

引言 INTRODUCTION

Harmony is a basic concept in music. People like me who do not know how to play piano can only hit one key at a time. Though boring, you can still consider that music. But when a few keys are played at the same time, the sound will be richer. For example, almost all the songs in our hymn book are written for a four-part harmony. Some people who are able to reach higher notes can sing soprano or tenor. Others with a deeper voice can be good at alto or bass. It will be a beautiful melody when various vocal parts and instruments are in harmony. It is pleasing to our ears. Likewise, it is pleasing to our hearts as we come to know God. He is wiser and more glorious than we can imagine. The more we know Him, the more we realize that there are plenty of things we have yet to know about Him. That interaction sets Christianity apart from other religions. When people hear the word “God” they will think of a supernatural being. God has mighty power to accomplish anything He wishes. However, the God of the Bible does not only sit high up in heaven. He also lives among us and meets us where we are. Pagan worshippers are in a demand and supply partnership with their gods. They present their requests and they hope to get what they want. Only the one true God builds a Father and child-like relationship with us. He is powerful and yet personal. The writer of Psalm 139 elaborates on that theme. He presents different aspects about how God relates to us. Those ideas give us a broader picture of God. They knit together to become a harmony of praise to God.

解釋 EXPLANATION

1. 全知的神 All-Perceiving God

First, the author tells us that God is all-perceiving. He knows everything. Let us begin by reading **verses 1-4**. The psalmist says from the get-go that God searches him and He knows him. God’s examination is more thorough than any detector. An X-ray machine can look at your bones and organs. An ultrasound monitor can reveal further details. An MRI scanner can even produce three-dimensional images of structures and tissue. God does not only know our physical makeup. He knows our inner being. The psalmist brings up three areas. Number 1: God knows our **ways**. He sees whether we are sitting or standing, and whether we are awake or sleeping. Number 2: God also knows our **will**. He understands what we are thinking. Number 3: He knows our **words**. He can tell what we want to say even before we say it. God knows where we are, what we are doing and thinking. In the Bible, the word “know” is not just about collecting information. It is a knowledge built upon relationship and experience. You may know something about certain movie stars, singers or athletes. You know their ages, families, incomes, talents, etc. But do you really know them? You know them deeper if they are your close friends. Being known can make us feel insecure. Nowadays, strangers can know you through certain means. Home-owners and the government set up cameras in various places. Companies put “cookies” in your computer when you surf the internet. Those files keep track of what websites you visited. Say you are looking to buy a pair of shoes. Then suddenly, advertisements of shoe companies will pop up on your screen. People can make use of the knowledge about us to help or harm us. God knows us

because He cares about us. He does not only know your height and weight, the kind of food and colors you like, and your favorite music and movies. He knows your worries and your weaknesses, your longing and dreams too. God does not only know our needs. He also has all the resources and power to meet those needs. We present our requests to God as we pray. In doing so, we should also commit ourselves to Him. In our limited minds, a certain solution may be the best answer. But God's plan is the perfect option since He knows us better than we know ourselves. We say to Him: "Lord, please show me Your way." It can be what major to pick for college, which job offer to accept or even which boyfriend or girlfriend to date. God loves us and He desires to give us the best in His mind. Since God is all-perceiving, we should be careful with our thoughts, speech and actions. He knows it when we harbor anger toward someone. He hears it when we gossip behind people's back. He sees it when we commit sins in private. Let there be no hidden intent inside us. What people observe from the outside should represent the real us inside. For example, we appreciate people's strength without jealousy. We thank and praise their good work without flattering. We help others sincerely without expecting any favor in return.

