

BOOK PROPOSAL

Title/Subtitle

PRAYERS OF THE ANCIENTS
120 Daily Meditations from
2,000 Years of Christian Devotion

Authors/Contributors

Eddy Duhan, longtime Christian songwriter, selected & adapted these ancient verses into poetic readings.
Wayne Zeitner, creator of Christian entertainment since 1976, collaborated, designed & edited the collection.

Product Description

Tagline: *Devotional prayers of believers through the ages*

Overview:

Drawn from eight sources...

- 1) Ephrem the Syrian, 4th Century Pastor
- 2) British and American Puritans (1650-1850)
- 3) Giovanni Francesco di Bernardone (St. Francis of Assisi), 12th Century
- 4) The Odes of Solomon, Anonymous 2nd Century Hymnist
- 5) Romanos the Melodist, 6th Century
- 6) Aurelius Ambrosius of Milan (St. Ambrose), 4th Century Theologian/Composer
- 7) Dead Sea Scrolls
- 8) Caedmon the Melodist, 7th Century Celt

Purchase Motivations:

- * The faster the world becomes, the more we wish to slow down
- * The more complicated our life, the more we seek simplicity
- * The shallower our interactions, the more we crave depth
- * The more fleeting our thoughts, the more we value permanence

Aspects of liturgy and ancient faith disciplines are gaining traction among evangelicals. Many Western believers yearn for more substance in their daily practice of the faith—tiring of the casual, vernacular approach so prevalent in contemporary evangelical life.

Comparable Titles

Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers and Devotions
Arthur G. Bennett ISBN 13 = 978-0851518213

Prayers That Avail Much
Germaine Copeland
ISBN 13 = 978-1577947530

Devotional Classics
Richard J. Foster
ISBN 13 = 978-0060777500



Prayers of the Ancients

120 daily meditations
from 2,000 years
of Christian devotion

Prayers of the Ancients

EPHREM THE SYRIAN

The most prolific early writer, Ephrem was born in 306 in Nisibis (modern-day Turkey) into a Christian family. Baptized as a youth and ordained as a young man, he immediately started composing hymns...many of which were mini-sermons. Fleeing Persian invasions, Ephrem and his flock fled to Edessa where he taught and wrote until his death in 373.

AURELIUS AMBROSIUS OF MILAN

Born 337 in Trier, northern Italy, Ambrosius followed his father into public office, becoming governor in Milan in 370. His hasty election as Bishop prevented violence during a tumultuous power struggle in 374. Saint Ambrose devoted himself to prayer and scripture, growing into an accomplished preacher and writer. He brought allegorical interpretation to the western church, and pioneered the study of Christian typology.

ROMANOS THE MELODIST

Born in 490 to a Jewish family in Damascus, Romanos was baptized a youth, ordained in Beirut and ministered in Constantinople. He is said to have spontaneously chanted his first—and most famous—hymn, *Kontakion of the Nativity*, after seeing a vision during an all-night vigil service. Romanos lived at the Monastery of Kyros until his death in 556.

CÆDMON THE MELODIST

The Celtic Saint Cædmon's birth date is unknown, though he died in 680. Historian and 8th century monk Bede wrote: "In the Monastery of this Abbess was a certain brother remarkable for the Grace of God to make religious verses. Out of scripture, he put forth sweet and humble poetical expressions in English, his native language. By his verse the minds of many were excited to despise the world, and aspire to heaven."

GIOVANNI FRANCESCO DI BERNARDONE

Born in 1181 in Assisi, Italy, young Francis lived a privileged life befitting the son of a successful cloth merchant. But in 1204 he had a vision that caused him to renounce material wealth. He and his followers lived a simple life of poverty, but were cheerful and full of songs, making a deep impression on all who heard them. From canonization in 1228 he has been known as St. Francis of Assisi.

THE PURITANS

Puritanism began in 17th century England as a reform movement against secular and superstitious tendencies in the Church Of England. Their political demands were foiled, but their fierce devotion to Jesus Christ and their rejection of worldly corruption had enormous effects upon England and—following the Great Migration to Massachusetts in the 1630s—also on America. Their hallmark was intense self-examination and high standards of personal Christian behavior.

THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS

Upon their discovery between 1947 and 1956 these famous documents confirmed the accuracy of the Old Testament, being 800 years older than the then-oldest manuscripts. But only forty percent of the scrolls are Biblical—the majority containing other Jewish writing, including poetry and praise.

