

**"Jehovah Shammah"**

**Psalm 139:7-12**

**Introduction:** Tonight, we return to our study on the different names of God. So far, we have looked at 6 names of God:

1. "Jehovah Jireh" - The Lord will Provide
2. "Jehovah Nissi" - The Lord is our Banner
3. "El Roi" - The God who Sees
4. "Jehovah Rapha" - The Lord who Heals
5. "El Shaddai" - All Mighty God
6. "Jehovah Raah" - The Lord our Shepherd

In our study tonight we come to another name which is found in the last verse of the book of Ezekiel. In Ezekiel 48 Ezekiel is given a vision of the eternal city of New Jerusalem and in the last verse he gives the city a name.

**Ezekiel 48:35**

<sup>35</sup> *It was round about eighteen thousand measures: and the name of the city from that day shall be, The LORD is there.*

This is the name "Jehovah Shammah". We see another description of this city in Revelation 21.

**Revelation 21:1-3**

*And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.*

<sup>2</sup> *And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*

<sup>3</sup> *And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.*

Getting back to the name "Jehovah Shammah", it speaks of the omnipresence of God, which God is everywhere.

Now David wrote about the omnipresence of God in Psalm 139 and that is what we shall look at in our message tonight and as we do, we shall consider what this name means to us in our lives today.

As we approach Psalm 139 David begins in this Psalm by describing the omniscience of God which means, "God is all knowing". We shall see this in a moment but before we begin to look at the Psalm, I want you to notice how personal this Psalm is as we read. David does not use the word "US". He uses the words "ME" and "I". This takes my mind back to Psalm 23 which we looked at the last time we were together. Psalm 23 was also written by David and it was also personal.

**Psalm 23:1**

The LORD is **my** shepherd; **I** shall not want.

He uses the same words, "I" and "ME" in Psalm 23 as he does here in Psalm 139 and the reason is because his relationship with his God was personal.

We shall look quickly at the omniscience of God in the first six verse. Then we shall get to the omnipresence of God in 7-12.

**I. The Omniscience of God**

**Notice Psalm 139:1**

This verse can be seen as a heading for the first six verses. David will go on to explain what this verse means. Before we move on let me just point out how much this verse means to those of us who know Jesus Christ as Savior.

God knows every detail about you and me. He knows our fears. He knows our weaknesses. He knows our hearts and how much we love Him. He knows our heart brake when we fail and how much we truly desire to walk in obedience to His Word. He knows the pain we feel when we are hurting.

Don't be confused by the word, "searched" here. To "search" normally means to find out something that was before unknown. But that is not the idea here. There has never been a time when God did not know everything about us.

**Notice Psalm 139:2**

God knows our "downsitting and our uprising". This certainly refers to our most common acts but there is more. He knows when I am down and discouraged and He knows when I am riding an emotional high. He knows and understands our thoughts afar off. This means that God knows my thoughts long before they ever come into my mind. Before our thoughts are our thoughts God knows each and every one.

God knows the motives by which we do everything we do. We may fool others, but we can never fool God. He knows why we do what we do. He knows what we are going to do before we ever think about doing it.

**Application:**

This is exactly why we must keep short accounts of our sin. There is nothing which we can hide from God. Not our actions, motives, or even our thoughts.

**Notice Psalm 139:3**

God knows our "path" which refers to our running. He knows our "lying down" which is our resting. God knows why I rush when I rush, and He knows why I rest when I rest. God knows all of our ways. He knows how we use our time and for what we use our time.

**Notice Psalm 139:4**

God knows our words before they are ever formed. Someone has said the unformed word is like a seed in the soil. God knows the words I will speak in a day before I ever rise in the morning.

**Notice Psalm 139:5**

We are forever in the loving grasp and embrace of God. He is before us and He is behind us. Notice the words of Spurgeon on this thought:

*"God has set us where we be, and beset us wherever we be. Behind us there is God recording our sins, or in grace blotting out the remembrance of them; and before us there is God foreknowing all our deeds, and providing for all our wants. We cannot turn back and so escape him, for he is behind; we cannot go forward and outmarch him, for he is before. He not only beholds us, but he besets us; and lest there should seem any chance of escape, or lest we should imagine that the surrounding presence is yet a distant one, it is added, — " And laid thine hand upon me." The prisoner marches along surrounded by a guard and gripped by an officer. God is very near; we are wholly in his power; from that power there is no escape. It is not said that God will thus beset us and arrest us, but it is done—"Thou hast beset me."*

**Notice Psalm 139:6**

All of these thoughts overwhelmed the mind of David and it also took his mind on another journey which brings me to our text for the name which we are considering.

**II. The Omnipresence of God**

**Notice Psalm 139:7**

David now raises two questions. It was not that David desired to run away from God. But he asks the questions so that every read will stop and understand that there is no way to escape the presence of God.

**Application:**

There is both a comfort and a warning found in this verse for you and me.

**Comfort** - Wherever the will of God leads us we are never alone. If He ordains my path to go to the lonely regions of the planet, I can rest assured that I will not be alone. If I am surrounded by those who wish to bring harm to me, I am not standing alone. Remember the words God gave to Joshua?

