

My People's Prayer Book, vol. 9. Welcoming the Night, Minchah and Ma'ariv (Afternoon and Evening Prayer). Edited by Rabbi Lawrence A. Hoffman. Jewish Lights Publishing 2005.

The latest volume of the monumental popular study of the Jewish liturgy continues with an analysis of afternoon and evening prayers for weekdays and Sabbaths. Each prayer carries commentaries from 9 different perspectives, as per the previous volume, and it is in these commentaries that nuggets of pure gold can be found.

In addition, there are two excellent introductory essays by the editor, one on the mood of night-time prayer entitled Anxiety and Opportunity, which is informative, powerful and moving, and the other on the structure of the two services.

I have reviewed all of the volumes of My People's Prayer Book and have described it as an unparalleled creative exercise in its field. Volume 9 confirms that view. The opportunities for learning and personal and spiritual growth inherent in this series are huge, and the use of the material for teaching, for spirituality learning and meditational exercises is almost limitless.

Yet again – Bravo!!

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh