v1-24 (NIV)**

*For the director of music. Of David. A psalm.*

- <sup>1</sup> O Lord, you have searched me  
and you know me.
- <sup>2</sup> You know when I sit and when I rise;  
you perceive my thoughts from afar.
- <sup>3</sup> You discern my going out and my lying down;  
you are familiar with all my ways.
- <sup>4</sup> Before a word is on my tongue  
you know it completely, O Lord.
- <sup>5</sup> You hem me in-behind and before;  
you have laid your hand upon me.
- <sup>6</sup> Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,  
too lofty for me to attain.
  
- <sup>7</sup> Where can I go from your Spirit?  
Where can I flee from your presence?
- <sup>8</sup> If I go up to the heavens, you are there;  
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
- <sup>9</sup> If I rise on the wings of the dawn,  
if I settle on the far side of the sea,  
<sup>10</sup> even there your hand will guide me,  
your right hand will hold me fast.
- <sup>11</sup> If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me  
and the light become night around me,"  
<sup>12</sup> even the darkness will not be dark to you;  
the night will shine like the day,  
for darkness is as light to you.
  
- <sup>13</sup> For you created my inmost being;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- <sup>14</sup> I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
your works are wonderful, I know that full well.
- <sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from you  
when I was made in the secret place.  
When I was woven together in the depths of the earth,

<sup>16</sup> your eyes saw my unformed body.  
All the days ordained for me  
were written in your book before one of them came to be.

<sup>17</sup> How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!  
How vast is the sum of them!

<sup>18</sup> Were I to count them,  
they would outnumber the grains of sand.  
When I awake, I am still with you.

<sup>19</sup> If only you would slay the wicked, O God!  
Away from me, you bloodthirsty men!

<sup>20</sup> They speak of you with evil intent;  
your adversaries misuse your name.

<sup>21</sup> Do I not hate those who hate you, O Lord,  
and abhor those who rise up against you?

<sup>22</sup> I have nothing but hatred for them;  
I count them my enemies.

<sup>23</sup> Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my anxious thoughts.

<sup>24</sup> See if there is any offensive way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting.