Part 1 – Known by the Lord

We've now come to the ***thirty-third*** chapter in the "Deuteronomy Book" (the *fifth*, and *final*, 'book' of the Psalms) which has the overall subject of "***God's Word is the Only Good***". And that means that all blessing *for man* (Genesis, 1st book), all blessings *for Israel* (Exodus, 2nd book), all blessing *in relation to sanctuary* (Leviticus, 3rd book), and all blessing for *the earth and nations* (Numbers, 4th book) **are bound up in the Living Word of God**! And that's *why* **the Living Word is the *root*, and *source*, of <u>all</u> blessings**. Now, let's also remember that, **Psalm 135** had the subject/title of "**Praise**" because reminded us of some of the (many) *reasons* we have to praise the *true* God (YHVH). For He truly is *far greater*, and *above all*, that is called 'god'. After all, He not only created heaven, and earth, but <u>us</u> too! And that's why the false gods of Egypt could not save them from the Ten Plagues the Lord (YHVH) brought upon them. Nor could the false gods of the other heathen nations save them when they fought Israel; for the Lord (YHVH) fought *for* Israel so they *could* inherit the Promise Land. And these few examples should remind us how vain (empty and useless) it is to worship false gods and idols. For, we truly *will become like what we worship*. That's why those who worship false gods, and idols, will eventually become as dead as they as they are. But those who worship the *Living* God (YHVH) will be given *eternal* life. And that's yet another reason to praise (bless) the *true* God, Yehovah! And then **Psalm 136**, also had the subject/title of "**Praise**" because it also reminded us of some of the (many) *reasons* we have to praise the *true* God (YHVH). Indeed, it is *only* Yehovah (who is the *only* Eternal, and self-existent One in existence, #3068) that is the "God of gods" (*Supreme* God, our *Creator*, #430), "Lord of lords" (*Sovereign* Ruler on earth, #113) and "God of heaven" (*Almighty* God who rules <u>all</u> things in heaven and earth, #410)! And the *many* 'great wonders' He has done (creating heaven and earth, freeing Israel from Egyptian bondage, giving them the victory over the heathen nations, saving us from our enemies, and giving us our daily provisions, etc.) *prove* this fact, i.e. that He truly is *far greater*, and *above all*, that is called 'god'. Yet, it *also* proves that "*His mercy endureth forever*"! And that's *why* He is *so very* **worthy** of our praise, thanks, love, adoration, *and* obedience.

And then **Psalm 137** had the subject/title of "***Israel, Deliverance from Babylon***" because (not surprisingly) it was a prayer of deliverance from captivity to Babylon. And, because the Psalmist was *deeply* grieved from being in captivity in Babylon (and for what they did to his own people, and Jerusalem), he prayed they would receive the *same* kind of treatment *they* had inflicted *upon others*. And he also prayed the Edomites (who gleefully called for Jerusalem's destruction) would also be punished for their hatred towards Israel, and Jerusalem. And, while history tells us Babylon (and the Edomites) was indeed punished for their wickedness, we know that this is *prophetical* for how the 'Babylon' of today (Satan's wicked system) *will also* be punished. In fact, it will be *totally* destroyed at the return of Jesus Christ. So, even though we're now living in the wicked 'Babylonian system', we too can be assured the Lord (YHVH) has *not* forgotten us, *nor* His beloved city Jerusalem. And He will, therefore, pour out His great cup of wrath upon *all*

who *hate* Him, His favorite city (Jerusalem), and His faithful followers! And then **Psalm 138** (which was another Psalm of David) had the subject/title of "***Praise***" because it reminded us of some of the (many) *reasons* we have to praise the *true* God (YHVH). And one of the (many) reasons is because the Lord (YHVH) strengthens our soul (inner man) when we worship Him *wholeheartedly*, not with pretense or guile. And, even when we're in the *midst* of trouble, He will protect (and save) us from our enemies. And, because the Lord (YHVH) is not a respecter of persons, He always helps those who earnestly seek, love and obey Him but, chastens (and even punishes) those who are too proud to do so. And this is why, even the heathen kings of the earth will eventually come to praise Him when Jesus Christ returns to rule the earth. For the Lord (YHVH) is fully able to complete (fulfil) His promises yet, is also full of mercy to those who come to Him in humble repentance.