THE ODES OF SOLOMON

These are the earliest known Christian hymns and psalms—dating from about the second century. Written in Aramaic, this collection is comprised of forty-two odes. The anonymous author is thought to have been a Jewish-Christian—and no relation to King Solomon. The Odes were likely chanted without instrumental accompaniment.

Prayers of the Ancients

This Is My Heaven

a Puritan prayer

To take him
To receive him
To possess him
To love him
To bless him
In my heart
In my soul
In my life

This is my heaven on earth
To live as Jesus would live
To be as Christ in this world
My heart and mind centered on him

In this world
He has given me
A beginning
And one day
I will be perfected
In the heavens above
To know his will
And to hold it in love



*Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard...the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.
I Corinthians 2:9*

Prayers of the Ancients

Make Me Whole

Ephrem the Syrian

Only wise and merciful physician
Make me whole and I will be whole
Heal thou the wounds of my soul

Who can restore like thee?
Open my eyes and I will see

Giver of light, illumine my heart
Only a ray of thy grace
Will dispel my darkened thoughts
That thy love shine as a flame

I am arid, I am dry
No water can I see
Thou O Lord doth know my heart
And that my soul thirsts after thee



My soul thirsteth for thee...in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; to see thy power and thy glory.

Psalm 63:1-2

He Took What Is Mine

Aurelius Ambrosius of Milan

He took what is mine
To impart what is his
That He might fill me with his nature
That he might fill me with his love

He took what is mine
To give what is his
That he might fill me with his mercy
That he might fill me with his grace

And he granted me a seat in heaven
For in Christ I am forgiven
The Word of God forgives my sin
Who took and gave with his own hand



Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows...
Isaiah 53:4

Prayers of the Ancients

The Little Child God

Romanos the Melodist

The maker of heaven came down
Born of a virgin
Grown in unwatered ground
Where forgiveness did blossom

This little child, God before the ages

Jesus the Christ, the true God
Of whom sang beings of fire, beings of clay
Has renewed all things
The old has passed away

This little child, God before the ages

Save the world O Savior
The purpose of thy journey here
To set thy universe aright
My guide, Creator, Redeemer



Being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death...
Philippians 2:8

Diadem Everlasting

Dead Sea Scrolls

I pray thou place on my head
A diadem in everlasting glory

Sanctify my seed
In glory without end

Renew thou for me
The covenant of everlasting priesthood

May thy unending blessing
Be the crown upon my head

Sanctify me
For the house of holiness

Lift thy countenance
Toward all my congregation

Judge thou all peoples
By the words of thy lips



Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life...

Psalm 23:6

Thy Gentle Showers

The Odes of Solomon

Thy gentle showers bathe me in serenity
I am shaded 'neath a cloud of peace
Guarding me at all times
Thy tender care is salvation to me

Those around me were distressed and trembling
From their councils came only smoke and fury
But my heart was tranquil in the Lord
He was to me more than shade
More than foundation

As a child nurtured by his mother
I was refreshed by the dew of the Lord
Enriched by his favor
At rest in his perfection

I spread out my hands to ascend
I directed myself toward the Most High
And I was redeemed



The Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day...
Psalm 121:5-6

Warrior Of Faith

Cædmon The Melodist

The all-just God, the Lord of heaven
Is with me
Strengthening my heart with grace
Granting triumph by his might and wisdom

Therefore I thrive in all my dealings
The Lord God prospereth me with his hand
In all my ways, O Lord, grant me favor
In word and deed with friend or foe

Since I am wretched and in exile
I pray for thy promise and thy pledge
That according to thy kindness
Thou wilt be to me a faithful friend

To thy people be thou gracious
Thou judge of mortal fates
To those who persevere, thy treasures
Within thy borders, the warrior of faith



*Blessed be the Lord my strength which teacheth my hands to war:
Psalm 144:1*

Prayers of the Ancients

Our Father

Giovanni Francesco di Bernardone

Our Father most holy
Creator, Redeemer
Defender, Provider
Consoler, Our Savior

Hear me from heaven
Enlighten me, teach me
Dwell in me, fill me
I thirst for thy divinity

Thy kingdom cover all the earth
Thy will be done as it is above
May I walk this day within thy love
And thy Spirit guide me as a dove

I thank thee Lord for daily bread
Received as from thy hand
Forgive my sins that I may stand
To also forgive, as is thy command

When temptation lures me from the way
If veiled or visible, sudden or prolonged
I pray thou Lord will lead me on
Deliver from evil t'ward thy world to come



*But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions...your Father knoweth what things ye have need of...
Matthew 6:7-8*