

Intro

~ Veijo Rönkkönen

Chapter Outline

V1-6 = God’s Omniscience (all-knowledge)

V7-12 = God’s Omnipresence (all-present)

V13-16 = God’s Omnipotence (all-power in creating man)

V17-18 = God’s thoughts (they’re great)

V19-22 = God’s enemies (they’re doomed)

V23-24 = God’s thoughts (they’re searching)

Text

V13

~ Possessed – create, to erect, purchase and also has the idea of to own. Also used in Gen 14:19; 14:22.

- Gen 14:19 *And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth*
- Gen 14:22 *And Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lift up mine hand unto the LORD, the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth*

~ Reins - The word “reins” means literally the “kidneys;” and then, it comes to denote the inward part, the mind, the soul, the seat of the desires, affections, and passions. This word reins is used in:

- Jer 11:20 *But, O LORD of hosts, that judgest righteously, that triest the reins and the heart, let me see thy vengeance on them: for unto thee have I revealed my cause.*
- Psa 7:9 *Oh let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end; but establish the just: for the righteous God trieth the hearts and reins.*
- Job 19:27 *Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.*

~ For thou hast possessed my reins.” Thou art the owner of my inmost parts and passions: not the indweller and observer only, but the acknowledged lord and possessor of my most secret self. The word “reins” signifies the kidneys, which by the Hebrews were supposed to be the seat of the desires and longings; but perhaps it indicates here the most hidden and vital portion of the man; this God cloth not only inspect, and visit, but it is his own; he is as much at home there as a landlord on his own estate, or a proprietor in his own house.

~ Thou hast covered me in my mother’s womb - The word here rendered “cover” means properly to interweave; to weave; to knit together, and the literal translation would be, “Thou hast “woven” me in my mother’s womb, meaning that God had put his parts together, as one who weaves cloth, or who makes a basket.

- Cover - to entwine as a screen

~ Perowne’s translation “Thou hast formed my reins, Thou didst weave me together in my mother’s womb.”

~ Thou hast covered me in my mother’s womb.” The word here rendered cover means properly to interweave; to weave; to knit together, and the literal translation would be, “Thou hast woven me in my mother’s womb,” meaning that God had put his parts together, as one who weaves cloth, or who makes a basket.

~ While in the old city of Antigua, Guatemala we saw an older woman in the park weaving a tapestry.

Description passes into adoration in Psalm 139:14.

V14

~ David’s response is praise for God creating him

~ The psalmist cannot contemplate his own frame, God’s workmanship, without breaking into thanks, nor without being touched with awe. Every man carries in his own body reasons enough for reverent gratitude.

~ Wonderfully made - to distinguish (literally or figuratively): - put a difference, show marvellous, separate, set apart, sever, make wonderfully.

~ NLT = Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex, your workmanship is marvelous – how well I know it

~ Holman = I will praise you for I have been remarkably and wonderfully made

~ I will praise thee - We too seldom remember our creation, and all the skill and kindness bestowed upon our frame, but the sweet singer of Israel was better instructed, and therefore he prepares for the chief musician a song concerning our nativity and all the fashioning which precedes it.

~ And that my soul knows right well - If we are marvelously wrought upon even before we are born, what shall we say of the Lord's dealings with us after we quit his secret workshop, and he directs our pathway through the pilgrimage of life?

~ In this sense it is manifestly to be understood in the passage now under consideration. The human frame is so admirably constructed, so delicately combined, and so much in danger of being dissolved by innumerable causes, that the more we think of it the more we tremble, and wonder at our own continued existence.

~ Fearfully and wonderfully made - So "fearfully" are we made, that there is not an action or gesture of our bodies, which does not, apparently, endanger some muscle, vein, or sinew, the rupture of which would destroy either life or health.

~ Because David knows he was so wonderfully made his soul agreed

~ Jesus said to love God with all your heart, soul and mind – The mind feeds the soul which then gives praise

V15

~ David already acknowledged God's omnipresence and now David brings that thought into his pre-natal life

~ My substance was not hid from thee." The substantial part of my being was before thine all-seeing eye; the bones which make my frame were put together by thine hand. The essential materials of my being before they were arranged were all within the range of thine eye.

