

Question:

In school, we learned that there are nine planets. But what does the Bible say about this? Does it confirm that there are exactly nine planets?

Answer:

The Bible is not intended as a scientific textbook or a detailed guide to the physical universe. Rather, its supreme purpose is spiritual: to reveal God's plan of salvation and to restore humanity to a right relationship with its Creator. The Scriptures speak primarily to matters of faith—truths apprehended by the heart and spirit rather than by empirical observation (Hebrews 11:1, ESV: "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.").

Though the Bible occasionally references natural phenomena and celestial bodies, these mentions serve to underscore God's majesty, power, and sovereignty rather than to provide a scientific catalog of the cosmos. The focus remains on the Creator's glory and humanity's response to Him.

Regarding planets, modern science currently recognizes nine (though

this classification has evolved). What does Scripture say?

God's Creation of the Heavens and Earth

Scripture affirms God as the sovereign Creator of the entire universe, including the planets, stars, and all celestial hosts. The psalmist declares:

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them?

(Psalm 8:3-4, NIV)

By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth.

(Psalm 33:6, NIV)

These verses affirm that all heavenly bodies—including planets—are God’s handiwork, created by His sovereign command. They exist not by chance, but by divine design and purpose.

Biblical Mentions of Planets and Stars

The Bible refers to the “hosts of heaven,” which includes stars, planets, and other celestial bodies. For example:

Job 38:31-33 (ESV):

Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades or loose the cords of Orion? Can you lead forth the Mazzaroth in their season, or can you guide the Bear with its children? Do you know the ordinances of the heavens? Can you establish their rule on the earth?

2 Kings 23:5 (NASB):

“He removed the idolatrous priests... those who burned incense to Baal, to the sun and moon, to the constellations and to all the starry hosts.

Here, “constellations,” “sun,” “moon,” and “starry hosts” point to celestial bodies that God created and set in their places, emphasizing His authority over all creation.

Does the Bible Specify How Many Planets Exist?

The Bible does not give an explicit number of planets. It does not list nine or any specific quantity because that is not the focus of Scripture. Instead, it emphasizes the vastness of God’s creation and His supreme authority over it.

Modern science reveals billions upon billions of stars in the universe (Psalm 147:4, NIV: “He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name.”), many with their own planetary systems. The nine

planets traditionally taught in schools are those known within our solar system alone.

Theological Significance

The vastness and complexity of the universe testify to God's infinite wisdom and power. The heavens declare His glory (Psalm 19:1), and their orderly movement reflects His sovereign rule (Jeremiah 31:35). God's creation points us beyond the physical to His eternal nature and majesty (Romans 1:20).

This should inspire awe and worship, but more importantly, it should lead us to recognize our own place before God—as creatures dependent on the Creator. The greatest truth the Bible reveals is not the number of planets but the person of Jesus Christ, through whom salvation and reconciliation with God are possible (John 1:3-4, Colossians 1:16).

Invitation

Have you accepted this God who created the vast universe and yet knows you personally? To receive Him is to believe in Jesus Christ, trusting fully in His sacrificial death and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins and eternal life (John 3:16, Ephesians 2:8-9).

If you are ready to receive this Savior today, you can follow this [Prayer of Repentance Guide] >>> [GUIDE TO PRAYER OF REPENTANCE](#)

May the Lord richly bless you.

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