**Joshua 1:5-9**

<sup>5</sup> *There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.*

<sup>6</sup> *Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swore unto their fathers to give them.*

<sup>7</sup> *Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.*

<sup>8</sup> *This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.*

<sup>9</sup> *Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.*

Let me show you the words of Paul which he wrote to Timothy concerning a time when he stood on trial for his faith.

**2 Timothy 4:16-17**

<sup>16</sup> *At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge.*

<sup>17</sup> *Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.*

No matter what we face we are never alone. That is the comfort.

**Warning** - We must also see the warning here. There is no place we can flee to escape the presence of God and so He is aware of all sin. You may hide from people, but you cannot hide your sin from God. He is everywhere we are, and He is fully aware of everything we do. We can run but we cannot hide. We can see this in the lives of two people from the Old Testament.

**Jonah 1:1-7**

*Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying,*

*<sup>2</sup> Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me.*

*<sup>3</sup> But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.*

*<sup>4</sup> But the LORD sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken.*

*<sup>5</sup> Then the mariners were afraid, and cried every man unto his god, and cast forth the wares that were in the ship into the sea, to lighten it of them. But Jonah was gone down into the sides of the ship; and he lay, and was fast asleep.*

*<sup>6</sup> So the shipmaster came to him, and said unto him, What meanest thou, O sleeper? arise, call upon thy God, if so be that God will think upon us, that we perish not.*

*<sup>7</sup> And they said every one to his fellow, Come, and let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this evil is upon us. So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah.*

**Joshua 7:13-20**

*<sup>13</sup> Up, sanctify the people, and say, Sanctify yourselves against to morrow: for thus saith the LORD God of Israel, There is an accursed thing in the midst of thee, O Israel: thou canst not stand before thine enemies, until ye take away the accursed thing from among you.*

*<sup>14</sup> In the morning therefore ye shall be brought according to your tribes: and it shall be, that the tribe which the LORD taketh shall come according to the families thereof; and the family which the LORD shall take shall come by households; and the household which the LORD shall take shall come man by man.*

*<sup>15</sup> And it shall be, that he that is taken with the accursed thing shall be burnt with fire, he and all that he hath: because he hath transgressed the covenant of the LORD, and because he hath wrought folly in Israel.*

*<sup>16</sup> So Joshua rose up early in the morning, and brought Israel by their tribes; and the tribe of Judah was taken:*

*<sup>17</sup> And he brought the family of Judah; and he took the family of the Zarhites: and he brought the family of the Zarhites man by man; and Zabdi was taken:*

*<sup>18</sup> And he brought his household man by man; and Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was taken.*

*<sup>19</sup> And Joshua said unto Achan, My son, give, I pray thee, glory to the LORD God of Israel, and make confession unto him; and tell me now what thou hast done; hide it not from me.*

*<sup>20</sup> And Achan answered Joshua, and said, Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and thus and thus have I done:*

#### **Notice Psalm 139:8-10**

David tells us that if he ascended to the highest height or the lowest depth or if he was able to ride the morning sun's rays to the farthest distance away, no matter where he would go God would be there. Not only would He be there but His hand would lead him and His right hand which speaks of power would hold him.

#### **Proverbs 16:9**

*<sup>9</sup> A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.*

#### **Proverbs 19:21**

*<sup>21</sup> There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand.*

When we combine these verses with Psalm 139, we can understand that God is always working in our lives to direct our steps. Nothing is left to chance.

This can also be applied when a believer walks away from the Lord. He or she may think they have broke free from the Lord's presence, but these verses help us to know that even in rebellion God is still present in their lives and He is directing their steps. Many times, when a believer is in rebellion the hand of God is the chastening hand in their lives and their steps are often directed on a path of affliction so as to bring them to

repentance. Let me show you another example of how we cannot escape the presence of God.

**2 Chronicles 33:**

*Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty and five years in Jerusalem:*

*<sup>2</sup> But did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, like unto the abominations of the heathen, whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel.*

*<sup>3</sup> For he built again the high places which Hezekiah his father had broken down, and he reared up altars for Baalim, and made groves, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served them.*

*<sup>4</sup> Also he built altars in the house of the LORD, whereof the LORD had said, In Jerusalem shall my name be for ever.*

*<sup>10</sup> And the LORD spake to Manasseh, and to his people: but they would not hearken.*

*<sup>11</sup> Wherefore the LORD brought upon them the captains of the host of the king of Assyria, which took Manasseh among the thorns, and bound him with fetters, and carried him to Babylon.*

*<sup>12</sup> And when he was in affliction, he besought the LORD his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers,*

God warned Manasseh with His Word but when Manasseh ignored Him, God reached out in His wrath.

**Notice Psalm 139:11-12**

Even in the cover of darkness God knows where we are and what we are doing. Whether it is spiritual darkness or physical darkness God sees right through it.

**Conclusion:**

No matter where we go God is there for, He is Jehovah Shammah.