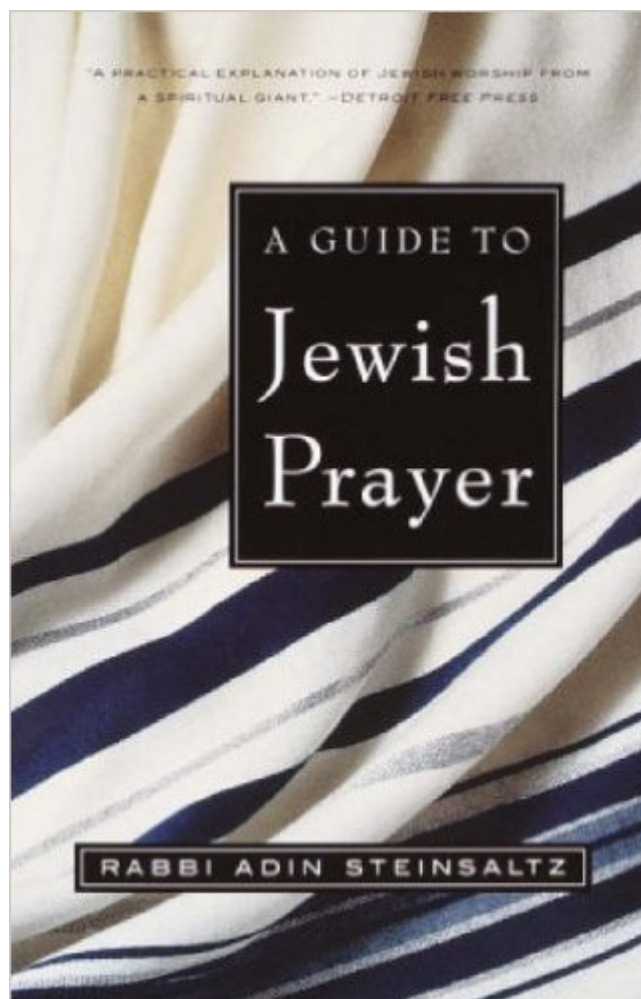


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A Guide To Jewish Prayer



Synopsis

One of the world's most famous and respected rabbis has given us the one guide we need to practice Jewish prayer and understand the prayer book. From the origins and meaning of prayer to a step-by-step explanation of the daily services to the reason you're not supposed to chat with your friends during the service, Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz answers many of the questions likely to arise about Jewish prayer. Here are chapters on daily prayer; Sabbath prayer; prayer services for the holidays; the yearly cycle of synagogue Bible readings; the history and make-up of the synagogue; the different prayer rites for Ashkenazim, Sephardim, Yemenites, and other cultural/geographic groupings; the role of the rabbi and the cantor in the synagogue; and the role of music in the service. The book also contains a glossary, a bibliography, and biographical sketches of the rabbis who were instrumental in creating and ordering the prayers through the ages. Rabbi Steinsaltz's guide is an essential volume both for the newcomer to Jewish prayer and for those who have been engaged in prayer for years. From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Our Talmud group studied from Rabbi Steinsaltz's translations. He is a tremendous scholar, but writes accessibly for the layperson. Where some rabbis of this stature are cool and arrogant, R. Steinsaltz is warm. Most importantly, he makes *you* feel like a scholar, even if you don't read a bit of Hebrew.--Yitzhak Ya'akov ben Yosef

There are a number of good books on the subject of Jewish Prayer. Seth Kadish's 'Kavvana'

perhaps does most to explain the actual problems a Jew faces in praying in the proper way. There are books by Haim Donin, by Rabbi Munk who provides great insight into the meaning of the prayers, by many others. Rabbi Steinsaltz is a great Talmid Chacham and his work provides a most detailed explanation of the meaning of prayer and of various individual prayers. I have read parts of the work and learned from them . I highly recommend this work for all those who would know its meaning in a richer way.

This is a largely a how-to book written by a Jew for primarily a Jewish audience. The primary focus is on the order of prayer as used through the use of a Siddur. I found the background to why certain traditions exist interesting (my primary motive for reading it), but found the many chapters devoted to what order certain aspects are performed on what occasions taxing. In fairness, this is primarily because I'm not Jewish, not because of the writing. However, for the Jewish person wondering why they do certain things at certain times, this book will prove to be very educating. I did find the discussion of how the certain traditions relate to the Bible or the Torah a bit lacking, since the text largely is devoted to syntax and order of the tradition, not the reasons. In summation, for a Jewish reader, this book will prove to be extremely helpful for your studies. For the non-Jewish reader, unless you are scholarly this may not be the best choice for you.

The above reviewer spoke for me. I'll only add that for beginners or those not steeped in Judaica, or for those not Jewish, who want to get his work, I recommend starting with "The Thirteenth Petalled Rose." It's short, exquisite and an excellent introduction to this also great book

Not that this is a bad reference book. I was just hoping it would have more than just the history of the prayer service. It explained what each part of the service was, I was really hope for more of a how to?! Something that could give me more direction during service, This is definitely not that book. Just something good to add to the books I have already that apply to helping learn life within in judaism. Which is vital when you're in the midst of conversion.

As most books of Even-Israel (or Steinsaltz) this is a highly readable book, clearly explaining the traditions and regulations of prayer. Read it once to get a basic grip, and then keep it as a reference work.

I guess I was looking for a mini Siddur, and although the information inside is invaluable, as a

returning Jew I was disappointed as I expected it to contain specific blessing etc. yet I love Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz works and treasure them. I have since ordered a Siddur.

All of his books are treasures. I've managed to purchase most of his books over the past 25 or so years. The set I'm most proud to own and study is his THE TALMUD The Steinsaltz Edition published by Random House.

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