

**THE BOOK OF PSALMS: A TRANSLATION WITH
COMMENTARY**

Diane Susan Stangler

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The Book of Psalms: A Translation with Commentary by Robert Alter pp, WW Norton, £ "The Lord is my shepherd"; "by the rivers of.

Robert Alter's avowed reason for attempting a new translation of Psalms is that " the King James version is often (though not invariably) eloquent, but it ignores.

The Book of Psalms: A Translation with a Commentary is a literary masterpiece. Robert Alter offers a translation of the Hebrew Scriptures in a way that captures.

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If you do decide to read it, I highly recommend reading this translation alongside at least one or two others, such as those offered by the Orthodox Study Bible which relies on the Septuagint to the exclusion of the Masoretic and, of course, the poetic and influential King James Version. Like the Five Books of Moses a cornerstone of the scriptural canon, the Book of Psalms has been a source of solace and joy for countless readers over millennia.

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It has been clear for some time that Robert Alter is in the process of doing for Hebrew poetry what the great Robert Fagels did for Greek and Latin epics: There are psalms that might encourage the Christian interpreter to imagine that there are eternal rewards in an afterlife for the faithful, and eternal punishments for the wicked, but none can clearly and unambiguously support this, and most would seem to contradict it. I read it while listening to songs of the Cult and Floyd.

But I have to give those ancient psalmists some credit: No academic density, no introduction covers the historical and literary background of the Psalms.