And now we come to **Psalm 139**, which has the subject/title of "***Deliverance from self***" because it will teach us how *only* our Creator (Yehovah) is able to 'deliver' us from an *evil* heart. And that's because He (alone) knows *everything* about us and thus, He even has the ability to see *deep* into the *most innermost* part of our *inner* man (heart and mind). And that means He (alone) is able to help us to clean out our evil (negative, sinful) thoughts (from our mind) *and* desires, emotions, motivations and intentions (from our heart). And, this Psalm also has a subtitle, so we know it's another Psalm written by David, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, of course (2 Tim 3:16-4:1). However, we're (yet again) not told *when* this Psalm was written. But, from the context of this Psalm, it's possible it was written *after* David was confronted (by the prophet Nathan) about his affair with Bath-Sheba and subsequent murder of her husband (by sending him to the hottest part of the front line in war). As 2 Sam 12 tells us, David repented *sincerely*. And Psalms 51 (which we know was written at that time) also documents this. And, from Psalm 51 we know that David truly did do a lot of 'soul searching' at that time, which this Psalm also expresses. But, regardless of *when* it was written, this precious Psalm *will* teach us that truly, our 'self' can be one of our *worst* enemies! And that's because we're in a flesh body that causes us to *want* to sin! And, the *only* way we can overcome that is *with the help of* God's Word (and the Holy Spirit) *within us*…

Psalm 139
1 A Psalm of David.
O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me.

So, David begins this precious Psalm of "Deliverance from self" by proclaiming *how* intimately the Lord knows us. The word '**Lord**' here is God's sacred (and covenantal) name **Yehovah** which means (the) ***self-Existent*** and ***Eternal*** (#3068) [https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/946]. So, by using God's Sacred name (Yehovah, i.e. YHVH), David is expressing two things. One of which is that he is in a *covenantal* relationship with the Lord (YHVH); and that's because David loved, feared, sought and *earnestly tried to obey* Him. But, David was also pointing out that he *well*

knew the Lord (YHVH) is the *only* one who has *always* existed and *always* will, which is *why* He is *eternal* (Rev 1:8, 4:9, 11:17, 16:5, 22:13). And, throughout this Psalm we'll also see David use some 'titles' for our Heavenly Father (Yehovah) which will reveal that, He's *not only* Eternal, *but also* **all** knowing (Omniscient), present in **all** places at **all** times (Omnipresent) and **all** powerful (Omnipotence). So, this verse begins to explain how the Lord (YHVH) is *all knowing*. That's why the word '**searched**' means ***to penetrate***, i.e. ***to examine intimately*** (#2713) while the word '**know**' means ***to know***, i.e. ***to ascertain by seeing*** (#3045) including by *observation, care, recognition* as well as *instruction, designation* and even *punishment*. This means that our Heavenly Father (alone) can read our heart and mind. And therefore, He even knows what we're *thinking about doing* **and** what we *truly desire* (1 Chron 28:9; Ps 44:20-21, 94:11; Jer 16:17, Jer 17:9-10; Ezek 11:5; Heb 4:12-13). As Heb 4:12 says, God's Word (which IS God, John 1:1) is *quick* (living), *powerful* and *sharper than any twoedged sword*. And therefore, He (alone) knows our thoughts and, even the *intentions* of our heart. So, there is *no one* who He is not able to 'know' (see) and 'search' (examine intimately), i.e. we're all an 'open book' to Him! So, what this means is that we *can't* fool God (YHVH), for we simply *cannot* escape His ability to read the *innermost* thoughts, and desires, of our mind and heart! Therefore, He also knows all that we do, and say, too - which is actually what David goes on to explain…

Psalm 139
2 Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off.

The word '**knowest**' here is the same Hebrew word rendered as 'known' in the prior verse. So, it still means ***to know***, i.e. ***to ascertain by seeing*** (#3045). And the words '**downsitting**' (to *sit down, dwell*, #3427) and '**uprising**' (*to rise*, #6965) is a figure of speech (*Synedoche*, apx 6) that means ***He knows all our movements***. So, the Lord (YHVH) also sees *all* that we do! And then, the word '**understandeth**' means ***to separate mentally*** (or distinguish), i.e. ***to understand*** (#995) while the word '**thought**' does mean a ***thought***; but it specifically refers to our ***inward thoughts***, i.e. ***ideas*** we have (#7454). And then the words '**afar off**' means ***remote***, ***place or time*** and even ***precious*** (literally or figuratively, #7350). And this simply means He can tell where our most intimate thoughts *are leading to*, i.e. what they will cause us to actually *do*. In other words, He knows what we're *going to do* (and say) even *before* we *actually* do it! So, aside from knowing *all* that we do, the Lord (YHVH) also knows even our innermost thoughts, desires, emotions, intentions, and motivations. So truly, there is *no one* who knows us better than our Heavenly Father. In fact, He truly knows us *better* than we know our own 'self'!

