

## Devotional March 12, 2021

By Major Brian Coles

Most of us struggle with feelings of insignificance from time to time. Other people more gifted or talented than us can leave us feeling insignificant.

We may know we're valuable, but when we compare ourselves to others, we can feel that we're not as good as others.

In our world today, we can feel like we are becoming numbers and statistical units rather than an individual.

Machines are increasingly taking the place of workers. Computers can do much more, much faster, and with greater accuracy than even skilled specialists can.

Our universe is so vast that this Earth seems like just a speck in space surrounded by galaxies measured in light years rather than kilometres.

The immensity of it all overwhelms us at times and forces us to ask the age-old questions: Who am I? Why am I here?

If you find yourself wrestling with questions like these from time to time, Ps. 139 is for you. It is one of David's best.

In this song, he describes the person who is standing alone and searching for answers regarding himself, his world, and his God.

Ps. 139 answers 2 questions that deal with 2 of our most basic problems. The first is, **"Does God really know me?"**

In the first 4 verses of David's song, we are given sufficient information to discover that God is omniscient; that means he knows everything, and that includes you.

"You have searched me, LORD, 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, LORD, know it completely."

God is omniscient. He knows everything. He is fully aware of everything at all times, and that includes you.

How well does he know you? He knows you better than you know yourself.

Consider the next two verses. "You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me.

<sup>6</sup>Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain."

Here David mentions God's omnipotence, which means God is all-powerful and therefore is the one who is in control.

He hems us in, he steadies us, directs us, keeps his hand on us, and stays near us.

After writing this, David exclaims, "Knowing this is mind-blowing." My paraphrase.

The question, "Does God really know me?" begins to fade as we realize that, yes, God knows me. And God views me as important and significant.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> question is, "**How close is God to me?**"

It's one thing to know that God knows you. But is he near you?

Yes, he is. That's because he is omnipresent; that means he is present everywhere, always.

In vs.7-10 David states, "Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

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."

God's omnipresence means there is no place he is not. He is never absent. He is always near you.

Not even darkness affects God's pervading presence. Vs.11-12, "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.”

Have you ever felt fearful at night? Even darkness is not dark to the Lord. As Hebrews 4.13 reads, “Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight.”

We need never feel alone. God is always near. God cares for you and me. He does so because we are important to him.

Feelings of insignificance begin to fade as the truth of David’s song emerges.