

# Psalms 139:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

## Analysis

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**My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.** Substance (נֶפֶשׁ, *otsem*) means bone, frame, or essence—the structural foundation of personhood. **Made in secret** (בְּסֵתֶר, *ba-sether*) describes the hidden, mysterious process of gestation. **Curiously wrought** (רָקַם, *raqam*) is an embroiderer's term: variegated, intricately woven with colors—depicting the complexity of human development.

**The lowest parts of the earth** is poetic imagery comparing the womb's darkness to the depths of creation, echoing God's forming Adam from dust (Genesis 2:7). Though embryonic development is hidden from human eyes, nothing is concealed from God's gaze. This verse celebrates both the hiddenness and the divine visibility of prenatal life.

## Historical Context

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Without modern embryology, David used poetic metaphor to describe prenatal development. The image of being 'wrought' in earth's depths may reflect ancient understanding of the womb as connected to creation's primal elements. Job 10:8-11 similarly describes God's intricate creative work in utero.

## Related Passages

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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

### Study Questions

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1. What does God's intimate knowledge of your 'secret' formation reveal about what He knows of your hidden struggles and inner life today?
2. How does the 'embroidered' complexity of human design point to intentional divine purpose rather than random chance?
3. In what ways are you still being 'curiously wrought' by God through sanctification?

### Interlinear Text

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לֹא	נִכְחַד	עֲצָמִי	אֲשֶׁר	מִמְּךָ	יְיָ	עָשָׂה יְתִי
H3808	was not hid	My substance	H4480	H834		from thee when I was made
	H3582	H6108				H6213
בִּסְתֵּר	וְעָצָמִי	בְּתִחְתֵּי	אֶרֶץ			
in secret	and curiously wrought	in the lowest parts	of the earth			
H5643	H7551	H8482	H776			

### Additional Cross-References

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**Ecclesiastes 11:5** (Parallel theme): As thou knowest not what is the way of the spirit, nor how the bones do grow in the womb of her that is with child: even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all.

**Psalms 139:13** (Parallel theme): For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb.

**Psalms 63:9** (Parallel theme): But those that seek my soul, to destroy it, shall go into the lower parts of the earth.