~ My frame (i.e., bones and skeleton) was not hidden from God but in full view to divine eyes. God made David in the secret place, a euphemism for the womb, that unseen place concealed from human eyes. There he was woven together like a multicolored piece of cloth or fine needlepoint. All these threads picture his veins, arteries, muscles, and tendons. *Holman Old Testament Commentary*

~ Most chastely and beautifully is here described the formation of our being before the time of our birth. A great artist will often labour alone in his studio, and not suffer his work to be seen until it is finished; even so did the Lord fashion us where no eye beheld us, and the veil was not lifted till every member was complete.

~ God formed the first man Adam from the dust of the ground (Gen 2:7) and even now when there's a conception in the womb Job says it's God who gives life

- Job 31:15 *Did not he that made me in the womb make him? and did not one fashion us in the womb?*

~ Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves (Psa 100:3)

~ "My substance was not hid from thee." Should an artisan intend commencing a work in some dark cave where there was no light to assist him, how would he set his hand to it? in what way would he proceed? and what kind of workmanship would it prove? But God makes the most perfect work of all in the dark, for he fashions man in the mother's womb. —John Calvin.

~ Curiously wrought in the lowest part, of the earth," that is, in the womb: as curious workmen, when they have some choice piece in hand, they perfect it in private, and then bring it forth to light for men to gaze at.

V16

~ Thine eyes did see – there is nothing hid from God. If God sees our being in the most secret place in the womb, we're born our thoughts, desires and feelings are hid people but not the Lord

~ Moreover, the divine mind discerns all things as clearly and certainly as men perceive by actual eye-sight. His is not hearsay acquaintance, but the knowledge which comes of sight

~ While he knows all it's also a comfort that God knows my life thoroughly

~ My substance yet being unperfect – it's one word in Hebrew and only used here. a wrapped (and unformed mass, that is, as the embryo). The root of this word means to fold or wrap together.

~ "My substance yet being unperfect" One word in the original, which means strictly anything rolled together as a ball, and hence is generally supposed to mean here the foetus or embryo. Hupfeld, however, prefers to understand it of the ball of life, as consisting of a number of different threads ("the days" of Psa 139:16—see margin) which are first a compact mass as it were, and which are then unwound as life runs on. *Perowne*.

~A skilful architect before he builds draws a model, or gives a draught of the building in his book, or upon a table; there he will show you every room and contrivance: in his book are all the parts of the building written, while as yet there are none of them, or before any of them are framed and set up. In allusion to architects and other artisans, David speaks of God, "In thy book all my members were written;" that is, Thou hast made me as exactly as if thou hadst drawn my several members and my whole proportion with a pen or pencil in a book, before thou wouldst adventure to form me up. The Lord uses no book, no pen to decipher his work. He had the perfect idea of all things in himself from everlasting; but he may well be said to work as by pattern, whose work is the most perfect pattern. —*Joseph Caryl*.

~ God's book = ~And in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them." - An architect draws his plans, and makes out his specifications; even so did the great Maker of our frame write down all our members in the book of his purposes.

~ When as yet there were none of our members in existence, all those members were before the eye of God in the sketch-book of his foreknowledge and predestination.

~ From the womb - we are made for eternity. The present life is only the introductory part of our existence. It is that, however, which stamps a character on all that follows. How fearful is our situation!

Conclusion

1 God Made us (v13-16)

~ He made us and we belong to him

~ Posses/ create (qahah 7069) has the idea of to own or purchase

~ It is he that has made us and not we ourselves

~ Psalm 100:3 *Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves*

~ We should seek to bring glory to him

~ We can bring glory to God in whatever we're doing

~ *Martin Luther* "A dairymaid can milk cows to the glory of God "

~ The person who designs something whether a watch, car, computer know best how that thing operates. But those who buy those items may not understand how it all completely works or how to make fixes to it

~ God who is our designer knows what is best for man

~ Many things you buy come with an instruction manual (smartphone, smartwatch, snowblower, car) so that we can get the max usage out of that item and realize the benefits of that item

~ God has given us a bible to help us understand him, life and ourselves – this is how we get max usage and benefit out of life

