

Psalm 119:151

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou art near, O LORD; and all thy commandments are truth.

Analysis

Thou art near, O LORD (קָרוֹב אַפָּה יְהֹוָה, qarov attah YHWH)—In contrast to the wicked who are far (v. 150), YHWH is near. This is relational proximity, covenant presence. **And all thy commandments are truth** (וְכָל-מִצְוַתְךָ אֶתְתָּה, ve-khol mitzvotekha emet)—The totality (all) and certainty (truth) of God's commandments is emphasized. No command is suspect; every one is reliable.

Deuteronomy 4:7 celebrates Israel's uniqueness: "What nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them?" God's nearness is both terror (Psalm 139:7-12) and comfort (Psalm 73:28). Jesus promised, "I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20). The Spirit indwells believers (1 Corinthians 6:19). Divine nearness and the truthfulness of all Scripture are inseparable—God draws near through His self-revelation in His Word.

Historical Context

The ancient world's gods were often distant, capricious, and unknowable. YHWH's nearness to Israel—revealed in Torah, manifest in tabernacle/temple presence—was radically distinctive. This accessibility culminated in the Incarnation (Immanuel, God with us).

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does the nearness of God affect your response to the truthfulness of His commandments?
2. In what practical ways do you experience God's nearness through engagement with His Word?

Interlinear Text

אַתָּה בָּכָר וּבָ
Thou art near H859 אַתָּה יְהֹוָה
H3605 O LORD H3068 וְכֹל
H4687 and all thy commandments מְאֹדֶת יְהֹוָה
H571 are truth

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 145:18 (Truth): The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.

Psalms 119:142 (Word): Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and thy law is the truth.

Psalms 34:18 (References Lord): The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.