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GOD'S ALMIGHTY POWER - EVERLASTING MERCY - AND GRACE

Psalm 139 in some Bibles is described as a declaration of God's Omniscience (Knowing All) and Omnipresence (Everywhere in the Universe). We shall see this in the text; but I want to highlight God's everlasting and incalculable and immeasurable Mercy and Undeserved Favor (or Grace) at the end of this psalm. I am not reading the Text before I preach, for I will read most verses with you as we go along together.

He already knows you.

Reading Psalm 139:1 *O LORD, You have searched me and known me.* This Psalm written by King David, starts by his telling the LORD that he realizes God's omniscience to know David' inner life, not just his outward actions. In 1,010 B.C. King David's theology or understanding of God based on the Older Testament Scriptures and his personal relationship with Him, would have the LORD being the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

His theology was a millennium before Jesus came to Earth. Yet, David's prophetic utterance in (**Psalm 110:1**) that Jesus used to discredit the *Scribes* (**Mark 12:36-37**) in A.D. 30:

THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD

SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND

UNTIL I PUT THINE ENEMIES BENEATH THY FEET

must have hit inside David's inner man. His prophetic writings must have given him a definite sense in the prophetic Son , the Lordship of a coming Messiah; but **not the clear definition we have since Jesus coming to Earth in the flesh.**

He knows you above time.

Psalm 139:2 (read) *You know [when I sit down and when I rise up;*

You understand my thought from afar. The LORD knows what we are going to do, before we do it! David says from “afar” but he knew the special revelations of God's Presence in close fellowship, e.g., *In Thy Presence is fullness of joy, and at Thy right hand are pleasures forevermore.* (**Psalm 16:11**). God not only sees but reads our minds, *understands my thoughts.* When the Devil's children claim this supernatural

power, either real or trickery, we get very uncomfortable. The difference is the difference between Light and Darkness! **God loves us so much, He has no malicious designs on our minds.** He is not capable of maliciousness in any way. He is GOOD through and through! Christians, rejoice in the trustworthy character of our God. David learned this before Jesus revealed so much more of God to the world.

He doesn't miss any details.

(read vv. 3-4) You scrutinize my path and my lying down,

And are intimately acquainted with all my ways.

Even before there is a word on my tongue,

Behold, O Lord, You know it all.

God's omniscience goes on to our path on a journey, our resting places, and *even a word on our lips.*

There is no sense of mistrust in David's heart as we **(read vv. 5-6)You have enclosed me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me.**

6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;It is too high, I cannot attain to it. .

David knew the LORD's power to keep him safe: *He has my back & front!* This confidence in the LORD was based on David's knowing that the LORD is Almighty, i.e., Omnipotent (Unlimited power) and Omniscient (Total knowledge). David admits that he believes it, it is too *wonderful for me, too high*, but can't really get his mind around this to *attain to it.* But also, David would come to know that the LORD is Merciful beyond calculation or our human explanation.

God is Spirit and is everywhere.

Now, David declares the LORD's omnipresence. **(read v. 7) Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?**

David uses *flee from Thy Presence* , for an instruction to the sinner or rebellious Believer. King David's heart yearned to stay close to the LORD. Willful fleeing never occurred to him; but, separation in relationship from great sins did occur in his life.

Jonah was one of the LORD's prophets who rebelled against his LORD and fled on a ship to avoid his call to Nineveh to preach judgement as instructed by the LORD. In our modern age of transportation (Boston to Tokyo in 12 hours) we don't realize how in some of the local *geographic thinking of even God's people*, as the LORD showed up powerfully in Israel, could deceive them to forget He created the Heavens and the Earth. Jonah found out very dramatically as God sent a fish to swallow him as he sailed to Tarshish. **The Book of Jonah 1:17 -The LORD ordered a big fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was inside the fish for three days and three nights.** He repented. God made the fish spit him out, and he obeyed the original instructions from God. God was

with Jonah in the belly of a fish.