And that's because we often don't want to admit to ourselves *why* we are *really* doing things; nor do we even want to admit the sinfulness of our secret desires, and thoughts, at times. As Prov 21:2 so well says, "*Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the LORD pondereth the hearts*". The word '**pondereth**' here means ***to weigh,*** or even to ***test*** (#8505). So, while we *can* fool ourselves (because we *don't want to admit* our sins), the Lord (YHVH) *does* see what we do,

say, think and desire! As David told his son, Solomon (shortly before he took the throne), "*the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: **if** thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but **if** thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever*" (1 Chron 28:9). The word '**imaginations**' here means ***a form*** or ***conception***, i.e. ***purpose*** (#3336). We could even call it the *intentions* of our thoughts. So again, we can't fool our Heavenly Father because, He *not only* sees all that we do (and say) but, He *also* well knows what our thoughts (mind), desires, emotions, motivations and intentions (of our heart) are! So, while the first verse, in this Psalm 139, spoke of how the Lord (YHVH) searches us (examines us intimately) and knows us (sees all we do), this second verse tells us *why* He does so, i.e. to examine if we are trying to obey Him or not!

Psalm 139
3 Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways.

Now the word '**compassest**' here is an interesting word. It's a prim root that means ***to toss about*** and, by implication, can also mean ***to diffuse*** or ***winnow*** (#2219). And, to really understand this we must understand what winnowing means. It's referring to how, after people harvest grain (such as wheat), they used to separate the chaff (useless part) from the grain (what they wanted to keep) by *tossing* the grain *up* so that the wind (or someone fanning it) would carry the chaff *away* while the grain fell back to the ground. So, it's a way of *separating* the good grain from the useless chaff. *Keep that in mind*. And then the word '**path**' here means ***a well-trodden road*** (literally or figuratively, #734). So, it's a lot like the word rendered here as '**way**', for that Hebrew word means ***to walk*** (#1980). And that word is also used in a *great* variety of applications, both literally and figuratively (#1980). In this verse, *both* of these words are being used *figuratively* to refer to how we 'walk' along a *metaphorical* 'path' of life, which simply means *the way we live our life*. You could even think of it as *what we live our life for*, i.e. the lusts of the flesh **or** to please our Heavenly Father (1 Pt 4:1-2). And then the words '**lying down**' are one Hebrew word that means ***prostration*** *for sleep* (#7252). And lastly, the word '**acquainted**' means ***to be familiar with***, ***to minister to, be serviceable to,*** or ***to be customary*** (#5532). In the context of this verse, it means *to be familiar with*. And He is familiar with us *because* He 'searches' (inspects) all of our inward thoughts, desires, emotions, intentions and motivations!

So, when David writes that the Lord (YHVH) 'compassest' his 'path' and 'lying down', he's simply saying that the Lord (YHVH) inspects (or examines) the way he lives his life - from the time he gets up to the time he goes to bed. For just as someone *separates* the chaff from the grain *by winnowing it*, so too does the Lord (YHVH) *discern* the thoughts and intents of our heart (Heb 4:12) *and examines them* with what we *actually* do and say. And that's why David writes that the Lord (YHVH) was 'acquainted' (was familiar with) all his 'ways', i.e. the way he lived his life. So, because the Lord (YHVH) knows what our true intentions, motivations and desires are, He

knows if we *really* are trying to obey Him (from the heart) or, if we're just *pretending* to! So again, we cannot fool (or lie) to our Heavenly Father. He not only knows the *moment* we sin but, He *also* knows what thoughts (of our mind) and desires, intentions, and/or motivations (of our heart) *lead us* to sin in the first place!

So, David's point here is that, the fact that the Lord (YHVH) knows us *so* well, shows that He truly is the *only* one who can deliver us from our 'self', i.e. from an 'evil heart'. Or, said another way, He's the only one who can deliver us from the inclinations of this flesh body, which cause us to *want* to sin. And this is *why* having the Holy Spirit of God within us is such a blessing. For, **if** we are *earnestly* trying to obey Him, He will help us to understand if what we're thinking about doing (or wanting to do) is actually good to do or not… even when we cannot discern if it's good or not. And, when we study His Word *earnestly*, He'll 'open up' the Scriptures to help us to see *why* what we're thinking about doing (or wanting to do) should, or should not, be done! And further, because He can also read the hearts and minds of *all other* people, His Holy Spirit can also warn us of the intentions of other people too; often He'll warn us not to believe (or trust) someone when we would have otherwise done so. So, having the Holy Spirit guiding us (which is *what* 'walking in the Spirit' *means*, Gal 5, Rom 8) truly is *the biggest* blessing in life. For the Lord (YHVH) not only helps us learn *how* to do what is right but, He also warns us *how to avoid* many troubles in life! That is, IF we obey Him! And that's why it is so important to study His Word so we can learn to discern when His Holy Spirit is actually 'speaking' to us verse when our carnal mind is or, even when other spirits are. For, as Peter warned us, we must learn to discern people's spirits because there are *many* who are influence by *evil* spirits (1 John 4:1-2). You can learn more about how to discern the Holy Spirit in the following studies…

