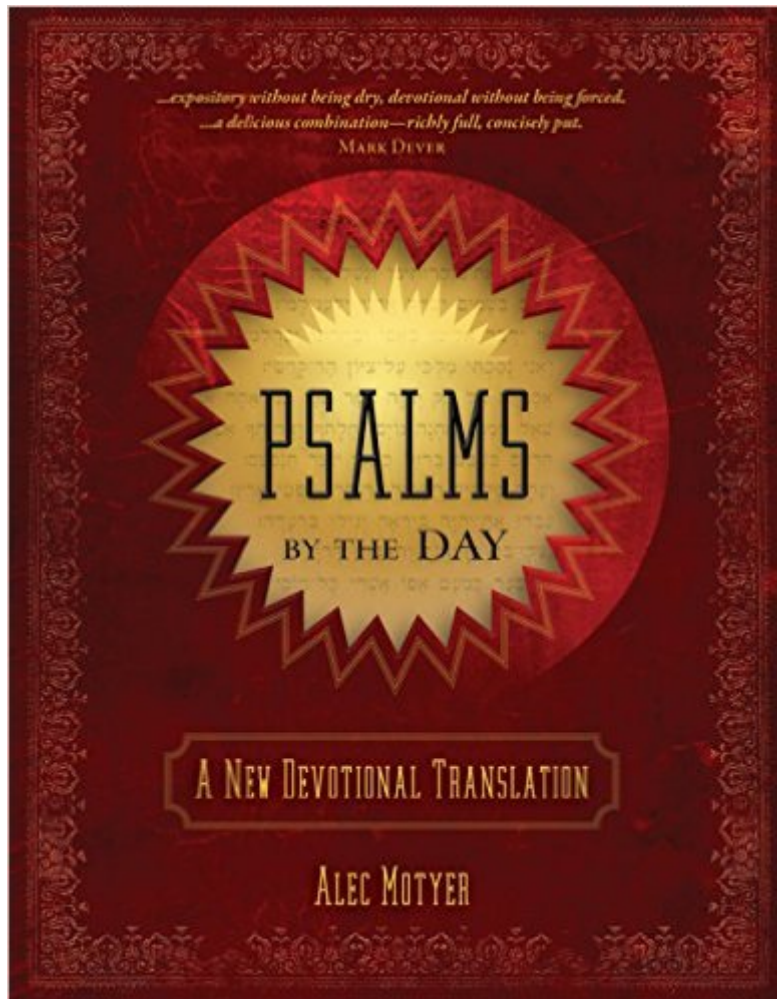


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Psalms By The Day: A New Devotional Translation



Synopsis

Following on from the successful and much acclaimed *Isaiah by the Day*, Alec Motyer leads us through the Psalms in this new devotional translation. Day by day you will read freshly translated passages from the Psalms and have an opportunity to explore the passage further through the author's notes and devotional comments.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As with the *Isaiah* devotional -- this is one of those books to read with pen in hand, underline, write in the margins, fold down page corners: flipping through, here is something I marked: "In earthly terms, 'hope' is certainty of time, uncertainty of event ('I hope it will be fine tomorrow'); in the Bible 'hope' is uncertainty of time, certainty of event (We shall be with him '... see him as he is', 1 John 3:2)." The bookmark is a wonderful feature, especially with somewhat longer readings that might require more meditation/breaking up. A few notes: Footnotes seem to run more often onto pages at a further distance from the one a person is reading than they did with the *Isaiah* volume (which can be a bit daunting to the non-scholarly soul: it would be nicer if footnotes were consistently on the same page, even if that means breaking the text up a bit more). There are still a number of typos. (Yes please send me the next devotional, dear publisher, of Dr. Motyer's for my careful proofaging :-P). As cited by above 'pen name', the footnotes about literary features are wonderful and have valuable devotional observations tucked in: I (female layperson) have a very small handful of friends who would read them -- it's nice that these are designedly optional. The translation itself, and the

devotional meditations proper, are valuable and very readable for anyone. I was surprised that Dr. Motyer highlights fewer aspects of the Psalms as Messianic than I have found in other writers. (Who is the 'blessed man' of Psalm 1:1? -- the same one in whom all are blessed to seek refuge, last verse of Psalm 2.

â œQuiet timesâ •. For some, the term may be fluffy and unintelligible Christianese. Or perhaps it provokes a pang of guilt for a neglected New Year resolution. For others, though, quiet time is a helpful and even crucial part of their day. For myself, neither regular study nor teaching can substitute my need for open-hearted prayer and Bible reading. Resources like Bible reading plans or the infamous â œdevotionalâ • can provide helpful guidance or freshness. However, devotionals are often less interested in leading the reader to the rich springs of Scripture and more with jolting them with a sugary soda rush with which to start the day. What if a devotional were concerned with increasing Biblical literacy? *Psalms by the Day: A New Devotional Translation* by seasoned scholar Alec Motyer fills this very gap. This is a â œdevotional translationâ • that draws from Motyerâ™s fruitful career of scholarship in service of the church. *Psalms by the Day* is made up of several elements. First and foremost is the authorâ™s own fresh translation of all 150 Psalms. This is the bulk of the book. Perhaps surprising for a â œdevotional translationâ •, Motyer mixes readability with an attempt to bring the reader â œas near as [one] can to the Hebrew of the originalâ • (p9) by following word order of the Hebrew when it indicates emphasis. The result is a fresh and readable, though sometimes awkward, translation. This may seem like a recipe for disaster, but anyone familiar with different Bible translations will have no trouble here. The translations are arranged into units with summary headings. Though not explained in detail, each unit heading is preceded by a letter that Motyer uses to indicate chiastic, or parallel, arrangement. Along with the translation are copious notes presented on the outer margin.

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