



Israel's Greatest Hits

The Creator Knows You

Psalms 139

Dr. Mike Fabarez • Focal Point Radio Ministries • August 4 & 5, 2012 • Psalms Series • CD 12-26

TO THE CHOIRMASTER.

A PSALM OF DAVID.

1 O LORD, you have searched me and known me! **2** You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. **3** You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. **4** Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether. **5** You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. **6** Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it. **7** Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? **8** If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! **9** If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, **10** even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.

11 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night," **12** even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you. **13** For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. **14** I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. **15** My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

16 Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them. **17** How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

18 If I would count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with you. **19** Oh that you would slay the wicked, O God! O men of blood, depart from me!

20 They speak against you with malicious intent; 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 complete hatred; I count them my enemies. **23** Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! **24** And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting! (ESV)

1. Be _____ (vv.1-18)

2. Trust _____ (vv.19-22)

3. Focus _____ (vv.23-24)

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. It is also helpful when you are able to discuss your answers with others.

1. Read **Psalm 6:3**. What kinds of difficult situations cause this sort of internal struggle and tempt you to doubt God's care or concern for your life?
2. Read **Habakkuk 1:1-4** and **Habakkuk 3:17-19**. Describe a situation in which you experienced this kind of progression from "complaint" to "praise" once you recognized God's strategic involvement amid an injustice?
3. Read **Psalm 94:1-11**. What would you say to someone who tells you he or she has never felt a strong desire for God to intervene with justice?
4. Read **Romans 8:28** and **Genesis 50:20**. Describe an evil or injustice in your life that God has utilized for good.
5. Read **Psalm 139:23-24**. What are some of the temptations you encounter when you are suffering? What added instructions would you give to make this prayer sincere and meaningful to a Christian when he experiences an injustice?

The CBC Bible Reading Schedule for this Week:

Go to ESV.org (Reading Plans: Though the Bible) for schedule prompts.

August 5th

Ps.75-77 & Ro.6

August 6th

Ps.78 & Ro.7

August 7th

Ps.79-81 & Ro.8:1-18

August 8th

Ps.82-84 & Ro.8:19-39

August 9th

Ps.85-87 & Ro.9

August 10th

Ps.88-89 & Ro.10

August 11th

Ps.90-92 & Ro.11:1-21

August 12th

Ps.93-95 & Ro.11:22-36

The following related sermons are also available for free as mp3 downloads or audio streaming on the Focal Point Website (FocalPointMinistries.org).

CD # 0638 – **Acquiring Strength & Stamina from an Omnipotent God**

CD # 0859 – **The Theodicy of God**

CD # 0651 – **A Day of Reckoning: Understanding God's Judgment**

CD # 1015–1021 – **When Life is Tough** (a 7-part series on help and hope amid suffering)

CD # 1108–1111 – **Enemies, Grace & Revenge** (a 4-part series on responding to enemies)

CD # 0851–0860 – **Studying God** (a 12-part series on the nature and attributes of God)

Here are some books which may assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in today's sermon. While Pastor Mike cannot endorse every concept presented in each book, he does believe these resources will be helpful in profitably thinking through today's topic.

Archer, G. **The Book of Job**. Baker, 1982.1019

Carson, D. A. **How Long, O Lord?** Baker, 1990.

Charnock, Stephen. **The Existence and Attributes of God**. Reprint. Baker Books, 1996.

Davis, Steven T. ed. **Encountering Evil**. Westminster/John Knox Press, 1995.

Erickson, Millard, J. **God The Father Almighty: A Contemporary Exploration of the Divine Attributes**. Baker, 1998.

Feinberg, John S. **The Many Faces of Evil: Theological Systems and the Problem of Evil**. Zondervan, 1994.

Geisler, Norman. **The Roots of Evil**. Zondervan, 1978.

Lewis, C. S. **The Problem of Pain**. B & H., 2000.

McGrath, Alistair. **Suffering & God**. Zondervan, 1995.

Pink, Arthur W. **The Attributes of God**. Baker Books, 1975.

Plantinga, Alvin. **God, Freedom, & Evil**. Eerdmans, 1974.

Poole, Garry. **How Could God Allow Suffering and Evil?** Zondervan, 1998.

Stackhouse, John. **Can God Be Trusted? Faith and the Challenge of Evil**. Oxford, 1998.

Tada, Joni Eareckson & Steve Estes. **When God Weeps: Why Our Suffering Matters to the Almighty**. Zondervan, 1997.

Whitney, Barry L. **Theodicy: An Annotated Bibliography on the Problem of Evil**. PDC, 1998.