2. 全在的神 All-Present God

God is the all-perceiving Father. Next, the psalmist describes God as the all-present Lord. Let us look at **verses 7-10**. The author states that there is nowhere he can hide himself from God. God is present high up in the heaven and deep in the bottom of the world. To the Israelites, Sheol is the place where believers and non-believers will go after they passed away. It is like a temporary resting place where people wait for the final judgment. God is present even in the underworld. He is in places beyond our eyesight. In 1961, the former Soviet Union sent the first astronaut named Yuri Gagarin into the outer space. It is often quoted that Gagarin said: "I went up to space, but I didn't encounter God." Gagarin was actually a faithful believer. The government made up something he did not say to promote its anti-religious propaganda. Afterward, a Russian General and good friend clarified the matter. He recalled what Gagarin really said was: "An astronaut cannot be suspended in space and not have God in his mind and his heart." It will take a much bigger faith to believe that the countless stars and their perfect orders all exist by chance. God is the Creator of everything. No time or space can restrict Him. In the ancient world, people believed that each god had a distinct territory. We see an example of that concept in 1 Kings 20. At that time, Aram invaded Israel. God helped His people defeat the enemy. Afterward an Aram official advised the king in verse 23 of the passage: ... **"Their gods are gods of the hills, and so they were stronger than we. But let us fight against them in the plain, and surely we shall be stronger than they."** That servant thought Jehovah could only protect His people on the mountains but not in the lowland. Wrong conclusion! Aram attacked again the following year. They suffered an even bigger loss. Over one hundred and twenty thousand soldiers perished. God always has the home-court advantage. He is the God of the whole world! We jokingly say that there will be a Chinese restaurant where there are Chinese folks. God also hopes that people everywhere will come to know Him. He is working even in countries that are hostile to the gospel. There may not be any open church, but there are believers. God is with them whether they gather in secret or even when they are imprisoned for their faith. God is present in every Christian through the Holy Spirit. As such, the idea of an independent believer is anti-Bible. We will only stumble and fall when we depart from God. Though we may feel alone when facing certain struggles, we are never lonely. Perhaps you need to deal with some nerve-wrecking situations. It can be a job interview, a presentation to your boss or a surgery. Or you have to fight

an ongoing spiritual battle because your spouse and relatives are against your belief. Remember that God is always with you. He promised to never leave His children nor forsake them.

3. 全智的神 All-Purpose God

God is not only all-perceiving and all-present. Thirdly, He is also all-purpose. The psalmist uses the creation of life to illustrate that. Let us listen to **verses 13-16**. God is like an artist creating a masterpiece. He knits together cells and tissue when we were still in mommy's tummy. God also arranges our bones, muscle and nerves. Those are just the structural parts. God also orchestrates cell division and multiplication. A cell is more complex than a factory. There are tons of chemical reactions taking place every second. Any error may lead to diseases. God displays vast wisdom in creating us. Since God creates life, it is against His will to destroy life. The pro-life versus pro-choice argument gets less fuzzy if we firmly believe that God makes us. Put this in your mind: you exist not because the government allows you to or your mom decided to keep you. But it is because God puts you in the world. God never does anything randomly. He has a purpose for you. Look at verse 16 again: **Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.** Two things of note here. Number 1: God knew you when you were still in the womb. You are more precious to Him than a lump of char-siu! Number 2: God has written your complete life-story even before you were born. That is not a fatalistic idea. People who have a negative perspective about life will strive to change their destiny. Many movies are about that attempt. A classic work is the 1985 film "Back to the Future." The main character, Michael J. Fox, accidentally went back to the past in a time-machine with a scientist named Doc. To ensure that he would exist in the future, Fox must try to match his future father and mother, who were still high school students at that time. In the end, the mission was accomplished. Fox's father and mother fell in love and he was able to make it back to the present time. That is just a movie. We cannot control our future because it is in God's hand. However, the Bible never describes us as pitiful and helpless. Rather, life is an exciting adventure. God wants us to know Him and receive Him. He wants us to walk with Him by faith. He allows us to invest the time and talents He gives us. We continue to love Him and serve Him in what we do. Our life goal should be to discover His purpose for us, and to pursue it. You do not simply repeat 100% of what you did yesterday when you get up. The things that will happen to you and the people you will meet are all different. Even the world around us is ever changing. God promises to give us new grace every morning. Make the most of the opportunities He gives you. Do the best for God in your study or work, and in your family life and leisure activities. Bless the people around you. Count God's blessings when you go to bed. Thank Him for everything.

4. 全聖的神 All-Purifying God

God is all-perceiving, all-present and all-purpose. Fourthly, God is also all-purifying. He is sinless and He cannot tolerate sin. When pondering God's purity, the writer thinks of his enemies. We will read **verses 19-22**. The author mentions three major sins of his enemies. Verse 19 portrays them as murderers. Killing is a violation of the Sixth Commandment. Verse 20 says they take God's name in vain. That breaks the Third Commandment. Also, the writer says in verse 21 that they hate God. That is contrary to the requirement of the First Commandment to love God whole-heartedly. The psalmist is so fed up with the enemies that he states in verse 22

