#### August 17, 2025

## Enchanted Forest of Psalms

Tree Planted by a Stream **George Pine's Deep Roots** Psalm 139:1, 7, 14, 24 119 God's Holy Word, Law, Wisdom **General Sherman Sequoia** 19 **Heavens Declare God's Glory Huge Oak of David** 1 O LORD, Thou hast 96 Sing a New Song, Let Heavens Rejoice **Red Maple's Profuse Beauty** SEARCHED ME Lord. REMEMBER David Liberty Trees of Early U.S.A. 132 Whither shall I go from 110 Sit at My Right Hand HANGING Trees of Old 18 Lord Is My Rock, His Way Perfect Mighty Elms - Keel of Ship Thy spirit? ... 9 If I take the Give Praise, Remember Wonders **Douglas Fir for Homes** 105 WINGS of the MORNING.... Lord, Do Not Rebuke, Arrows Pierced Me Poisonous Driftwood 38 32 My Hiding Place & Forgiveness **Nobel Pine, 126 Species** 14 I am FEARFULLY ... MADE.... Lord is My Shepherd 23 **Nightingale of Psalms** 24 lead me in the 139 Thou Has Searched Me, Lord WAY EVERLASTING **Knightwood Oak – Queen of Forest** Hear My Cry, Lead Me Hickory - American Wagon Wheel 5

NOTICE:

42

Sunday, Sept 28 Class @ Orchard 9:15 – 10:15

**Deep Calls unto Deep** 

Imperial March of Psalm 139

**Weeping Willow** 



Because the last 6 verses are HARDEST for the N.T. Christian Psalm 139 is EASILY divided into TWO SECTIONS

- √ 1-18 on God Knowing YOU & ME
- √ 19-24 on David, YOU, & ME versus God's Enemies

Allow me start with the LAST Section ... our PRAYER

So personal ... yet made MORE personal AFTER verses 1-18

Also, a WARNING, a Caveat, & a Complicated Ethical Conundrum

Where does "I HATE them, O LORD, that hate Thee" arrive for us?

I shall not try to answer that, except to tempt to you think of

YOUR FAMILY ... Your Church ... Your Friends

Once you KNOW God well ... LOVE God long ... and KNOW that God KNOWS & LOVES you ... Psalm 139:19-24

#### Makes Much MORE SENSE



- 19 Surely, Thou wilt slay the wicked, O God: depart from me therefore, ye bloody men.
- 20 For they speak against Thee wickedly, and Thine enemies take Thy name in vain.
- 21 Do not I *HATE* them, O LORD, that hate Thee? and am not I grieved with those that rise up against Thee?
- 22 I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them MINE ENEMIES.
- 23 SEARCH ME, O GOD, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:
- 24 And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the WAY EVERLASTING.

You SEE 139:19-24 as so very personal to the UTTERMOST ... then SEE made MUCH MORE PERSONAL AFTER 1-18



- 1 O LORD, Thou hast SEARCHED me and KNOWN me.
- 2 Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, Thou understands my thought afar off.

Hebrew for Searched is "To DIG"

What comes to your mind & heart when you see Psalm 139?

- ✓ If you've not read it in years or in decades then this lesson is for you
- ✓ If you have cherished Psalm 139, literally treasured it, this is for you
- ✓ If you cannot remember it, hopefully, you will never forget it after today I assure you, Psalm 139 is worthy of your time ...

I propose it is an INTELLECTUAL Psalm, yes, but should not be I propose that Psalm 139 be post-intellectual I propose that the BEST of Psalm 139 is seen when made

# Dear & Personal



- 1 O LORD, Thou hast SEARCHED me and KNOWN me.
- 2 Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, Thou understands my thought afar off.

# Dear & Personal

We knew NO time for sadness
That's a road we each had crossed
We were livin' a time meant for us
and even when it would RAIN
We would laugh it off

Scottish author & poet George Gilfillan (1813-1878) in his *The Bards of the Bible* said on Psalm 139:

Here the poet inverts his gaze, from the blaze of suns, To the strange atoms composing his own frame.

He stands shuddering over the precipice of himself.

Above is the All encompassing Spirit, from whom the morning wings cannot save; and below, at a deep distance, appears amid the branching forest of his animal frame, so FEARFULLY and WONDERFULLY MADE,

the abyss of his spiritual existence, lying like a dark lake in the midst.

How, between mystery and mystery, his mind, his wonder, his very reason, seem to rock like a little boat between the sea & sky.