As the day swiftly approaches for the Return of Jesus to judge the world, God shows many miracles to try to get the skeptics to believe His Holy Scriptures. A lobster fisherman off Boston, Massachusetts in Cape Cod Bay was swallowed by a humpback whale on June 11, 2021. It was documented and the surviving man gave testimonials even on American television shows. There are actually quite a few of these incidents ; but this was in a major city with much press coverage. I can only pray that some who heard would think about God's Holy Bible...the TRUTH to save us from God's coming judgement.

**Psalm 139:8-9-10 (Read)*If I ascend to heaven, You are there;
If I make my bed in [f]Sheol, behold, You are there.
9 If I take 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.***

Heaven or Sheol, the grave; the LORD is there.

SUICIDE ANYONE?

Some people think they can escape from God by suicide. They are sorely mistaken! And, as we said earlier, the LORD is omnipresent over the whole face of the earth. David is happy to know that God's hand would lead him in far away lands....EVEN in America..EVEN in Osaka! But also, ***Your right hand would hold unto me.***(v. 10) Many years later in (**John 10:29**) Jesus reassures Christians of their eternal security in a world where Satan opposes all that is of God: ***My Father who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.***

Read Ps. 139:11-12 ***If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me,
And the light around me will be night,"
Even the darkness is not dark to You,And the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are alike to You.***

In our modern world, it is difficult to imagine in Biblical times the total darkness after sunset. A few large cities had a few street lamps fueled with oil. But, if you ever visited a farm, or forest at night, you get that feeling of being *overwhelmed* by total darkness. David's assurance of the LORD's constant companionship is thus declared as God can see in the dark the same as in the day, both being alike to Him. Note that this is **physical not spiritual darkness** which can never be alike to a Holy God. Now David talks to the LORD about His personal care in creating him, and all people.

**Read vv 13-16 *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 skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth;
 16 Your eyes have seen my unformed substance;
 And in Your book were all written
 The days that were ordained for me,
 When as yet there was not one of them***

These Bible verses are great to dispel the self hate too many people have been taught regarding their own bodies. God is not ashamed of the human body for **He invented and created it! Fearfully, wonderfully and skillfully made.** And note that God's knowing our lifetime before we were born: in Thy book they were all written, The days that were ordained for me, When as yet there was not one of them. The comfort these truths on our creation gives us is really only available to Believers in the LORD. The facts of Creation are the same, but only a Born Again Christian has a living relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ. This is basically the same as King David's relationship with God. My fellow Christians, **worrying about spending so much energy and money to keep oneself alive for more years makes no sense at all!** Necessary medical treatment is not what I am speaking about. But if you are a Christian, **To Live is Christ, to die, is gain! In (Phillipians 1:21)** Why would you want to extend your life other than to be more fruitful working for your Lord Jesus snatching sinners from the fire of eternal judgement?

Preparing this sermon, Holy Spirit led me away from my study to take a look at our beautiful vase of bright yellow Sunflowers, that a Mission Partner gave us. These were in the bright sunshine of our living room windowI mentioned to Dorothy: *“They are giving glory to God even as they are dying! I pray to God that we would do likewise for the Word says: ' For whether we live, we live unto the LORD; and whether we die, we die unto the LORD: whether we live, therefore , or die, we are the LORD'S.' as in (Romans 14:8)”*

CHURCH..do you really want to postpone being with JESUS to stay in these old bodies???......

Read vv 17-18 *How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God!*

How vast is the sum of them!

If I should count them, they would outnumber the sand.

When I awake, I am still with You.

Can you believe it? God actually loves to think about YOU! He can't get you out of His mind. You are the Bride espoused to your Bride Groom Jesus! David by the Holy Spirit had that kind of relationship too. This is not a *one night fling that the worldly call Romance*, but the LORD is there every morning when you awake from sleep.