that he hates them with complete hatred. That is the most extreme emotion he can describe with words. It is like when we say a baby girl is not just cute. She is super cute. The tickets to the Superbowl are not expensive. They are outrageously expensive. The author is convinced that those wrongdoers are guilty as charged. Since God is all-purifying, He must exercise a righteous judgment over enemies. Notice that this is not a personal retaliation, or else the writer would not have prayed. He sees his enemies as God's enemies. Therefore, he asks God to deal with them. The focus of his prayer switches when it comes to **verses 23-24**. It goes back to the idea of the all-perceiving God in verse 1. God heard the psalmist's prayer before he said it. Suddenly, he wonders if he prays with the right words and a correct motive. His enemies committed sins. But any evil wish to hurt his enemies is also a sin, even though he might not act out those thoughts. Therefore, besides asking God to purify the sins of his enemies, the writer also invites God to purify his heart. He does not want anger and hatred to dominate him. Instead, he desires to follow God in the righteous path. It is natural to get mad when we are offended, especially when we suffer for no reason. In our mind, we may try to make even. But will you dare to express those thoughts to the all-purifying God? Our mindset will change if we pray before taking any action. Besides asking God to get rid of wrongdoers, we should also ask God to remove any ungodly emotion inside us. Another thing we can learn from the writer is his concern. He was angry about his enemies because he cared about God's reputation. We live in a fallen world. Do we react the same way when we look at the sins around us? People misuse God's name in casual conversation. Others mock God in movies and songs. Some intentionally challenge God by claiming their so-called freedom. They advocate that people can choose their gender as they wish. Kicking a pet is defined as animal cruelty but taking a human life is a legal right to fight for. Certain people groups are viewed as inferior. We should feel sad and mad when we see how the world insults God. We pray that God will make things right in His ways and time.

結論 CONCLUSION

God is powerful and yet personal. He is not a concept. Christianity is not some cold doctrines. God is always actively working around us and in us. He displays His nature by directing world affairs and through interacting with us. We can feel His presence no matter where we are and regardless of our life circumstances. God wants us to know Him, not just know something about Him. Through such deep knowledge, He invites us to love Him, trust Him and walk with Him. As a result, we will pour out a harmony of praise with all the saints.

引言 INTRODUCTION

和諧是音樂的基本概念。像我這樣不會彈鋼琴的人一次只能敲一個鍵。雖然聽起來很單調，但那也是音樂。但如果同時彈奏幾個琴鍵時，聲音會更豐富。例如，我們讚美詩中的幾乎所有歌曲都可以用四部和聲來唱的。有些能夠唱更高音調的人可以唱女高音或男高音。另外有些人可能是很好的低音。當各種聲部和樂器配合起來時，就會發出優美的旋律，悅耳的音樂。同樣，當我們認識神之時，我們的心也會感到喜悅。神比我們想像的更有智慧、更榮耀。我們越認識神，就會發覺其實還有很多事情我們還不認識祂。這種互動使基督信仰有別於其他宗教。當人們聽到「神」這個名字時，他們會想到一個超自然的對象。神有強大的能力來完成祂所計劃的事情。然而，聖經中的神不只是坐在高天上。祂也住在我們中間，並且與我們相遇。異教徒和他們的神明是處在供與求的關係。他們提出自己的要求，並希望神明滿足他們的欲望。唯有獨一的真神與我們建立天父與孩子關係。神有能力，但祂也顧念我們個別的需要。詩篇 139 篇的作者詳細解釋這一點。他從不同角度探討神與我們的關係。這些概念讓我們對神有了更深入的認識。它們結合在一起，組成對神和諧的頌讚。

解釋 EXPLANATION

1. 全知的神 All-Perceiving God

首先，作者告訴我們，神是全知的神。祂無所不知。我們來看第 1-4 節。詩人一開始就說神鑒察他並且認識他。神的檢驗比任何儀器都更徹底。X 光機可以看到你的骨骼和器官。超音波監視器可以顯示更多細節。MRI 掃描器甚至可以產生立體的影像。但是神不僅知道我們的身體結構，祂甚至知道我們的內心。詩人提出三方面。第一：神知道我們的所在。祂看到我們是坐著還是站著，是醒著還是睡著。第二：神也知道我們的心意。祂了解我們在想什麼。第三：祂知道我們的言語。在我們仍未開口以先，祂已經知道我們想說的話。神知道我們在哪裡，我們在做什麼，在想什麼。在聖經中，「知道」這個字不只是收集資訊，也是指建立在關係和經驗上的認識。你可能知道一些電影明星、歌星或運動員的事情，例如他們的年齡、家庭、收入、才能等。但你真的認識他們嗎？如果他們是你的好朋友，你肯定會更認識他們。被人認識有時候會讓我們感到不安全。如今，陌生人可以透過某些方式認識你。一些屋主和政府在不同地方

