

Analyzing the Psalms, 2nd edition

Ernst R. Wendland. 2002. Dallas: SIL International

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From the foreword (by Katharine Barnwell, International Translation Coordinator Summer Institute of Linguistics):

More translation of the Old Testament is in progress now than at any previous time in history. And the Book of Psalms is always one of the books most requested by churches worldwide. One of the greatest challenges facing Bible translators is that of translating Hebrew poetry-and about forty per cent of the Old Testament is in poetical form. Ernst Wendland's workbook provides essential training and help for those who are facing this challenge. .

The workbook has already proved its worth in a number of locations in Africa where it has been used as a basic tool in translation workshops focusing on the Psalms. It stimulates the student to discover the wonder of the multifaceted patterns and intricacy of poetic forms in which the Psalms are expressed, and to relate these details of the form to the emotive feelings for which they are the vehicle of expression. Step-by-step guidance in analyzing individual Psalms, with accompanying practical exercises, ensures that translators internalize the insights shared and learns to apply them in their translation work.

Invaluable practical advice is offered in the appendix on how to organize a biblical poetry workshop. How to achieve a translation that is faithful both to the original content and to the original poetic expression is constantly in view, while recognizing the need for creative expression if this goal is to be achieved....

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(The author's presentation of the outline has been modified for this website presentation)

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RECOMMENDED READING