~ Is 43:7 *Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.*

2 God Thinks about us (v17,18)

~ God's thoughts

~ David tells God's thought toward are beyond number

~ If God mapped our life in his book, created us in the womb, oversees our life in the womb then we can count on his thoughts be gracious and caring

~ God's thoughts are contained in our bible

~ Jer 29:11 *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.*

~ There are 365 "fear not's" in the bible

~ Is 43:2 *When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.*

~ Rom 8:28 *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*

- Adrian Rogers said this verse is like chemists that take different chemicals that individually can make you sick or kill but mixed together make you better. So, the providence of God takes all the bad things that happen and make something good out of it
- Adrian Rogers also said God has to humble us. Then he said of Joseph, "Joseph's abasement led to Joseph's advancement"

3 God's Book about us (v16)

- ~ We want to be known
- ~ While we keep much secret there is a part of us that wants to be known. We want someone to know us
- ~ Sometimes we need to bear our soul when we're hurt, grieving, and broken – God knows this pain
- ~ If the Lord had a book that mapped out our life before we were born, while we were an embryo – He also knows our life right now and he can sympathize with our griefs
- ~ God not only knows us but has mapped out our lives in his book
- ~ Ps 8 – what is man that thou art mindful of him. Man was the crowning achievement of God's creation. And though man was made lower than the angels man was created to rule and reflect God's glory
- ~ Mal 3:16 God has another book whereby he writes down every time we talk about the Lord
- ~ Ps 56:8 book of our tears
- ~ Rev 20:12 God has books that brought out in the day of judgement

4 God Searches us (v1,23-24)

- ~ This psalm begins with David acknowledging God's searching ability of David and it closes with the same thoughts in mind
- ~ It takes faith, vulnerability to ask God to search us and report to us what he finds out
- ~ God already knows the content of our heart, soul and mind but in David's asking God to search him it's for David's benefit, not the Lord's
- ~ What does David want the Lord to do with this information the Lord finds in David? Show it to David
- ~ We rarely share with people the contents of our heart but the harsher reality is the Lord already knows
- ~ Imagine if we walked around with 32" monitor above our heads that showed people the contents of our heart. How horrifying would that be? The purpose of asking God to search our hearts is to purify us so if the Lord showed people the content of our heart we wouldn't be embarrassed but it would glorify the Lord and draw others to him
- ~ We want the Lord to search us and show us our short-comings – this is the means to growth
- ~ You can't grow in something if you don't think there is anything to learn
- ~ We can grow spiritually when we ask the Lord to show us areas where we fall short

Intro Illustration - Veijo Rönkkönen (<https://theculturetrip.com/europe/finland/articles/recluse-dies-leaves-behind-hundreds-of-secret-sculptures-in-finland/>)

Veijo Rönkkönen was considered to be a recluse. He worked for 41 years at a paper mill and barely went anywhere throughout his life except to work and back home to his farm. He was never trained as an artist, but when he died in 2010, he left behind what is basically an outdoor museum.

The forest surrounding his home is packed with sculptures of human figures of all ages and cultures portraying every type of emotion you can imagine.

Born in 1944, Rönkkönen began his career at the mill at the tender age of 16. Local legend says that he used his first-ever paycheck to buy apple seeds and a bag of concrete and so began his sculpture garden, which he nurtured tirelessly for half a century.

Now known as the Veijo Rönkkönen Sculpture Garden, the site attracts around 25,000 people each year. Visitors are drawn in not only by the art, but by the atmosphere of the woods themselves, haunted by the community of figures that Rönkkönen's own hands so thoughtfully moulded.

The artwork is seen by many people as a bit eerie. Children hold each other up in mid-air, while older adults sit in traditional dress. Some have mouths full of real human teeth, which seem to grin at passersby. Others have speakers inside, which mutter incomprehensible sounds.

There is even an area that is home to 255 near-naked figures practising yoga. Yoga is actually one of Rönkkönen's only hobbies that we know about, apart, of course, from making art.

Rönkkönen is more than an installation or a sculpture park; it's a community, and although some of the artwork is disturbing, the forest is unquestionably quite magical, an amalgamation of many different worlds coming together all in one place. This feels especially meaningful considering that it's an outside world the artist never quite experienced in real life.