Now David, as all of us, must face the reality of a fallen human race. **Read vv. 19-22**

O that You would slay the wicked, O God;

Depart from me, therefore, men of bloodshed.

20 For they speak against You wickedly,

And Your enemies take Your name in vain.

21 Do I not hate those who hate You, O Lord?

And do I not loathe those who rise up against You?

22 I hate them with the utmost hatred;

They have become my enemies.

It may be worth differentiating the Older Testament word *wicked*, from *sinner*. *Wicked being extreme sinful actions with no consideration of the value of life, completely contrary to our Creator . A sinner was one who misses the target of godly living (under the Law in the Older Testament).*

David, a man out for God's own heart, asked Him to slay the *wicked*. Yet, we see God's compassion on the wicked outside of the race God chose to reveal Himself to all peoples, the Hebrews from Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. For God sent His prophet Jonah to Israel's worst enemy, the wicked nation Nineveh. To Jonah's displeasure, as he wanted vengeance, the LORD gave mercy when they repented after Jonah preached impending judgement. God's leaders, as King David, who had killed many thousands of the enemies of Israel, were led by God's actions to consider that God had given up on sinners who were then called wicked...expecting they would never repent. So it is not an exaggeration to say that **OFTEN, The only way to get rid of SIN in the Older Testament was to get rid of the SINNER!** This is what Jonah thought and wanted to see happen. Nineveh was very, very wicked especially to the Hebrews. BUT GOD.... Reading Jonah 3:10 – Jonah 4:1-3 We see Jonah was **WRONG! And God is more merciful than even Believers believe.**

As the Newer Testament declares in (**2 Corinthians 9:15**) *Thanks be to God for His indescribable GIFT.* (that GIFT is JESUS!) Because Jesus came to earth, God has changed His Mind regarding all men, all totally fallen sinners, and He no longer differentiates between the sinner and the wicked *For whoever will call upon the name of the LORD will be saved!* In (**Romans 10:13** , and even during the Great

Tribulation ,Joel 2:31). What Jesus did on the Cross in not only the Newest and Best and Forever Testament of God's covenant by FAITH with all mankind, God has changed His immutable mind and everlasting WISDOM to fit His Son's Work on the CROSS for us ALL!!! and FOREVERMORE.

So , of course, David, a Prophet regarding the Messianic Future, but not a Prophet to Israel, would ask God *to slay the wicked.* And to command them , *men of bloodshed,* to depart from him..

David was not just thinking of his own safety, but his heart burned with anger against those who spoke against the LORD. (v. 22)

David,I believe, was a very emotional man (obvious from the Bible) both for Worship and stumbling into SIN. Now he is changing gears in his racecar, if you please. He humbles himself before this same LORD who he asked to slay the *wicked!*

**Read Psalm 139: 23-24 *Search me, O God, and know my heart;
Try me and know my anxious thoughts;
24 And see if there be any hurtful way in me,
And lead me in the everlasting way.***

- v.23 David already said that he knew that God had searched him and known him (**Psalm 139:1**) “ SO WHY? “ Someone may ask, “would he pray *search me O God,* ?” This kind of thinking may keep some sinners on their path to Hell! They are really saying: “**Since God knows everything, I don't have to talk to Him! He can save me (without my consent) for He is Omnipotent, Almighty.**”
- Thus this attitude about God makes Him look like a BULLY who pushes His way into lives of sinners and makes them His Robots! Even my feeble attempt here to show the Heart of the LORD with His Servants David and Jonah refutes such an unjust judgement of God. **RELATIONSHIP** means asking someone for what they already know...to communicate in **TRUTH removing any doubts of what the other person feels or thinks.** Oh how married Christians need to learn this with each other, and all of us, with our JESUS! GOD did this whole thing from *The Garden of Eden , Jesus's Cross – Burial --Resurrection -- Ascension, and sending those early Christians to almost certain death to tell the wicked world the Good News of Jesus, because He desires the satisfying of His Own Infinite Love to be in relationship with Mankind, whom He Created....even with you and with me!!!*

