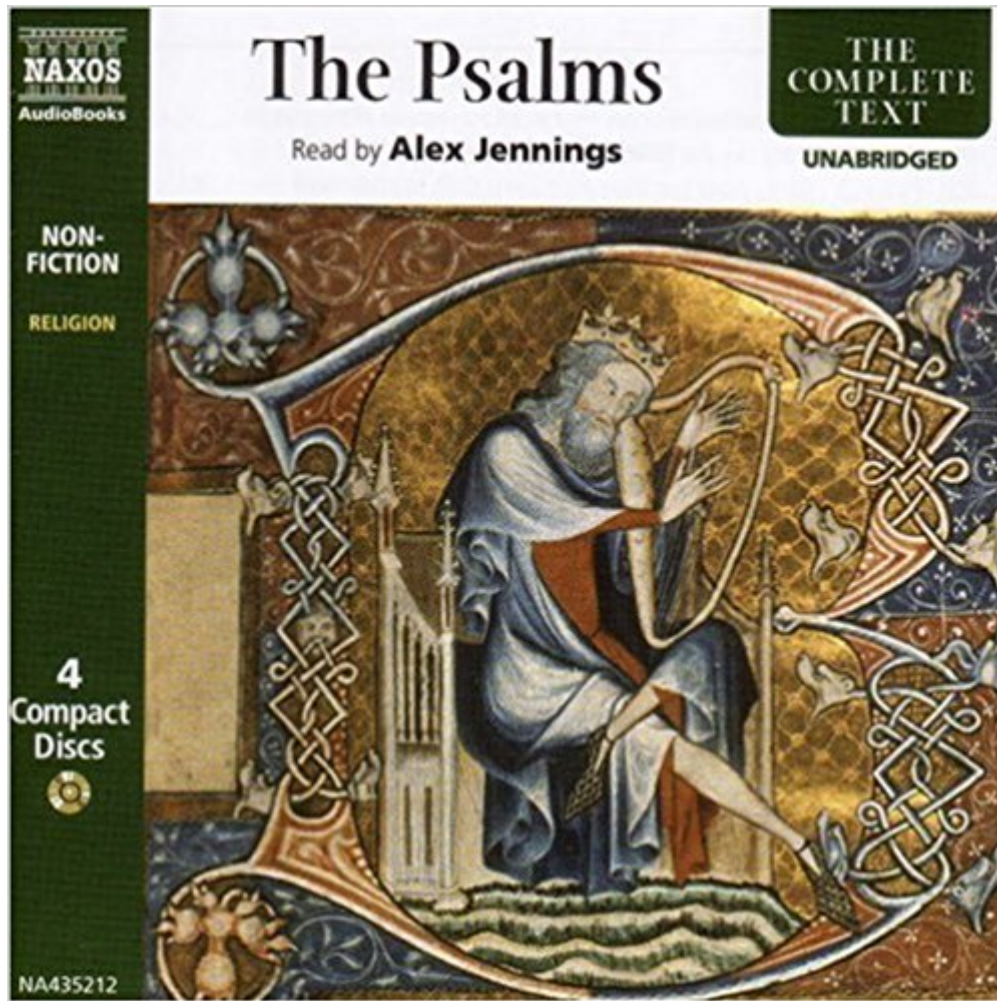




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The Psalms



Synopsis

The 150 Psalms contain some of the most inspiring lines in the Old Testament: Psalm 23 "The Lord is My Shepherd" and Psalm 121 "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills". Yet few know them as a set, and this recording, in Alex Jennings' clear performance, allows us to consider them as a whole. They are not all uplifting and comfortable. Many involve darker sentiments of revenge or punishment; many appear to be by David or about David; others are To the chief Musician upon Gittith. Their variety is part of their strength and their power, especially in the magisterial language of the King James Bible used here. They are presented with English choral music from the 16th and 17th centuries.

Book Information

Audio CD

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 33 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

Alex Jennings's delivery is more like a skilled recitation than a narration. Jennings understands the structure of the Psalms as shaped in the well-known language of the King James Bible. Every word is delivered crisply, and his voice is dignified and always respectful. Transitions are bridged with brief excerpts of English choral music from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The combination is beautiful, meditative, and unified. The one possible objection to this performance is its lack of passion. The Psalms are praise songs, and while Jennings does convey worship, he never sounds like he is moved by joy. G.T.B. © AudioFile 2006, Portland, Maine-- Copyright © AudioFile, Portland, Maine

Alex Jennings does a good job as a reader. His reading of the Psalms is almost understated. No

exaltation, no theatrical emotions. He lets the Psalms speak for themselves, and this makes it captivating to listen to these records. Had they not included very short musical pieces at the beginning of some (very few) of the psalms, i would have loved this recording even more. The scant musical decorum unnecessarily suggests a particular historical and cultural context, and thus, in my view, contradicts the universality of the message of the Psalms. And the KJV language sounds like a wonderful music to me, making any instruments and choirs superfluous.

I was looking for a simple recitation of all the Psalms. And this is one of them. However, it is the KJV (which I knew) and I found it hard to follow because of this (all the thee's and thy's and thou's). The man recites the Psalms very well. He has a soothing voice. He does have a bit of an accent so that coupled with the KJV = wish I had purchased another Bible translation that is easier for me to follow. I will keep listening to it though.

Obviously if you're purchasing this set you are Christian and enjoy the book of Psalms. This set is very well done and the reading is excellent. It is in the King James Version but due to the psalms natural English poetic nature this (English) speaker reads and verbalizes it very well. The choir and organ music played between a psalm every so often is at first annoying but as you sink into the wonderful spoken word of psalms it adds a "pause and consider" peaceful air to the recording. I enjoy the interlude. If King James bothers you, you may or may not like it. If you can't stand King James you won't like this either. But as I said, due to the nature of Psalms and it's naturally poetic style, the King James fits very well. If you're a lover of Psalms you'll love this!

[Ps63.5] "with the term of marrow and fatness" is derived from K.J.V. it should be read in "suet and rich food". There is no marrow in the Hebrew Text. [Ps63.5] "My soul" should be changed into :My being"-nefesh. And the soul from K.J.V. It was very old version.

I try and read several Psalms each day. I have a schedule that allows me to read through in 30 or 31 days, depending on which I use. Having the Psalms alone on my Kindle makes it so much easier than getting out my Bible.

This was very soothing

I would have liked the psalms in both English and Hebrew, possibly in both the Hebrew alphabet

and in transliteration. While I can't use the kindle during services, I can use it while traveling.

Did not like the Kindle version as the word Lord or God was always substituted as Jehoveah (which is another name for God) but I was hoping for something more along the lines of the King James Version.

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