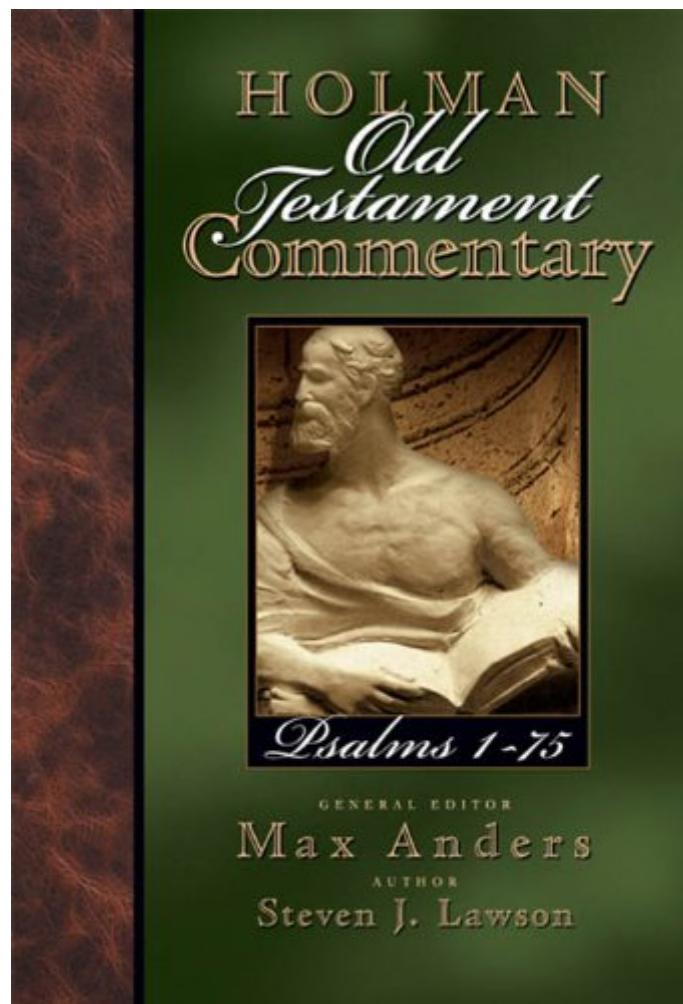


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Holman Old Testament Commentary - Psalms: 11



Synopsis

One in a series of twenty Old Testament verse-by-verse commentary books edited by Max Anders. Includes discussion starters, teaching plan, and more. Great for lay teachers and pastors alike.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Steven J. Lawson is one of the best God-centered and Christo-centric expository preachers of our time. He is like a cross between John Piper, James Montgomery Boice and R.C. Sproul. Therefore, if any of those names mean anything to you - you will love this commentary by Lawson. All the commentaries in the Holman series are concise, homiletical in orientation, and immensely practical for teachers and preachers of God's Word. This particular commentary contains an excellent and brief introduction to the Psalms with discussion and explanations of the unique features of the Psalms, including its title, authors, time period, literary types, book divisions, literary style, figures of speech, acrostics, and why and how they are so life-changing. The first 75 Psalms are covered in this commentary and are broken down in 75 individual chapters in the following manner: 1) A title that summarizes the topic of the Psalm. 2) A helpful quote that delineates the theme of the Psalm -

usually from a great Christian from the past - Lawson is a very knowledgeable Church historian.3) A commentary on the chapter from the Bible which contains - the main idea of the passage and the supporting ideas written out in an expository outline with explanation, grammatical help, and exegetical insights.4) A main idea review and a conclusion for the chapter.5) A Conclusion - usually an excellent illustration of the passage.6) A Life Application - typically questions, commands, and principles to be applied from the passage.7) A prayer based on the passage's truths and applications - all very God-focused and oriented toward praise.

Psalms is one of my favorite books in the Bible and Steven J. Lawson is a preacher and expositor of Scripture I highly appreciate. I put the two together and bought this commentary. I decided to use this commentary as a devotional resource first. I would read one psalm each night and then read the commentary on it. It has truly been a wonderful couple months! The commentaries on each psalm are perfect for this, usually being between four to six pages of writing depending on how long the psalm is. I highly recommend using this volume this way. Aside from this, this is an excellent resource for teaching or preaching giving stories and illustrations to tell, explanations on the text, and structure with which to present. **Positives:** (1) Thought-provoking material in famous quotes to start each psalm, introductions, conclusions, and sometimes life applications, key questions, or deeper insights into the text (usually word studies). (2) Insightful commentary on the text, not extremely technical, but does convey the main idea of each verse well. (3) Has a section highlighted "main idea" for every psalm along with subheadings "supporting idea" to get the main point of each psalm and how it is developed. (4) The outline of each psalm given at the end of each chapter is definitely the strongest aspect of this commentary. Each psalm is broken down verse by verse into an outline with headings for multiple verses and sub-points on every verse or part of a verse. Usually the headings for sets of verses are alliterated. This helps tremendously in teaching or preaching structure and is also informative as another way to explain what verses mean or to follow the logic of the psalm.

Even though I only preached a few sermons from Psalms in 2007, this volume was a great addition to my shelves because it beats with a passion for all Christians to enjoy and profit from the Psalms. That is, although this commentary is built on solid exegesis, the goal is not an excellent sermon but an excellent life. The pastoral ministry of Steve Lawson has been an inspiration to me for several years now. Here is a pastor who combines passionate Reformed theology, energetic expository preaching, and serious evangelistic fervor. All three of these are blended into the writing of this

commentary on Psalms 76-150 (he also wrote the Holman volume on Psalms 1-75). In the dedication page I was reminded of Pastor Lawson's involvement with the Samara Theological Seminary in Russia. He wrote: "May God give the Russian church a new generation of biblical expositors who preach the Word." I first heard of Samara via Jonathan Moorhead. Turn to the Introduction for a 3-page summary of the church's use of Psalms since the Reformation - Luther, Calvin, Bunyan, Edwards, Carey, Spurgeon, Lloyd-Jones, etc. - Lawson knows his church history. He writes: "God has used the Psalms to bless his servants over the centuries in immeasurable ways. This is only a sampling of countless other examples that could be offered here. The power of the Psalms to capture and conquer human hearts is unsurpassed. These incidents from church history are intended to whet your appetite for the Psalms with the hope that you will delve more fully into this book. The Psalms is a vast ocean of truth, but it is a challenge to stretch one's arms around it. Consequently, the Psalms often remains untaught and unpreached.

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