

# Psalms 22:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.

## Analysis

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Even in anguish, the psalmist affirms God's holiness—'thou art holy.' The phrase 'inhabitest the praises of Israel' (Hebrew: yashav tehilot) means God is enthroned upon or dwells amid His people's worship. Reformed theology sees this as covenant faithfulness: God's character remains constant regardless of circumstances. Suffering doesn't negate God's holiness; rather, holy worship continues even in suffering. This verse models theodicy—affirming God's goodness while experiencing unexplained pain.

## Historical Context

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Israel's worship life centered on acknowledging God's holiness and praising His covenant faithfulness. Even when suffering exile or oppression, the community continued liturgical praise, trusting God's character over circumstances.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How can you praise God's holiness even when experiencing His apparent distance?

2. What does it mean that God 'inhabits' the praises of His people?

## Interlinear Text

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יִשְׂרָאֵל:	תְּהִלּוֹת	יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ	קִדְּשׁ	וְאַתָּה ה
of Israel	the praises	O thou that inhabitest	But thou art holy	
H3478	H8416	H3427	H6918	H859

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 50:23** (Resurrection): Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me: and to him that ordereth his conversation aright will I shew the salvation of God.

**Deuteronomy 10:21** (Resurrection): He is thy praise, and he is thy God, that hath done for thee these great and terrible things, which thine eyes have seen.

**Isaiah 6:3** (Holy): And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

**Revelation 4:8** (Holy): And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

**Psalms 99:9** (Holy): Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the LORD our God is holy.

**Psalms 65:1** (Resurrection): Praise waiteth for thee, O God, in Sion: and unto thee shall the vow be performed.

**Psalms 145:17** (Holy): The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.