- *God loves it when we pray like David. We trust our Lover, Jesus, with our deepest darkest secrets. We don't want to hide anything from Him who died for us.*
- **Anxious thoughts** are always fed by fear and unbelief that we can REALLY Trust our Lord Jesus. David knew that too. David knew that God's Spirit loves to fix our sinful hearts with more of Jesus (more of the Lord's Presence to David).
- **v.24 Hurtful – way of pain** David was ordained by God to kill God's enemies with the sword. He knew the difference after he was convinced of his after he had murdered his best general,Uriah, to cover his sin of committing adultery with his wife, Bathsheba. Nathan, the prophet,was informed by the LORD of King David's sin, and confronted him. As recorded in (2 Samuel 12:7-14) *‘It is I who anointed you king over Israel and it is I who delivered you from the hand of Saul. 8 I also gave you your master’s house and your master’s wives into your care, and I gave you the house of Israel and Judah; and if that had been too little, I would have added to you many more things like these! 9 Why have you despised the word of the Lord by doing evil in His sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the sons of Ammon. 10 Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.’ 11 Thus says the Lord, ‘Behold, I will raise up evil against you from your own household; I will even take your wives before your eyes and give them to your companion, and he will lie with your wives in broad daylight. 12 Indeed you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, and under the sun.’” 13 Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Lord.” And Nathan said to David, “The Lord also has taken away your sin; you shall not die. 14 However, because by this deed you have given occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, the child also that is born to you shall surely die.”*
- KingDavid repented and humbly accepted the punishment of the death of his baby son by Bathsheba and a *sword in his family....* Absalom's rebellion, and more. David knew, after Nathan confronted him, that he who was given so much from the Lord now had so shamed Him. **In (Psalm 51: 7,10,11)** *7 Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.*

*10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a steadfast spirit within me.*

*11 Do not cast me away from Your presence
And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.*

- we see David pleaded with God - *Do not cast me away from Thy Presence, take not Thy Holy Spirit from me, cleanse me from sin, create a clean heart and a steady new spirit.* David had tasted the purity and power of the LORD, and was devastated in his own heart by his sin; that he had separated himself by his shameful sin against the LORD who was also as a Friend to David. David knew He had the Almighty Power to change his heart for God's glory.

Pardon my tangential here, but any thinking Christian must wonder if David had existed on the New Testament side of the Cross, would God have been more merciful. David knew he deserved Hell! I can't imagine that if I would be as merciful to David if I were God (Aren't you glad that I am not!) But the Bible from Genesis to Revelation teaches that **God always demands more from Leaders than other believers, e.g., King David's sin in (1 Samuel 12:14)given occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme.**

- **Older Testament** This was true in Israel in the Older testament covenant of Abraham's Faith, and in the Newer Testament Covenant of Jesus's Blood. The King of Israel was in the Inheritance Line and Prophetic Fulfillment of the Messiah, Jesus. A sin by the King was not only against God , but also His Covenant Promises; Weakening the trust in the eyes of His Chosen People as the remnant who faithfully believed were trying to follow the LORD. As David was a Prophet regarding the suffering and many promises of the Coming Messiah, this sin was more than a blemish on God's plan for Israel. Also, the resulting division in David's Family, ended God's plan to carry the pure aristocracy with the LORD as King over faithful kings from David's offspring, a true Theocracy.
- **Newer Testament.** Only the LORD knows any "what if" scenarios, and He likely won't tell us, methinks! But the Lord Jesus' teachings, especially in the New Testament Church by the Holy Spirit 's breathing these New Scriptures to the Apostles, emphasize a Christian's repetition of sin as endangering them to not gain their reward as a Believer in Heaven. The emphasis is in *lifestyle , or way of living* - not single or even multiple offences with a contrite heart before the Lord Jesus -
- **Read (1 Cor 6:9b /Beck) *Don't be mistaken about this: No One who lives in sexual sin or worships idols, No adulterers or men who sin sexually***

with other men, who steal, are greedy, get drunk, slander, or rob will have a share in God's Kingdom