Hearing God https://t.me/BibleStudyAudios/39
How To Hear God https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/476

Psalm 139
4 For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether.

So again, David is still explaining *how* well the Lord (YHVH) knows us. The word '**word**' here is interesting because, it doesn't *only* mean ***a word***; it can *also* mean ***a discourse*** or ***a topic*** (#4405). And the word '**tongue**' can *also* mean ***speech*** (#3956). So, David's point is that, no matter *what* he's speaking *about*, the Lord (YHVH) 'knowest it altogether'! And the word '**lo**' (#2009) is used here as a figure of speech (*Asterismos*, apx 6) to *direct special attention to* the fact that the Lord (YHVH) knows *whatever* we're talking about. In other words, the fact that the Lord (YHVH) knows whatever we're speaking is a *very* important point. And then, the word '**knowest**' (again) mean ***to know***, i.e. ***to ascertain by seeing*** or, in this case, *by hearing* (#3045). And then the word '**altogether**' means ***the whole***, i.e. ***all, any*** or ***every*** (#3605).

So again, there is *nothing* we say that the Lord (YHVH) does *not* know about, i.e. He hears *everything* we say! And this is why Jesus warned us to *be careful about what we say*. For, after the Pharisees accused Him (the Son of God) of having an *evil* spirit in Him (after He cast out an evil spirit from a person), He then said, "*every **idle** word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned*" (Matt 12:34-37). The word '**idle**' here means ***inactive***, i.e. ***unemployed*** and (by implication) can also mean to be ***lazy*** or ***useless*** (#692). So, talking frivolously isn't wise, *especially* when it leads to gossip [https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1038]! And, in another place, Jesus also warned us that, "*whosoever shall speak a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but unto him that blasphemeth against the Holy Ghost it shall not be forgiven*" (Luke 12:10). The word '**blasphemeth**' means ***to vilify*** or ***to speak impiously*** (#987). And this shows us just *how* careful we should be with the words of our tongues! As Prov 10:19 also says, "*In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise*". And, Eccl 5:3 also tells us that, "*a fool's voice is known by multitude of words*"! So, while we don't have to be quite all the time, it is good for us to use choose our words *wisely* and try *hard* to avoid frivolous conversations. For, as David pointed out, the Lord (YHVH) knows *every single* word we say; and Jesus warned us that (without repentance) we *will* be held accountable for *every* 'idle' (useless) word we speak! Therefore, we should strive to use our words as a tool *for good* and not evil [https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1473]. As Prov 15:23 says, "*a word spoken in due season,* how good is it*!*"

Psalm 139
5 Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me.

So again, David is still explaining *how* well the Lord (YHVH) knows us. The word '**beset**' means ***to cramp***, i.e. ***to confine*** and is used in *many* applications, literally and figuratively (#6696). So, you could even render this as '***closed me in***'. And the words '**behind**' (*hinder part*, #268) and '**before**' (*in front of*, #6924) are a figure of speech (*Synecdoche*, apx 6) which is the exchange of one idea for another associated idea. So, David is simply saying the Lord (YHVH) has 'closed him in' ***in every direction***. Yet, He did so for a *good* purpose, which is why David said that He '*laid thine hand upon me'*. The word '**laid**' simply means ***to place*** (#7896) while the word 'hand' means ***the hollow hand*** or ***palm*** and is also *figurative* for ***power*** (#3709). So, this is again explaining *how well* the Lord (YHVH) knows us; and truly, how closely He watches over us! And, we see an example of this when the Lord (YHVH) brought Israel out of bondage to Egypt. For, as He led them, He kept a pillar of cloud *upon* them by day, and a pillar of fire *upon* them by night (Ex 13:21-22). Yet, when the Egyptian army drew nigh, He took that cloud (which He literally dwelt in) and moved behind them to protect them!

