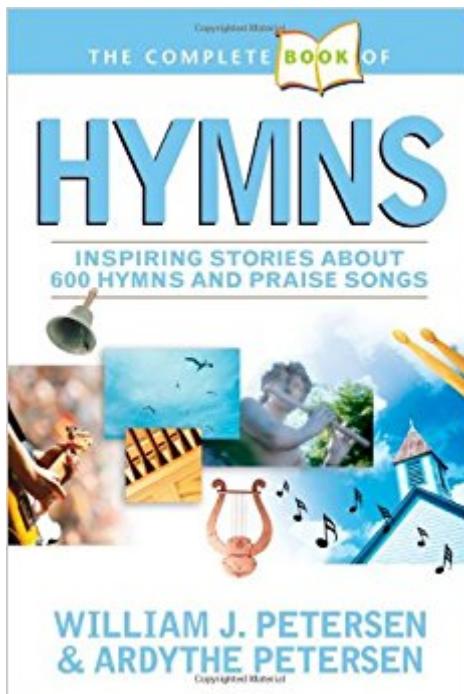


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The Complete Book Of Hymns



Synopsis

The Complete Book of Hymns brings to life the stories behind more than 600 hymns and worship songs. With background on the composer, the inspiration behind the lyrics, scriptural references for devotional consideration, and a sampling of the song lyrics, this book brings forth the message of these great songs of the faith like never before!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The largest collection of the stories behind the most popular hymns and praise songs! There are rich stories behind the popular hymns and praise songs we sing today: The popular hymn "Amazing Grace" was written by a former hardened slave trader. A poor insurance agent first penned the song "Great Is Thy Faithfulness." A missionary who had trouble raising support to go to Africa wrote the song "Have Thine Own Way, Lord." In Australia, a young woman struggling with depression wrote "Shout to the Lord" and nervously sang it for the music pastor of her church. You'll discover the background on the composers of 600 of your favorite hymns and praise songs, the stories and verses that inspired the lyrics, scriptural references for devotional consideration, and a sampling of the lyrics. An ideal resource for pastors and worship leaders, "The Complete Book of Hymns" brings the message of these great songs of the faith to life like never before!

This book is a hefty volume at almost 700 pages, but, of course, it covers 600 hymns and praise

songs. Each entry averages just over 1 page in length. All the old standards are covered, as well as many less commonly-known ones, including many that I do not know. By far, most of the entries are hymns. Off hand, I'd probably say that around 90% or more of the songs referenced were written before 1950. This book is well-organized. The songs are organized by topic, and there are indexes by title, author, and theme. Here is a sample entry that I opened to randomly: I Need Thee Every Hour. We learn the hymn was written by a 37-year-old Brooklyn housewife while she was busy with her household chores. She could closely feel the nearness of God, and she sat by an open window and wrote out all the verses. When she gave them to her pastor, he wrote the chorus and the music. Evangelist Dwight L. Moody discovered the hymn and began using it in his meetings, which led to it becoming famous. After that background information, we are given several Bible verse references (not the text of the verses themselves) related to the hymn's topic (Psalm 86:1-4, Psalm 109:22, Philippians 4:19), the themes of the hymn (prayer, meditation), and then the lyrics of the hymn. I have a few small gripes with the book. There are several newer praise songs that do not have lyrics included, presumably because they are under copyright and permission was not granted for their use. And, there are a few of these newer praise songs that are rather short that I would have left out, but that's a small gripe. Overall, this is a valuable resource for any Christian. This book is nice for looking up a particular hymn, but also for just browsing through. In that sense, it could be a good "coffee table book," while also being of benefit in personal or family devotions, or church music ministry. It might also be a way to find some new hymns of value. You can always look up a hymn at CyberHymnal to hear the accompanying music! I highly recommend this book.

I ended up using this book for family devotions as each hymn story has several Bible passages assigned to it--as every good hymn should draw from Scripture! Every evening at supper time, our family (including three girls ages 10, 8 and 6) take turns in reading Scripture, reading the story and then singing the hymn! The latter presumes the one knows the melody, which, sadly isn't always the case. I estimate that I'm familiar with about two-thirds of the included hymns and I'm in my mid-40s. In general, these are extremely sing-able hymns, so even the kids enjoy the melodies, regardless of the hymn's age (they're also good vocabulary builders too as older English is often used). If you don't know a hymn melody, I suggest you go to [...] which has the .mp3 tunes available to download for over 4000 hymns! That would make it possible to sing almost every hymn listed in this book. Younger folks who grew up on contemporary music might not recognize many of the songs included in the stories, as they're mostly older ones that are now in the public domain. The more recent songs (in the past 50 years) often ONLY contain the story behind the hymn or the author and

don't include the lyrics because of copyright issues. That means you must search for the words elsewhere if you don't already have the song memorized--which is a bit annoying, but not impossible with the internet. My biggest complaint is that a great deal of the text refuses to scale up or down and seems to be a collection of images rather than normal text. That means some sections are tough to read--like the first paragraph in every song introduction.

Excellent Detailed Stories behind the writing of 600 (wow!!) hymns with lyrics of several verses. By not including the actual musical notes, one big book could be made for reference. Once a person has read The Hymn Story in Petersen's book, then a person can go to a Church Hymnal and see the actual music. I purchased six copies to share with our Gospel Brass Band comprised of 2 Trumpets, Trombone, French Horn, Tuba and Percussion. Understanding the Hymn Stories makes playing the music much more meaningful for us, as well as for our audience. Now we can read the Hymn Story (from the Petersen Book) to our audience, and then play the music with the audience singing along. Both the brass band players and the audience (often at Senior Centers) are blessed. Praise the Lord.

If you are looking for a reference book for your library that contains the maximum number of songs, this very thorough book will do it. It contains a wide selection of usable stories on a variety of types of music, including praise songs. I find it especially useful during a Hymn sing, when I can pull it out to tell the story of the hymns they are singing. While it doesn't have everything, no book can do that, it is the best selection I have found. I purchased the Kindle edition, and found it very easy to navigate.

Very confusing. I bought this item as and thought it was downloaded, but it wasn't. Somehow I deleted it. Then I had it as a sample and could buy it at \$2 but the price went up to \$5. When I tried to buy it at \$5, it was no longer available (trying to figure that out for an electronic book). Then it became available again, but now at almost \$10. Nonetheless I bought it because it is a very unique book.. I use it daily in devotions. A rich resource. But, be aware that much of the text in this book is not text like a typical kindle book but is photos that are not able to be searched for particular text. Still I enjoy the book, just wish I could have gotten it at the original price I expected (hey, I am a German, you know).

I have spent much time reading about the hymns I have known since I was a child. The stories

behind them really are amazing. It is on our coffee table, and I pick it up often after our church service or when a hymn comes to mind. Fortunately, that is very often. Hymns are some amazing ways that God communicates with people because the words come the heart of the author. How much influence these hymns have is immeasurable - - and the stories behind them just add to their meaning.

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