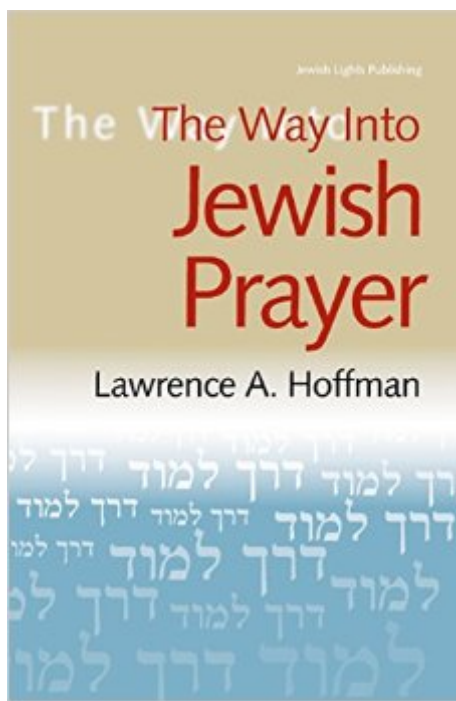


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# The Way Into Jewish Prayer



## Synopsis

An accessible introduction to the reasons for and the ways of Jewish prayer. The Way Into Jewish Prayer helps us to explore the reasons for and the ways of Jewish prayer. It opens the door to 3,000 years of Jewish prayer, making available all you need to feel at home in the Jewish way of communicating with God.

## Book Information

Series: Way Into--

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (7 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

Several years ago, I had the privilege of hearing Rabbi Hoffman speak at a convention I attended. He was a personable and dynamic speaker and he writes as compellingly as he speaks. Rabbi Hoffman is a Reform rabbi but, he views Jewish prayer from all perspectives, including traditional. He gives compelling reasons to pray as a Jew. Although many of the traditional prayers approach G-d as an anthropomorphic deity (a view of G-d that Hoffman rejects), Rabbi Hoffman nonetheless sees a great benefit to the Jewish liturgy since the traditional service requires that we pray together as a community. This unifying force of tradition makes Judaism the communal religion that it is. Although modern movements in Judaism make some changes to the liturgy to accomodate current understandings of theology, Rabbi Hoffman sees the benefits of traditional Jewish prayer while still supporting changes that are evolutionary, not drastic. A major example is refering to G-d in sexually neutral terms rather than describing G-d as a male. Rabbi Hoffman discusses the purpose of prayer and the theology underlining it. The book is presented in a manner that is accessible to someone unfamiliar with Judaism. Nonetheless, the book is comprehensive enough to offer new insights to

people, such as I, who have an extensive background in Judaism. Here is an example of something I learned. I thought that Conservative Judaism was formed to be in the middle between the traditional orthodox movement and the liberal reform movement. Actually, Reform was formed by German Jews and the less formal eastern European and Russian Jews were looked down upon by the upper class German Jews. Accordingly, the eastern European Jews, in breaking with orthodoxy, wanted a liturgy that was less formal and churchlike than the reform liturgy.

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