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Rolf A. and Karl N. Jacobson's "Invitation to the Psalms: A Reader's Guide for Discovery and Engagement" (Book Review)

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theology impacted his preaching, ministries, and evangelism. Nettles clearly designs his writing to make his book biographical and theological. Each chapter focuses on a different theology or pivotal moment in his life.

This book will appeal to pastors, historians, and theologians. However, the high scholarship and writing style of this book would overwhelm those who have not studied Spurgeon and his writings. Nettles' new book could assist many in historical research of Spurgeon as well as help in sermon preparations. The combination of a legendary pastor's life with the authorship of an esteemed professor makes for a valuable scholarly work.

Invitation to the Psalms: A Reader's Guide for Discovery and Engagement,

by Rolf A. Jacobson and Karl N. Jacobson. Grand Rapids:
Baker Academic, 2013. 184 pp. \$15.00. ISBN: 9780801036446

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Relevance and practical application make the Bible hard to read for many believers. The book of Psalms has proven difficult for modern readers because of the construction and intended audience of the Psalms. Rolf and Karl Jacobson, professors at Luther Seminary and Augsburg College respectively, have written an engaging guide on how to read and experience the psalms. In their previous collaboration, *Crazy Book: A Not-So-Stuffy Dictionary of Biblical Terms*, the Jacobson brothers interpret scripture in an informal and humorous tone. The theme of their most recent publication is to teach about the psalms in a simple way so that believers "may learn to read, pray, sing, shout, chant, and wonder the psalms" (2). The authors present the psalms with a fresh outlook in order to create a deeper appreciation of the book to the reader. By focusing on the construction, genres, voice, metaphors, and theology of the psalms, the reader will gain a historical understanding of the psalms. This book is intended for those who have are not scholars of Hebrew or have studied the Psalms in depth, but are open to learning the significance of this book, what it means to the rest of the Bible, and its practical application to Christian life.

This book would assist researchers who are interested in studying the different types of psalms in the Bible. By analyzing the scriptures and carefully explaining their significance, the authors shed light on questions that a reader may have about the Psalms. This book will have a profound effect on believers who have struggled to read the Psalms. The authors provide a general guide through the Psalms that could be used in either a personal or corporate Bible study. Old Testament professors may find that this book provides a textbook to use in their classes as a way of allowing modern students to learn and experience the Psalms. The Jacobson's book would also serve as a great resource for a variety of bible colleges and seminaries. Believers of any Christian faith will find this book useful in Old Testament studies.