

# Psalm 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 (ג) the tongue—before articulation, while still mere intention—the LORD knows it altogether (kulloh, הַלּוּ, '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

## **Romans 10:9 – Confession and belief for salvation**

## **1 John 4:8 — God is love**

## 1 Corinthians 13:4 – Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

1. What words do you shape carefully for others' ears but cannot hide from God who knows them 'altogether'?
  2. How would your speech change if you remembered that God hears your words before your tongue forms them?
  3. Are there prayers you've prayed with your lips while your heart said something different—and what does God know 'altogether' about that disconnect?

## Interlinear Text

בְּלֹשׁוֹן	מֵלֵה	אֵין	כִּי	וְהִנֵּה
H2005	H369	H3588	H3605	H3068
but lo O LORD	For there is not a word	in my tongue		
H3956	H4405			H3045

## Additional Cross-References

**Psalms 19:14** (Word): Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight. O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

**Job 42:3** (Parallel theme): Who is he that hideth counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not.

**James 1:26** (Parallel theme): If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.

**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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