

Psalm 139 Sermon 11 August 2024 - "You Are A Wonder"

Watford church of Christ

Objectives

To create awe and gratitude for God's protection, creativity and love.

To convince people they are wonderful in God's sight.

Ideas

- Give verses to groups. Ask them to explore
 - What they tell us about God
 - How is this helpful?
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Outline

Introduction:

- The world tells us we are worthless unless we measure up to body type, income level, educational achievement, etc. What is our antidote to that?
- Psalm 139 was written because David was threatened by the bloodthirsty and those who do not respect God (we've seen a lot of that in recent weeks).
- Like him, I hope we can see God clearly and ourselves as He does
- Sam reads Psalm 139
- Grasping, trusting, and believing the truth in this Psalm solves racism
- We will not explore vv19-24 today -- they are the context for the writing of the Psalm
- What we *will* do today is explore David's view of God that helps him with the challenges of vv19-24
- The 3 sections we will explore are below
- **Discussion Groups:** for the next 10 minutes take one section and ask yourself the question, "What is David celebrating about God?"
- Online worshippers can pick one section and post comments on the Facebook page.

Sections: 1-6; 7-12; 13-18

1-6: Confidence in God because he *really* knows me

- v1 intro
 - Contrast between what *we* can do and the *LORD* can do
 - Know me - better than **Dentist CAT** scan!
- v2
 - Matthew 10.30
“But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.
- v3
 - 1 John 3.20
in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things.
- v5
 - God is involved at touching distance despite being so majestic as to be unknowable.
 - God’s hand protects Moses,
Exodus 33.22
and it will come about, while My glory is passing by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock and cover you with My hand until I have passed by.
. Protection is in view.
- v6 summary - This is adoration, not doctrine. God knows us, not just about us.
 - Romans 11.33
“O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!”

7-12: Confidence in God because he is *always* present

- v7 intro: The Psalmist is not trying to escape. He believes he is innocent, v23.
 - ‘Presence’ = face
 - Spirit + face - immediacy of closeness
 - Pagan deities localised, but not YHWH.
 - God's spirit and his presence as equivalents?
- v8

- Even in places (Sheol) devoid of God's blessing, still his sovereignty is assured.
- Christ went there but could not be held there.
- Turned into Paradise now.
- Why bed in Sheol? Taking up residence there? Perhaps death?
- v9
 - Morning in the East - sunrise, sea in West - i.e. all the heavens.
 - "If I take the wings of morning" may also be a reference to speed. David may have been saying, "If [I] could fly at the speed of light."
 - Taking flight first thing in the morning, going all day until sunset and landing as far west as possible.
 - "...perhaps even more scary than a God who pursues you to the ends of the earth is one who is already there when you arrive!"
- v10
 - **Right** hand, strong, authoritative, Kingly
 - This hand is benevolent. God's reason for his persistent presence with us is to offer us assistance, protection, and resources that we do not have in ourselves.
 - // Jesus,
 - Matthew 28.20
 - teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
 - God always with us is a promise,
 - Hebrews 13.5
 - "Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you.'"
 - Protection in times of trouble,
 - Psalm 23.4
 - 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.
- V11
 - The implication is that I never need to be 'in the dark'.
 - Darkness covering might be fearful. The word can be translated as bruise. Bad things happen at night. Perhaps these are the Psalmists' fears. The night normally comes when darkness comes at the end of the day, but perhaps here he is fearing that darkness will come even when it is meant to be light, like an eclipse or a very dark cloud.
- V12

- God turns things upside down. Darkness is not dark to him. He is not restricted or restrained from his abilities, as is usually the case in creation.
- Our experience and understanding are not his. Our limitations are not his.
- When things look dark to me, they are not dark to God.

13-18: Confidence in God because he only makes *wonderful things*

- V13

- Inward parts - kidneys. Seat of conscience, apparently.

Jeremiah 20.12

Yet, O Lord of hosts, You who test the righteous, Who see the mind and the heart;
Let me see Your vengeance on them; For to You I have set forth my cause.

- Vv11-13 progression. Outer to inner darkness. Nothing too dark.
- My mother put the greater number of women believers down to their experience of bearing a child.
- 'Formed': "Among the many ways the word is used, one is in connection with God's creation: His creation of heaven and earth ([Genesis 14.19](#), [Genesis 14.22](#)), His creation of Israel ([Deuteronomy 32.6](#)), and, here." POSB
- God is not only everywhere and knows everything (and everyone); he is purposeful. He makes, forms, and weaves.
- God creates the spiritual and physical parts of us.
- The God who creates galaxies is just as involved in the intricacies of individual life creation.

- V14

- Acknowledgement that wonder of the personal connects to the wonder of the creation.
- It is right to rejoice over who we are. We may lament who we would like to be, but that does God a disservice. We cannot all be athletic, intellectually gifted, etc. Without them, the world would be a poorer place. Rejoice in who you have been made, and enjoy.
- "I know that very well" - a wholehearted conviction, causing him to praise God.
- The way I have been made is terrifying. I am a wonder. (She's a caution!). She's a wonder.
- Seven wonders of the world human. One beyond, before, above that - the wonder of humankind created by God. Prime wonder. Wonder .0.

- V15
 - Two locations for formation - the womb (13) and the depths of the earth.
 - 'Woven'—This verb describes an embroiderer weaving various threads together skillfully to make a beautiful tapestry ([Exodus 26.36](#); [Exodus 27.16](#)).
- V16
 - Connections with
 - Daniel 7.10

"A river of fire was flowing And coming out from before Him; Thousands upon thousands were attending Him, And myriads upon myriads were standing before Him; The court sat, And the books were opened.

?
 - Divine foreknowledge, v 4 and here.
 - Embryo.
 - Even when I was in the womb, when my body was not fully formed, my 'days' were fully formed.
 - From unformed to formed. None of them existed-implying God outside of time.
- V17
 - Thinking about God's thoughts is overwhelming!
 - Thoughts about me?
 - Weight, precious, heavier than anything I can conceive of, more valuable than anything I can imagine. How foolish I am to worry about what I don't know or the things that bother me when I consider how much God knows.
- V18
 - Conclusion of the matter - praise!
 - Hinting at the resurrection? "Womb to tomb and beyond!" Boice
 - 'Come to an end' - when I awake. A morning realisation?

Summary:

- God knows everything about us; God cannot be separated from us; God made us wonderful; God loves us
- Say to yourself, "I am a wonder!"
- Say to your neighbour, "You are a wonder!"

Conclusion:

- God is wonderful, he only makes wonders, you are a wonder, we are wonders, isn't that wonderful!

Link to Lord's Supper:

- Our wonderfulness explains why Jesus would go to the cross for us
 - Wonderful grace....
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