

How Close Is God to Me?

All right, so God knows me and controls me (Psalm 139:1-6); He can do that at a distance, through millions and millions of light years of space. But is He near? According to Psalm 139, David's song about the amazing attributes of God, yes.

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God is no distant, preoccupied Deity. In fact, He is omnipresent. In Psalm 139:7, David states this in the form of two questions:

Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?

The rebellious prophet Jonah must have wondered, *Can I find any place that will remove me from God?* He found out the hard way that the answer is an emphatic "No!" David puts it in terms anyone can understand in the verses 8-10:

"If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me."

In the Hebrew Bible, the pronouns referring to God are abrupt and emphatic: If I go up to heaven – YOU! If I go down to the grave – YOU!"

The next verse carries us out into the vast ocean on "the wings of the morning." It's a beautiful expression, but what does it mean? Most likely it describes the rays of the morning sun that flashes across the sky. Perhaps we could paraphrase it more technically by saying: "If I could travel the speed of light." Just think about that! By traveling at such speed, you would get to the moon in less than two seconds – You! (God would meet me.) It would take about four years to reach the first star at that speed, and again – You! (God would be there as well.) Omnipresence simply means there is no place where He is not.

And the huge body of water we call an ocean may make me seem insignificant and remote – but still He is there. He never leaves me lonely – "Even there Your hand shall hold me."

The point David is communicating here is the fact **God is never absent.**

Donald