

# Psalm 71:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I will also praise thee with the psaltery, even thy truth, O my God: unto thee will I sing with the harp, O thou Holy One of Israel.

## Analysis

**I will also praise thee with the psaltery, even thy truth, O my God: unto thee will I sing with the harp, O thou Holy One of Israel.** David vows instrumental and vocal worship in response to anticipated deliverance and comfort. "Psaltery" (נֶבֶל/nevel) was a stringed instrument, possibly lyre or harp. "Harp" (קִנּוֹר/kinnor) was another stringed instrument David famously played (1 Samuel 16:23). The doubling of instruments emphasizes enthusiasm and comprehensiveness of praise—full orchestration befitting God's glory.

"Even thy truth" (אַמְתָּךְ/amittekha) identifies the focus of praise. Emet (truth/faithfulness) encompasses reliability, trustworthiness, and covenant faithfulness. David will praise specifically God's proven truth—His faithful fulfillment of promises over decades of life. This isn't abstract praise but testimony-based worship rooted in experienced reality.

"O thou Holy One of Israel" (קָדוֹשׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל/Qedosh Yisrael) is Isaiah's favorite title for God, appearing 25 times in Isaiah and rarely elsewhere. It combines transcendence (holiness/separateness) with covenant relationship (Israel's God). God is infinitely above His people yet bound to them in covenant love.

## Historical Context

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Ancient Israel's worship was richly musical. The Levitical choir and orchestra included various stringed, wind, and percussion instruments (1 Chronicles 15:16-24, 25:1-7, 2 Chronicles 29:25-30). David himself organized temple musicians (1 Chronicles 15-16, 23-26), established worship patterns that continued through Israel's history. Psalms were sung with instrumental accompaniment, creating comprehensive sensory worship experience.

The title "Holy One of Israel" emphasizes both God's transcendent holiness and His covenant commitment. He's not generically holy but Israel's Holy One—bound to them despite their sin. Isaiah used this title extensively, particularly in exile contexts where Israel questioned God's faithfulness.

Christian worship continues instrumental and vocal praise tradition, though specific instruments vary culturally. What remains constant is using diverse means—melody, harmony, rhythm, poetry, testimony—to express worship. Paul commands singing "with grace in your hearts to the Lord" using "psalms and hymns and spiritual songs" (Colossians 3:16, Ephesians 5:19).

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does multi-faceted worship—instrumental, vocal, diverse styles—reflect God's multi-faceted glory?
2. What does it mean to praise God's 'truth'—His proven faithfulness—specifically rather than offering generic worship?
3. How does the title 'Holy One of Israel' capture both God's transcendence and intimate covenant relationship?

## Interlinear Text

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אָמַתְּךָ	נָבָל	בְּכָלִ	אָזַדְךָ	אַתְּ יְ	גַּם
H5035	H571	H3627	H3034	H589	H1571
אַל־בָּ	וְשַׁבָּאֵל:	לְבָ	אַזְמַחַת־הָ	בְּכָבֵד־וּרְ	וְשַׁבָּאֵל:
O my God	of Israel	H3658	H2167	H0	unto thee will I sing
H430	H3478	H6918		with the harp	O thou Holy One

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Kings 19:22** (Holy): Whom hast thou reproached and blasphemed? and against whom hast thou exalted thy voice, and lifted up thine eyes on high? even against the Holy One of Israel.

**Psalms 33:2** (Resurrection): Praise the LORD with harp: sing unto him with the psaltery and an instrument of ten strings.

**Psalms 89:18** (Holy): For the LORD is our defence; and the Holy One of Israel is our king.

**Isaiah 5:24** (Holy): Therefore as the fire devoureth the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff, so their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust: because they have cast away the law of the LORD of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.

**Isaiah 60:9** (Holy): Surely the isles shall wait for me, and the ships of Tarshish first, to bring thy sons from far, their silver and their gold with them, unto the name of the LORD thy God, and to the Holy One of Israel, because he hath glorified thee.

**Isaiah 43:3** (Holy): For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee.

**Isaiah 5:16** (Holy): But the LORD of hosts shall be exalted in judgment, and God that is holy shall be sanctified in righteousness.

**Isaiah 12:6** (Holy): Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee.

**Isaiah 5:19** (Holy): That say, Let him make speed, and hasten his work, that we may see it: and let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel draw nigh and come, that we may know it!

**Isaiah 57:15** (Holy): For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

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