So, in like manner, our Heavenly Father keeps His 'hand' upon us *regardless* of what 'direction' we go in life. And the purpose is, of course, to guide, protect and help us learn to go the 'right

way', i.e. the path of righteousness (Prov 8:20; 12:28, etc.). That's why He will also chastise us if we get of that path of righteousness (Heb 12). And today, instead of a physical cloud we have the blessing of the Holy Spirit of God *within us* to lead us in our daily life. And truly, that is *far better* because, having the Lord (YHVH) guide us *spiritually* is better than having Him do so physically (John 14:15-18). And this is why Jesus said, "*Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid*" (John 14:27). So, even though we will have tribulations in life, the Holy Spirit gives us the inner peace, courage, strength, and understanding to get through it *all* (John 16:33; 1 Cor 10:13, etc.)!

Psalm 139
6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it.

So, after explaining *how* intimately the Lord (YHVH) know us, David expresses his great admiration for the Lord's (YHVH) *ability* to know us *so well* (i.e. His Omniscience). The word '**knowledge**' here does mean ***knowledge*** (#1847) and comes from that prim root we've seen before (rendered as 'known' and 'knowest') which means ***to know***, i.e. a***scertain by seeing*** (#3045). And the word '**wonderful**' means ***remarkable*** (#6383) while the word '**high**' means ***to be*** (or *make*) ***lofty*** but, *especially* means ***inaccessible*** (#7682). And then the word '**attain**' means ***to be able*** (#3201) while the word '**unto**' means (in the context of this verse) ***regard to it***, i.e. to be able to look at or, understand fully (#3807a). In other words, the Lord's (YHVH) ability to 'search' (examine) us *so deeply* (vs 1) – even into the very *inner most* thoughts, emotions, desires and motivations of our inner man – is indeed too remarkable of a thing for us to ever be able to do! We just can't fully understand how He can know us *so well* that He not only knows what we're doing and saying (and going to do and say) but also what we're thinking about doing and desiring to do. That's just not something anyone (on earth, or in heaven) can do but our Heavenly Father (YHVH)! And the reason that He alone has that ability (to 'read' our heart and mind, as well as know all we say and do) is because He is our Creator!

And truly, the Lord's (YHVH) ability to know what we're thinking, desiring (our motivations and intentions), speaking and doing **is** *quite* remarkable. But, even though we don't have the ability to read other people's thoughts (let alone to know all they do say nor what their true intentions are), the guidance of the Holy Spirit can help us to understand *our own* inner man better. That's why the Word of God is "*sharper than any twoedged sword*" (Heb 4:12). For, when we study God's Word the Holy Spirit *does* help us to *divide our thoughts and intentions* of <u>our</u> heart and mind so we *can* see what <u>we're</u> doing *wrong* (so we can repent for it and work on doing better) verses what we are doing *right* (and need to keep on doing). Yet, the Word of God (and Holy Spirit) will also help us to learn to interact with others in a righteous way; for discerning people correctly (their motivations and intentions) is also something the Holy Spirit will help us to do, so we can learn how to deal with them righteously, in word and action. That's

why Paul calls the Word of God our *spiritual* 'sword', which is the *only offensive* weapon we have in the Armor of God (Eph 6:17).

So, the fact that *only* the Lord (YHVH) can search (examine) and know (see) all our movements (actions), words, and even the innermost thoughts (of our mind) and desires, emotions, intentions and motivations (of our heart) truly is *remarkable*. And that's *why* He *alone* is able to deliver us from an 'evil heart', which is to say from a carnal mind (Rom 8:5-8) that *wants* to sin! For, when we do study God's Word and begin to see our sins, **if** we earnestly repent for them (with the determination to *stop sinning* the best we can) then He *will* forgive us *when* we believe that Jesus' blood shed is fully able to atone for our sins (Eph 1:7; Col 1:14; Heb 9:125-15, etc.). And He'll also give us His Holy Spirit [https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1220] *to help us* stop sinning from the 'inside out', i.e. *from the heart* to our words and actions (John 14-17). So, the point to remember is that the *only* way we can learn to do what's right (and obtain eternal life) is with the *help of* our Heavenly Father, i.e. His written Word and Holy Spirit within us (John 6:63). And that's why Jesus said that eternal life is knowing the *true* God (Yehovah) and Jesus, who God sent to pay for our sins *and teach us the truth* (John 17:3). And that, again, is also why the written Word of God is so important to study *each* day. For that's the *only* way we'll ever be able to see our own sins (Heb 4:12, etc.) so we can work on changing them, from the heart…

18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.
19 And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.
20 For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, ***and knoweth all things****.*
21 Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.
22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.
23 And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.
24 And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. ***And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.***
1 John 3:18-24

We'll pick this up in part 2…

AMEN.