

# The Planet Pluto

In March 1930, astronomers at Lowell Observatory in Arizona announced the discovery of a ninth planet in our solar system, and they named it Pluto. In 1915, American astronomer Percival Lowell had predicted the location of an unknown planet. After his death, astronomers continued his work with more powerful telescopes and confirmed the existence of the distant planet.

At 2.7 billion miles from Earth, Pluto appears as a dim speck of light in even our most powerful telescopes. Pluto is the most distant planet from the sun, almost 40 times farther away from the sun than is Earth. During the day, Pluto receives only 1/1500<sup>th</sup> the intensity of sunlight that Earth receives. It is one of the coldest places in our solar system. Pluto takes nearly 249 years to make one trip around the sun, its long, looping orbit taking it above and below the paths of other planets.

God's Spirit fills not just the heavens and the earth, but all the solar systems, including the darkest, coldest, most distant planets. David described God's omnipresence beautifully in Psalm 139. David found comfort that there was no place where he could escape from the presence of God. If David went up to heaven or down to the place of the dead, God was there. If he could "ride the wings of the morning" or live by the farthest oceans, even there God would guide and support him.



What about you? Are you going through a cold, dark place in your life and feel you are far away from God? We must understand that we may not sense His presence or see Him working in our lives, but that doesn't mean He is not there.

There are no circumstances that can take us out of the reach of God's comforting, nurturing hands – even when life may take a long, looping orbit.

And you can count on that.

– Beecher Hunter