Scottish author & poet George Gilfillan (1813-1878) in his *The Bards of the Bible* said on Psalm 139:

But speedily does he regain his serenity;
when he throws himself,
with childlike haste and confidence,
into the arms of that Fatherly Spirit & murmurs in his bosom,

"How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God; how great is the sum of them?" ...

I cannot search thee; I cannot search myself;
I am overwhelmed by those dreadful depths;
but search me as thou only canst;

"see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the WAY EVERLASTING"



Psalm 139

#### The Enchanted Forest

Knightwood Oak Queen of the
Enchanted Forest

Wherever you GO into the Enchanted Forest
Whenever you visit the Enchanted Forest
you can see this tree from the distance
Oh, your Bible, don't MERELY read words
IF you only analyze the sublime poetry
You'll miss miss the massive size
Mere words cann't span the girth of Psalm 139





on Ps. 139:17, Charles H. Spurgeon (1834-1892) noted Thursday evening March 19, 1868:

If there is one cry that rises more frequently to our lips than any other, it is this,

"Nearer, my God, to thee, Nearer to thee!"

But, alas! our thoughts of God are a very poor help to us in drawing us nearer to him, they flag, and tire, and soon die;



**Charles H. Spurgeon** by Alexander Melville (1834-1892)

but the thoughts of God toward us are strong, like God himself is, and these, like so many unbreakable cords firmly fastened to us, are drawing us ever nearer to him.....

that he is continually encouraging us to believe that we shall one day be close to him, and be fitted to be close to him,

being perfectly conformed to the image of Christ.

#### Psalm 139

- 1-6 God's Omniscience Thou Has Searched Me
- 7-12 God's Omnipresence Where Can I Go
- 13-18 God's Omnipotence Your Eye Saw My Form
- 19-24 God's Omnicompetence Thou Wilt Slay the Wicked
- Most see first 3 ... while true, "Omni" is too WILD
  - Though neat, these "Omni" this & "Omni" that they, ah, Omni-Distract from the
    - DEEPLY personal nature of this beautiful Psalm

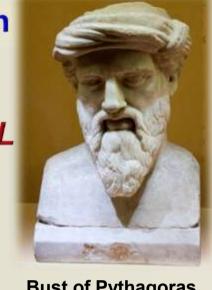
Magnificent Psalm – artistic & deep do not analyze, rather savor & make Ps. 139 PERSONAL

Greek polymath Pythagoras in c. 590 B.C. in

Golden Age of Greece - famous for theorem c<sup>2</sup> = a<sup>2</sup> + b<sup>2</sup>

square of hypotenuse = sum of squares of other two sides

Pythagoras famous for his Golden Precepts or Golden Verses 71 lines of Moral Verse, Maxims on Life, Honor, Honesty



Bust of Pythagoras of Samos in the Capitoline Museums, Rome

On Ps. 139, Samuel Annesley (1620-1696), said his Morning Exercises:

There is one Psalm which it were well if Christians would do by it as Pythagoras by his Golden Precepts

—every morning and evening repeat it.

It is David's appeal of a good conscience unto God, against the malicious suspicions and calumnies of men



- 1 O LORD, Thou hast SEARCHED me and KNOWN me.
- 2 Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, Thou understands my thought afar off.

To me, this is one of the best laid poems in the Bible, if not the best

- ✓ Smooth seamless transition between its 4 major sections
- ✓ 24 Verses in 4 Sections of 6 verses each
- ✓ EACH of the 4 Sections having 3 mini-Sections of 2 verses
- ▼ Then, first 3 Major Sections on God's Knowledge, Presence, Pervasiveness leads into the 4th Major Section on ME/You

This has a semi-load of bedrock Theology on God Making it imponderable in scope ...

Yet becomes PRECIOUS if you make Psalm 139





#### Psalm 139 - Personal Psalm for Imperial March

- 1-6 God Knows Thou Has Searched Me
- 7-12 God Is Here -Where Can I Go
- 13-18 God Was There Your Eye Saw My Form
- 19-24 MY Response Thou Wilt Slay the Wicked

Say "MY" Name – you say "YOUR" Name Make this YOUR PSALM – that is,

That God as searched YOU

then 19-24 have deep-rooted passion

That is why I wish to STARTED with the hardest part
The part HARD to grapple with as N.T. Christians