- King David's one time falling (which covered several months with evil plotting Urriah's murder in a battle) might not be comparable. The LORD looks to favor Christians who *desire, like King David did, to live in constant relationship with Him*. Falling away from Grace would be more of a *choice* than a sin, or many sins, against God. Even the *weakest Christian in character* can keep confessing his sins to Jesus; and, even more important, telling Him about his struggle against sin ..like praying: **I am too weak to not sin., LORD JESUS**. As David learned as he wrote. Let us imagine David praying through to God as he penned every word in Psalm 51, including **Read (Psalm 51: 17) *The sacrifice that God wants is a broken spirit. A broken and crushed heart, O God, You won't despise.***
- As King David writes he knows that the LORD still accepted animal sacrifices in His Holy Temple. But David's relationship with His Personal LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, required that his heart cry out to God's heart. Any religious activity would be too external for this kind of love. This heart to heart with God is what Jesus has made available to all who would believe in Him. This is why King David stood out so magnificently in the Older Testament.
- ***Many of you, my brothers, should avoid becoming teachers, because you know that we teachers are going to be judged with stricter judgement than other people. (James 3:1/ Beck)*** . A Teacher of the Word of God, especially the Good News of Jesus Christ, is sort of a KING in a Theocracy like Israel(**OUCH and AMEN as I write this**) in the Kingdom of Jesus, which is the Church. **Oh please listen OIC Church Council....** not in authority, but in the influence of the minds of people (the sheep and the sinner) as he represents the real King, Jesus.
- Thus, the Apostle Paul always emphasized *God's undeserved favor upon himself in his Ministry*. Reading (**1 Corinthians 15:9-10/Beck**) ***For I belong to the lowest rank of the apostles, and am not fit to bear the title apostle (meaning - saw Jesus in the Flesh, not just Sent-One, a missionary) because I once persecuted the church of God. But by God's unmerited favor I have become what I am, and His unmerited favor was not bestowed for nothin; for I have toiled more extensively than any of them, and yet not it was not I but God's unmerited favor working with me.*** Paul had, under the LAWS of the LORD, *murdered the martyr Stephen. (Acts 7:59) And they went on stoning*

Stephen as he called upon the LORD and said, “Lord Jesus receive my spirit!”....in (Acts 8:1) And Saul was in hearty agreement with putting him to death. And in (Acts 9.1) And Saul, still breathing murder against the disciples of the LORD,...

- Saul was later called Paul by Dr. Luke in writing the Mission Journal (later called the Book of Acts) and obviously more culturally acceptable to Saul's new mission field, the Gentiles, as Paul (Greek) is Saul (Hebrew). With such a sinful background! You might ask why the Apostle Paul could be so bold? It was his LOVE RELATIONSHIP with the LORD who he had hated unto murder, by hating His disciples. If you are a Christian, you actually have done the same inside your heart, but now, like Paul, stand blameless before the Throne of God. So....
- So , Paul in true confidence in His Salvation and God's Forgiveness could preach boldly:
- ***But though we, or an angel from Heaven, preach any other Gospel unto you than that which we preached unto you, let him be accursed. (Galatians 1:8 / KJV)*** Paul felt the LORD deep in his own heart (heart to heart communications, methinks) what too many Christians miss. Paul's condemning judgement shows that the most serious sins are not sensual: of the lust of the eye, pride of life and such. **All sin cost Jesus His Life;** yet, the Bible teaches, in Paul's hesh words, and also the LORD's reaction to the bad behaviour of Israel after King David passed, the contrary. The most grievous sins to God , what breaks His heart most grievously, are falseness in religion which is a personal insult to His Holy Character, e.g., **another Gospel**, and falseness about the revelations of His heart and Soul, if you please, to mankind. God has made Himself so vulnerable to the sinul race that should adore Him. I will repeat this fact in my final point ahead.
- **More Newer Testament**
- I have pointed to several men of God whom the Bible revealed as devoted yet struggling with their own sin. Each of them led a people who either *resisted their LORD*, that is Israel, or were still *Babes in the Christian faith*, that is most of the Apostle Paul's audiences. I am praying that you will see God's heart in relationship to these men as their personal Saviour. These men of the Older Testament (King David, Jonah, and Asaph next) and the Newer Testament (the Apostle Paul, the first martyr Stephen) had lives which revealed the LORD's incalculable Mercy and Grace.

