

# Truth and Jesus in the Psalms

**TRUTH** - not only “propositional,’ but also personal and experiential.

**Psalms is OT Israel’s hymnbook – poetry and songs – not to be read in the same way as laws / commands, or narrative [history], or prophecy, or gospels, or instruction / teaching via letters, or apocalyptic [eg, Revelation].**

**Psalms collected over many years, and edited into this final form into five major sections; 1-41, 42-72, 73-89, 90-100, 107-150.**

**Distinguishing mark of Hebrew poetry is “parallelism” [NOT rhyme or metre/rhythm], ie, two or even three lines which either say same thing in a slightly different way, or sometimes state the opposite, Eg, Bless the Lord, O my Soul ... Ps 103:1 and Ps 1:1,2**

**Psalms shows both God’s actions in human experience AND human responses to God’s activity in the world, and in / through God’s people [individually and collectively.**

**Psalms reveals very raw, and ruthlessly real human spirituality and struggles. There is no pretence, nor spiritual cliché.**

**Psalms of WISDOM – eg, Pss 1, 34, 37, 112, 119**

**Reflections from broad human experience over generations on contrasting results of wise living versus unwise, rebellious, sinful living [and see especially the whole book of Proverbs].**

**Psalms of WORSHIP – worship which is honest, real and true [cf John 4:24 – worship in spirit and in truth]**

**Worship of Complaint - eg, Pss 7, 52**

**Worship of Confession and Repentance – eg, Ps 51**

**Worship of Lament – eg, Pss 44, 60, 80**

**Worship of Cry for Vengeance - eg, Pss 35, 109**

**Worship of Thanksgiving – answers to prayer, eg Pss 18, 30, 65, 138**

**Worship praising YHWH’s eternal greatness and goodness  
Creator – eg, Pss 8, 19, 29**

**Omnipotence – eg, Pss 15-18, 135**

**Lawgiver – eg, Ps 19**

**Goodness – eg, Ps 100**

## **Psalms of WISHFUL EXPECTATION and HOPE**

**Celebrating Israel’s kings and kinship over the people of God – AND hope in the coming King of Kings**

**Rejoicing in Zion, city of the great king – eg, Pss 46,48**

**Liturgy [order and words to be used in worship] – eg, Pss 15,24**

**New king’s enthronement – eg, Pss 47, 93**

**Hope in coming divine king of kings [Messiah] – eg, Pss 2, 110**

**Conclusion: True spirituality and true worship is:**

**Genuine and honest, ruthlessly real with myself and with God**

**Celebrating and giving praise for success**

**Confessing and repenting of failure**

**Living in dependence, expectation, faith and sure hope that God is**

**God – Thank God!**