### Key Verse Psalm 139:1, 7, 14, 24

- O LORD, Thou hast
  SEARCHED ME
- Thy spirit? ... 9 If I take the WINGS of the MORNING....
  - 14 I am FEARFULLY ... WONDERFULLY MADE ....
  - 24 lead me in the

WAY EVERLASTING



# Alternate Title

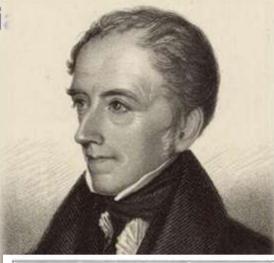
# No Midnight to God Almighty

Scottish poet James Montgomery (1771-1854) imprisoned by for a poem on Fall of the Bastille He was the son of Moravian Pastor & Missionary

Montgomery published the missionary journals of Daniel Tyerman in 1831, two volumes titled:

Journal of Voyages & Travels Around the World by the Rev. Daniel Tyerman and George Bennet, Esq., Deputed from the London Missionary Society to Visit Their Stations in the South Sea Islands, Australia, China, India, Madagascar, and South Africa between the years 1821 & 1829 updated in 1841 with a section on African Slavery

Placed the essence of Psalm 139 into poetic English:



#### VOYAGES

4000

#### TRAVELS ROUND THE WORLD,

\* \*\*\*

Rev. DANIEL TYERMAN AND GEORGE BENNET, Esq.

DEFETED FROM THE

#### LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY

TO NAME THAN PARTIES STATISTICS

IN THE SOUTH SEA ISLANDS, AUSTRALIA, CHINA, INDIA, MADAGASCAR, AND SOUTH AFRICA,

REPORTS THE TEAM ISTE AND INCO.

COMPLETE THOSE ORIGINAL DOCTMENT

#### BY JAMES MONTGOMERY.

THE SECOND EDITION CORRECTED

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LONDON

PUBLISHED BY JOHN SNOW, 35, PATERNOSTER ROW.

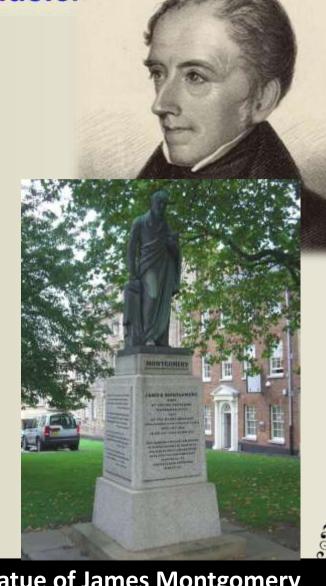


Scottish poet James Montgomery (1771-1854) imprisoned by for a poem on Fall of the Bastille He was the son of Moravian Pastor & Missionary

Placed the essence of Psalm 139 into poetic English:

Searcher of hearts! to thee are known The inmost secrets of my breast;

At home, abroad, in crowds, alone, Thou mark'st my rising and my rest,







Scottish poet James Montgomery (1771-1854) imprisoned by for a poem on Fall of the Bastille He was the son of Moravian Pastor & Missionary

Placed the essence of Psalm 139 into poetic English:

My thoughts far off, through every maze, Source, stream, and issue—all my ways.

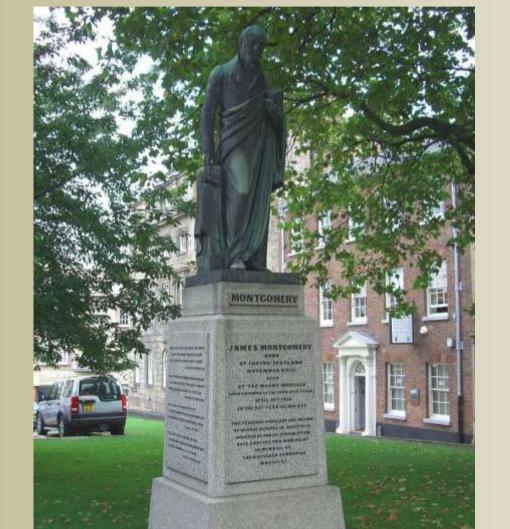
How from thy presence should I go, Or whither from thy Spirit flee,

Since all above, around, below, Exist in thine *IMMENSITY?* 











**Statue of James Montgomery Sheffield Cathedral forecourt** 





Alternate Title #2

# Almighty God KNOWS YOU

Yes-YOU!

- 1 O LORD, Thou hast SEARCHED me and KNOWN me.
- 2 Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, Thou understands my thought afar off.
- 3 Thou compasses my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways.
- 4 For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, Thou KNOWEST it altogether.

