

Read aloud Psalm 139 together, what do you find most striking as you listen to the Psalm?

Psalm 139 is full of wonderfully deep statements about how well God knows us because he has made us and how he is always with us wherever we go. “I am fearfully and wonderfully made”, “You know when I sit down and when I rise up”, “Even before a word is on my tongue, behold. O LORD, you know it altogether”, “you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb”, “if I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me”. God made us. God knows us. And God is always with us.

Do you believe God is always with you? Do you *really* believe this? In what ways can we default into unbelief?

1. The Elephant in the Psalm (verses 19-22)

But the most striking and most surprising part of this Psalm is verses 19-22. In a Psalm that majors on the presence and goodness of God, which is loaded with stunning ‘one liners of truth’ David includes a full bloodied and impassioned rant! David does not hold back in expressing deep hatred towards the enemies of God.

David is clear in these verses that he hates enemies of God. In verse 20, they are described as people who speak against God “with malicious intent”. In verse 21, they are described as people who hate God and “rise up against” God. Who are these enemies David speaks of?

Read Ephesians 6:11-12. Why are these verses so important to our understanding of God’s enemy? Do you think Christians can make mistakes in understanding who our enemy is?

Our enemy is Satan, the Devil, the demonic forces, the spiritual forces of evil. In the West, we can laugh off, ignore and dismiss the Devil, but the Bible is clear about his existence. And none of us can deny that terrible evil does exist in this world. The quotes on Sunday about genocides in the last century to remind us that evil works in this world.

How do verses 19-22, speaking of God’s enemies, relate to the rest of the Psalm? Are they out of place?

If we all truly believed the wonderful truths of Psalm 139, if we all believed God was always with us, that he made us, that he knows us, the World would be a truly wonderful place. Everyone respecting what God has made and living knowing he is always with us. Verses 19-22 serve to highlight that not all is right in the world, that there is an enemy seeking to distort the truths of the rest of Psalm 139. It is natural for David, in the midst of praising God for creating him and always being with him, to get angry with God’s enemies who seek to turn these truths into lies and destroy the lives of people whom God has created.

2. Triumphant King and a Defeated Enemy

What weapons has God given His people to fight against the enemies David describes?

Colossians 2:13-15 says “13 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14 by cancelling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. 15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.”

Our greatest weapon against Satan is the Gospel – that on the cross Jesus Christ triumphed over the rulers and authorities. Satan is a retreating enemy, a defeated enemy.

What implications does Jesus victory on the cross have for us today as we speak God’s word to the world around us?

We should be confident and courageous, because God’s enemies have been defeated. In Christ, we are more than conquerors, so why should we fear? We have been made by God. He knows us so well. He is always with us. So, let us be full of courage in declaring the glorious truths of God’s Gospel.