

# Psalms 139:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

## Analysis

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**For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether**—God's omniscience anticipates even our speech. Before a word exists in (א) the tongue—before articulation, while still mere intention—the LORD knows it altogether (kulloh, כִּלְיָ, 'completely, entirely'). Jesus echoed this truth: we will give account for every idle word (Matthew 12:36).

This verse exposes the futility of verbal pretense. We craft our words to manage others' perceptions, but we cannot edit our speech before God, who hears both what we say and what we meant to say, both our words and the heart-motives beneath them. Every prayer, promise, boast, and lie stands naked before Him who knows it altogether.

## Historical Context

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In ancient Israel, words carried tremendous weight—blessings and curses were considered effectual, oaths binding, vows sacred. David's acknowledgment that God knows words before they're spoken underscores divine foreknowledge and the moral accountability of speech, central to Hebrew wisdom literature (Proverbs 18:21).

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation



**Job 8:2** (Word): How long wilt thou speak these things? and how long shall the words of thy mouth be like a strong wind?

**Jeremiah 29:23** (Word): Because they have committed villany in Israel, and have committed adultery with their neighbours' wives, and have spoken lying words in my name, which I have not commanded them; even I know, and am a witness, saith the LORD.

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