Soldier Poet Sir Philip Sidney (1554-1586) in his poem on Psalm 139

And everywhere:

Not youngest thought in me doth grow, No, not one word I cast to talk But, yet unuttered, thou dost know.



- 5 Thou hast beset me behind and before,& laid thine hand upon me.
- 6 Such knowledge is **TOO WONDERFUL** for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it.

Scottish Minister & Geologist Henry Duncan (1774-1846) in his Sacred Philosophy of the Seasons, said of 139:6,

At this moment he is listening to the praises breathed by grateful hearts in distant worlds, and

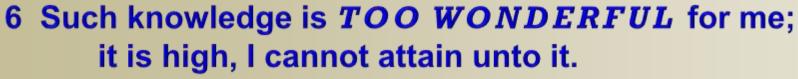
reading every groveling thought which passes though the polluted minds of the fallen race of Adam....

No inattention prevents Him from observing;

No defect of memory or of judgment obscures his comprehension.







Scottish Minister & Geologist Henry Duncan (1774-1846) in his Sacred Philosophy of the Seasons, said of 139:6,

In His remembrance are stored not only the transactions of this world, but of all the worlds in the universe;

—not only the events of the six thousand years ... but of a duration without beginning....

An eternity past and an eternity to come are, at the same moment, in His eye; and

with that eternal eye He surveys infinity.

How amazing! How inconceivable!







if I make my bed in HELL, behold, THOU ART THERE!

Puritan Preacher, and later Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge John Arrowsmith (1602-1659), said of 139:7

A heathen philosopher once asked, "Where is God?"

The Christian answered, "Let me first ask you,

# Where is He NOT?"





Scottish poet James Montgomery (1771-1854) imprisoned by for a poem on Fall of the Bastille He was the son of Moravian Pastor & Missionary

Placed the essence of Psalm 139 into poetic English:

If up to heaven I take my WAY, I meet thee in eternal DAY.

If in the grave I make my *BED*With worms and dust, lo! *THOU ART THERE!* 

If, on the wings of morning SPED, Beyond the ocean I REPAIR,

I feel Thine all controlling WILL,

And Thy right hand upholds me STILL.



9 If I take the WINGS OF THE MORNING, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea;

C.H. Spurgeon said on 139:9,

If I could fly with all swiftness, and find a habitation where the mariner has not yet ploughed the deep,

yet I could not reach the boundaries of the DIVINE PRESENCE.

Light flashes far afield beyond all human ken ... illuminates the great &wide sea, sets its waves gleaming afar....

Were we to speed on the wings of the morning breeze, and break into oceans unknown to chart and map,
Yet there we should find the Lord already present.

He who saves to the uttermost would be with us to the uttermost parts of the sea.



- 9 If I take the WINGS OF THE MORNING, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea;
- 10 Even there shall thy hand lead me, and Thy right hand shall hold me.
- 11 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me," even the night shall be light about me.
- 12 Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness & the light are both alike to Thee.









# Dear & Pers

Like Bette Midler's 1980 version of The Rose,

I say love, it is a flower And you, its only seed







Scottish poet James Montgomery (1771-1854) imprisoned by for a poem on Fall of the Bastille He was the son of Moravian Pastor & Missionary

Placed the Psalm 139:11-12 into poetic English:

"Let darkness hide me," if I say, Darkness can no concealment be;

Night, on thy rising, shines like day; Darkness and light are one with thee:

For thou mine embryo form didst view, Ere her own babe my mother knew.





- 13 For Thou hast possessed my reins:
  Thou hast covered me in my mother's womb.
- 14 I will praise thee; for I am FEARFULLY & WONDERFULLY made: marvelous are Thy works, and that my soul knoweth right well.
- Thomas Manton (1620–1677) was an English Puritan clergyman and chaplain to Oliver Cromwell, which on 139:14 said,
- What shall I speak of the EYE ... curious workmanship ... upon first looking into have been driven many to acknowledge God?
- Of the HAND ... open & shut ... serve the labours ... without wasting & decay for many years?

  If the HAND were marble or iron,
  - with constant use marble hands would soon WEAR OUT!

18 ... When I am awake, I am STILL WITH THEE

# Dear & Personal

Like Carpentar's 1970 version of We've Only Just Begun,

Before the rising sun, we fly So many roads to choose

We'll start out walking and learn to run And yes, we've just begun