放置攝影機。當你上網時，有些公司會在你的電腦中放置一個叫“cookie”的小檔案。這些文件會追蹤你去過的網站。假設你想買一雙鞋。你會發現，一些鞋子的廣告很快便會出現在你的螢幕上。人們可以利用對我們的認識來幫助或傷害我們。神認識我們，因為祂關心我們。祂不只知道你的身高和體重、你喜歡的食物、顏色、音樂和電影。祂也知道你的憂慮和弱點，你的期望和夢想。神不只知道我們的需要，祂也有資源和能力供應這些需要。當我們禱告時，我們向神提出請求。同時，我們也應該將自己交託給祂。按照我們有限的理解，某個解決方案可能就是最好的答案。但神的安排是完美的，因為祂比我們更了解我們自己。我們向神祈求說：「主啊，求祢指引我的方向。」我們可能要選擇大學的專業，工作機會，或是找男朋友或女朋友。神愛我們，祂願意把祂認為最好的賜給我們。由於神是全知的神，所以我們應該謹慎我們的思想、言語和行為。當我們在心裡對別人生氣時，神知道。當我們在別人背後說閒話時，祂會聽到。當我們暗中犯罪時，祂也會看到。因此我們不要有任何隱藏的意圖。我們應該是表裡一致的。例如，我們欣賞別人的優點而不嫉妒。我們感謝並讚賞別人的表現而不拍馬屁。我們真誠地幫助別人，不求任何回報。

2. 全在的神 All-Present God

神是全知的天父。另外，詩人描述神是全在的主宰。讓我們來看第 7-10 節。作者說他無法躲避神。神存在於高天之上，也存在於地的深處。對以色列人來說，陰間是信徒和非信徒死後都會去的地方。它就像一個暫時停留的地方，讓人們等待最後的審判。就算是地下的世界，神也在那裡。祂存在於我們看不見的地方。1961 年，前蘇聯將第一位太空人尤里·加加林送到外太空。人們經常引用加加林的話：「我去了太空，但我沒有遇到神。」加加林其實是個虔誠的信徒。政府編造了一些謊言來作反宗教的宣傳。後來，一位俄羅斯將軍兼好友澄清事情。他回憶起加加林真正說的是：「一個人不能懸在太空中，而沒有想到神。」要相信無數的星星井井有條地偶然出現需要更大的信心。神是萬物的創造主，祂不受時空的限制。在古代世界，人們相信每個神明都有特定的領土。我們在列王記上 20 章中看到一個例子。神幫助祂的子民打敗了敵人。後來，一位亞蘭國的官員在經文的第 23 節向他的王提議：…「以色列人的神是山神，所以他們勝過我們；但在平原與他們打仗，我們必定得勝。」那個僕人以為耶和華只能在山上，而不能在平原保護祂的子民。那是個錯誤的結論！一年之後，亞蘭再次進攻。結果他們遭受了更嚴重的損失，超過十二萬名士兵陣亡。神總是有主場之利，因為祂是整個世界的神！有時候我們開玩笑說，有中國人的地方就一定有中餐館。神也希望各地的人都能認識祂。祂甚至在敵對福音的國家工作。也許當地沒有開放的教會，但是有信徒。無論他們在秘密聚會，甚至因信仰而坐牢，神都與他們同在。神透過聖靈住在每個基督徒的心

中。因此，獨行俠信徒的想法是違反聖經的。當我們離開神之時，我們便會跌倒。縱使有時候我們要單獨面對某些困難，但我們絕不孤單。也許你要迎接令人心驚膽跳的場面。可能是工作面試、向老闆匯報或做手術。或者你必須進行持續的屬靈爭戰，因為你的配偶和親戚反對你的信仰。請記住，神永遠與你同在。祂答應不會撇下祂的兒女，也不會丟棄他們。

