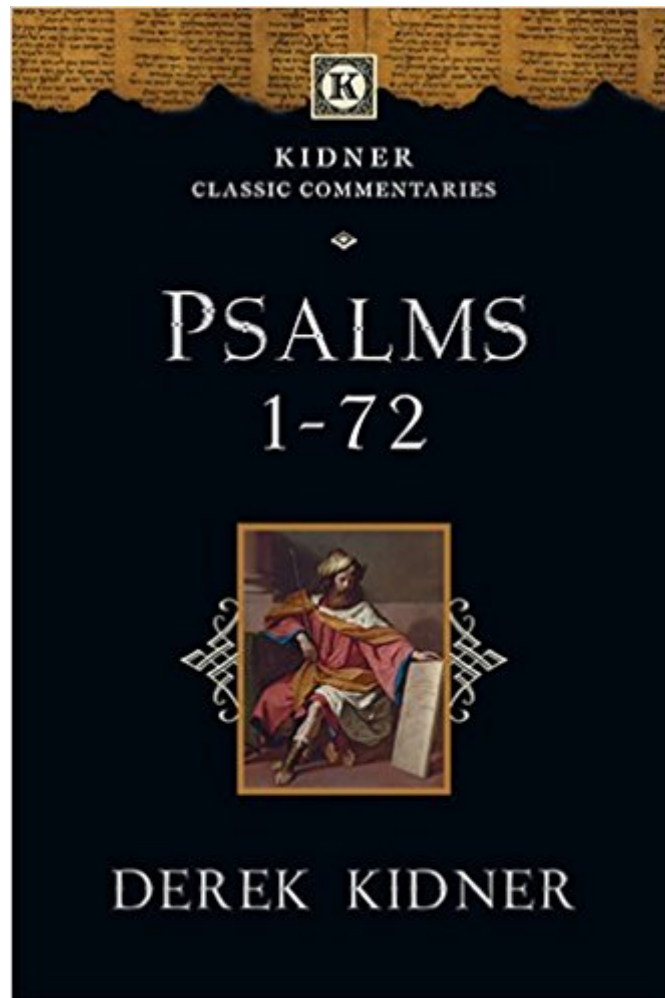


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Psalms 1-72 (Kidner Classic Commentaries)



Synopsis

'The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.' 'Thy word is a lamp to my feet.' 'Search me, O God, and know my heart!' Such phrases leap to mind whenever Christians lift their hearts to God. For many, in fact, the Psalms are the richest part of the Old Testament. Derek Kidner provides a fresh and penetrating guide to Psalms 1–72. He analyzes each psalm in depth, comments on interpretative questions and brings out the universal relevance of the texts. He also gives special help on the psalmists' cries for vengeance. Together with its companion volume (Psalms 73–150), both of which were formerly part of the Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries series, this introduction and commentary will inspire and deepen personal worship.

Book Information

Series: Kidner Classic Commentaries (Book 1)

Paperback: 196 pages

Publisher: IVP Academic; Reprint edition (October 5, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0830829377

ISBN-13: 978-0830829378

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.8 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 29 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #129,097 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #34 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Wisdom Literature #152 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Commentaries > Old Testament #400 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Bible Study > Old Testament

Customer Reviews

The works of Derek Kidner (MA, Christ's College, Cambridge) are full of the marks of both professor and pastor with his even-handed scholarship as well as his devotional insight. These qualities have made his commentaries in the Tyndale Old Testament Commentary series and The Bible Speaks Today series some of the most beloved and popular of recent decades. Kidner had a long career in both the church and the academy in England. He studied at Cambridge University and then served in the ministry for several years before becoming a senior tutor at Oak Hill Theological College. Kidner began his writing career while serving as warden of Tyndale House in Cambridge from 1964 to 1978, publishing his ninth and final book, The Message of Jeremiah, in 1987.

I've been using Kidner's commentary as a devotional aid for my current trip through the Psalms. I read one Psalm a day in the morning and then Kidner's insights; I read it again to my wife at dinnertime in a different translation and we talk about it for awhile. I have appreciated the commentary's insights. It is reverent, deeply insightful, and very precise in its handling of the text. It comments mostly on the English text, but is thoroughly critical of the English translations with constant references to the Hebrew (though usually without giving the Hebrew word even in the more technical notes which appear at the bottom of the page). This isn't strictly speaking a devotional commentary; rather, very meaningful devotional insights are woven into the verse-by-verse interpretive comments, and sometimes appear in introductions at the beginning of the section on the Psalm. Kidner spends a fair amount of time fitting the Psalms with background, either trying to match up the Psalm with an incident from David's life or theorizing some other occasion for the Psalm's creation. He takes the Psalm titles as decisive when relating the Psalm to its background. Also, there is significant reference to other scripture texts, including New Testament texts, with related language or themes to the Psalm being commented on. This commentary gives an average of three pages to each Psalm, so if you want an exhaustive technical commentary this will not meet your needs. Regarding the more technical points of interpretation, I'm usually but not always convinced by Kidner's arguments which occasionally differ from the English translations I use. Speaking of translations, Kidner focuses quite a bit on the old RSV translation, often spending time refuting the decisions of the RSV translators, and also the translators of the JB, KJV (less often), and NEB. The book (original copyright 1973) was written before the NIV was released. It's a bit of a disadvantage that you have to read past all those comments about those old, little-used translations. That's why I didn't give it 5 stars. It is, however, interesting to see how often my ESV agrees with Kidner. And also interesting to see how often he's appalled by the liberties taken in the NEB.

Kidner's commentary is precise and not lengthy in discussion. He seeks to understand the "big picture" while not ignoring details, but spending an appropriate space to them. I have used this commentary as a "check" to my own studies to ensure I stay on the right track -i.e. the main thought.

It is really hard to go wrong with Kidner on the Psalms. His treatment of Psalms 1-72 is concise, to the point, and pastoral. Kidner really has a gift for breaking down the Psalms into great outlines. He

exercises brevity in a way that is very helpful to the working pastor. While this shouldn't be the only commentary you use on the Psalms, I do recommend it as one that should be referenced when preaching/teaching the psalter.

My Bible Study class is reading this book along with the Bible and it seems everyone finds it useful to some degree. Kidner rather thinks David wrote many more psalms than other commentaries attribute to him but all opinions are interesting. He does get rather technical in places which is more for a scholarly group than ours, but then that is outweighed by some inciteful observations and germane information that I do not find elsewhere and I read at least two other commentaries along with this one. Psalms by Knight is another pb commentary that goes well with Bible Study groups. Kidner's organization of a general introduction of the psalm and then section by section commentary helps to get a clear picture spreading the psalm out to really view the key words and phrases. His New Testament references are also helpful. I think this is the best short concise commentary I have come across so far.

The unique ability of Kidner to weave Old Testament and New Testament Theology together makes his comments especially helpful to both Pastor and committed Bible student.

Great

Loved this commentary!! Learned many things. I will definitely reference this in the future!!

Awesome commentary on the Psalms with great cross references and great details on the background of the texts.

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