- These Bible passages are a few promises to encourage your FAITH in walking closer to Jesus, as these men of God did, until you see Him in Glory. He is our God too!
- Reading (John 6:37) *All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out.*
- The Greek original New Testament (M&M) “I will NEVER NEVER turn away”...
- Unlike English, double negatives in Greek don't reverse the meaning, but add great emphasis on the textual information. What meat for the soul sick Christaian.
- Read (1John 2:1/Beck) *If anyone sins, we have One to plead for us with the Father ---- Jesus Christ, Who is righteous.*

It is stated clearly in the Newer Testament of the Bible the relationship connection between Jesus, The Son, and the Father, in an understandable way. God forbid that we let this only be *intellectual truth* but pray to God like the men of God , having not as clear of a picture of the TRINITY- LORD GOD ALMIGHTY , yet when they fell in sin, they earnestly prayed to the LORD as He had been revealed to them in the Older Testament, and God restored them to joy and power in His service. How much more so can we be confident in God's hearing our pleas through His Son Jesus!

- **But Believers** may be falling to commit a sin in thought or action under temptation???? In(1 Corinthians 10.13) *No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.*
- I am so thankful that the Christians feeding me Scriptural MILK included this Well Done STEAK. I had been a sorcerer..a heart so evil I am amazed that Jesus sought me. I was wise to memorize (1 Corinthians 10:13) as a *Babe in Christ*. I have had to use it *often* , but God is still faithful.
- **God is Omniscient (All Knowing), Omnipotent (All Powerful), Omnipresent (Present Everywhere) , but He has a soft Heart** that is so easily wounded! God has made Himself so vulnerable to the sinful race that should adore Him. I want to repeat this fact in my closing words. For we cannot really comprehend that which seems contrary to what we see as strength. But people like King David, the Apostle Paul, and millions of others who were graced with a *close walk with the LORD*, have learned some of this glorious truth. All Christians should as well. We see that Asaph ,the leader of King David's choir, had a close relationship with the LORD in **Psalm 73: 21-23 Reading:**

- **21 When my heart was embittered**
And I was pierced within,
22 Then I was senseless and ignorant;
I was like a beast before You.
23 Nevertheless I am continually with You;
You have taken hold of my right hand.
24 With Your counsel You will guide me,
And afterward receive me to glory.
- **NEVERTHELESS , in Psalm 73:23,** Asaph trusted the LORD's unmeasurable MERCY more than his own ability to keep his heart in perfect peace, for he knew the Scriptures taught that. Sometimes, it seems we just can't! Bitterness can bring the most sincere Christian into a slow death of the Joy of the Lord, and the death of his Faith! **We fix our gaze on the cause of our bitterness and we cease *LOOKING TO JESUS, WHO GIVES US OUR FAITH FROM START TO FINISH.* As stated in (Hebrews 12:2/ Beck).** Our salvation is bought for us...but we must pass away from this earth in FAITH..and bitterness murders faith. Asaph cried out to God when his bitterness was getting the best of him. We must admit humbly when it is to us. I did. God showed up!!!
- **God's being Almighty means nothing if HE were not at the same time MERCIFUL. This confidence in God's undeserved favor...counsel...and power pleases the LORD so much, that our future is safe and secure....all the way to seeing Jesus which is being *received in GLORY!***
- **GLORY!**

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