3. 全智的神 All-Purpose God

神不僅是全知和全在的神。第三，祂也是全智的神。詩人用生命的創造來說明這一點。讓我們聽聽**第 13-16 節**。神就像一位藝術家創造祂的傑作。當我們還在媽媽肚子裡時，祂把細胞和組織結合起來。神也連接骨骼、肌肉和神經。這些只是身體的結構。神也安排細胞分裂和倍增。一個細胞比工廠更複雜，每秒都有無數的化學反應。任何錯誤都可能導致疾病。神在創造我們時展示了超然的智慧。既然是神創造生命，那麼毀滅生命就是違反祂的旨意。如果我們堅信神創造了我們，那麼反對墮胎與支持墮胎的爭論就會變得很簡單。請記住這一點：你的存在不是因為政府允許你或你媽媽決定留下你，而是因為神把你放在這個世界上。神從來不會無緣無故做任何事。祂對你有特別的心意。再看第 16 節：**我未成形的體質，你的眼早已看見了；你所定的日子，我尚未度一日，你都寫在你的冊上了。**這裡有兩件事值得注意。第一：當你還在媽媽肚子裡之時，神就已經認識你了。你對祂來說比一塊又燒珍貴得多！第二：神甚至在你出生前就已經寫下了你整個人生故事。這並不是一個宿命論的想法。對生命抱負面看法的人會嘗試改變自己的命運。很多電影都以此為題材。一部經典作品是 1985 年的電影《回到未來》。主角邁克爾·J·福克斯意外地與一位名叫博士的科學家坐時光機回到了過去。為了保證他會在將來存在，福克斯必須努力地做他未來父母的媒人，當時他們還是高中生。結果，他的任務完成了。福克斯的父親和母親談戀愛，他也能夠回到現在。那只是一部電影。我們無法控制我們的未來，因為它掌握在神的手中。然而，聖經從來沒有把我們形容為可憐和無助的。相反，生命是一次令人興奮的探險。神希望我們認識祂、接受祂。祂希望我們憑信心與祂同行。祂希望我們投資祂賜給我們的時間和才能。我們透過所做的事情愛祂並服事祂。我們的人生目的應該是發現神對我們的心意，並朝著這個目標邁進。當你起床時，你不會百份之百重複昨天做過的事情。你會遇到不同的人 and 事情。我們周圍的世界也在不斷在變化。神應許每天早晨都會賜給我們新的恩典。你應該充分利用祂給你的機會。在你的學習、工作、家庭生活和娛樂中，都為神做到最好。祝福你身邊的人。當你晚上睡覺時，數算神的祝福。為一切感謝祂。

4. 全聖的神 All-Purifying God

神是全知、全在、全智的。第四，神也是全聖的神。祂沒有罪，祂也不能容忍罪。當思考神的聖潔時，作者想到了他的敵人。我們讀第 19-22 節。作者提到了他的敵人的三大罪。第 19 節形容他們是殺人犯。殺人違反了十誡中的第六誡。第 20 節說他們妄稱神的名。這違反了第三誡。此外，作者在第 21 節中說，他們恨神。這違背了第一誡中全心全意愛神的要求。作者對敵人感到厭惡，因此他在第 22 節中說他切切地恨惡他們。這是他能用言語表達最極端的情緒。就像我們說一個小女孩不只是可愛，簡直是超可愛。超級盃的門票不單貴，甚至是離譜的貴。作者認為他們是罪有應得的。既然神是全然聖潔的神，祂就必須執行公義的審判。請注意，這不是個人報復，否則作者不會禱告。他把他的敵人視為神的敵人。因此，他求神來對付他們。當到了第 23-24 節時，他改變了禱告的焦點。這裡和第 1 節中提到神的全知互相呼應。忽然，他懷疑自己禱告的內容和動機是否恰當。他的敵人犯了罪。但任何傷害敵人的邪惡願望也是罪，雖然他沒有動手。因此，作者除了求神潔淨他仇敵的罪以外，也求神潔淨他的心。他不想讓憤怒和仇恨主宰他。相反，他渴望在正義的道路上跟隨神。當我們被冒犯時，特別是當我們無緣無故地受苦時，我們自然會生氣。我們心裡甚至想要報復。但你敢於向聖潔的神表達這些想法嗎？如果我們在採取行動之前先禱告，我們的心態就會很不一樣。除了求神除掉犯罪的人之外，我們也需要求神除掉我們裡面不合祂心意的情緒。我們可以從作者身上學到的另一點就是他關注的事。他對敵人感到憤怒，因為他關心神的聲譽。我們生活在一個墮落的世界。當我們看待周遭的罪時，我們是否也會有同樣的反應？人們在談話中隨意濫用神的名字。有些人在電影和歌曲中嘲笑神。有些人堅持所謂的自由來故意挑戰神。他們主張人們可以隨心所欲地選擇自己的性別。踢寵物被視為虐待，但奪取人的生命是一項值得爭取的權利。某些族群被視為比別人低一等。當我們看到世界如何羞辱神之時，我們應該感到難過並氣憤。我們求神按照祂的方式和時間伸張正義。

結論 CONCLUSION

神有能力，但祂也顧念我們個別的需要。神不是一個概念。基督信仰不是一些冷冰冰的教義。神一直在我們周圍和我們裡面積極地工作。祂透過推動世界的事務並與我們互動來展示祂的性情。無論我們身在何處，無論我們的經歷如何，我們都能感受到祂的存在。神希望我們認識祂，而不只是知道關於祂的一些事情。藉著這種深入的認識，祂邀請我們去愛祂、信靠祂並與祂同行。然後我們才可以與眾聖徒發出和諧的頌讚。