

PSALM 139

LORD, you search me, you know me:

²you know when I sit and stand;^{*a}
you understand my thoughts from afar.

³You sift through my travels and my rest;
with all my ways you are familiar.

⁴Even before a word is on my tongue,
LORD, you know it all.

⁵Behind and before you encircle me
and rest your hand upon me.

⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
far too lofty for me to reach.^b

⁷Where can I go from your spirit?
From your presence, where can I flee?

⁸If I ascend to the heavens, you are there;
if I lie down in Sheol, there you are.^c

⁹If I take the wings of dawn^{*}
and dwell beyond the sea,^{*}

¹⁰Even there your hand guides me,
your right hand holds me fast.

¹¹If I say, "Surely darkness shall hide me,
and night shall be my light"^{*}—

¹²Darkness is not dark for you,
and night shines as the day.
Darkness and light are but one.^d

II

¹³You formed my inmost being;
you knit me in my mother's womb.^e

¹⁴I praise you, because I am wonderfully made;
wonderful are your works!
My very self you know.

¹⁵My bones are not hidden from you,

When I was being made in secret,
fashioned in the depths of the earth.*
¹⁶Your eyes saw me unformed;
in your book all are written down;^f
my days were shaped, before one came to be.

III

¹⁷How precious to me are your designs, O God;
how vast the sum of them!
¹⁸Were I to count them, they would outnumber the sands;
when I complete them, still you are with me.^g
¹⁹When you would destroy the wicked, O God,
the bloodthirsty depart from me!^h
²⁰Your foes who conspire a plot against you
are exalted in vain.

IV

²¹Do I not hate, LORD, those who hate you?
Those who rise against you, do I not loathe?ⁱ
²²With fierce hatred I hate them,
enemies I count as my own.

²³Probe me, God, know my heart;
try me, know my thoughts.^j
²⁴See if there is a wicked path in me;
lead me along an ancient path.*