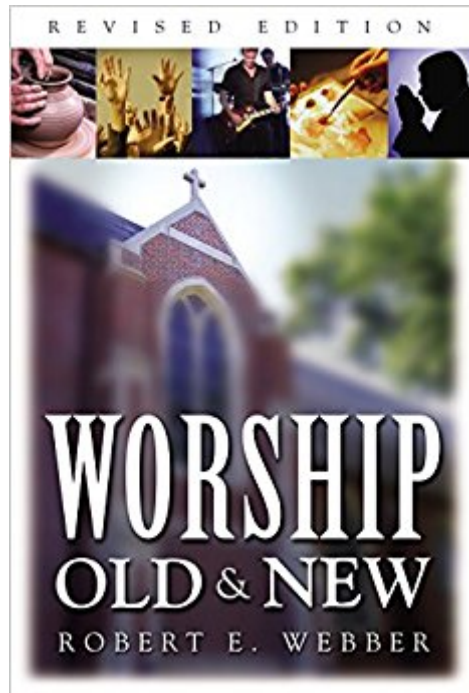




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# Worship Old And New



## Synopsis

A worship that will have staying power is a worship that is firmly grounded in the old, yet aware of and concerned for new ways to respond to the old, old story. In the first edition of *Worship Old and New*, Robert E. Webber introduced an approach to worship that blended historical and traditional practices with contemporary elements. Since then, the spreading fires of worship renewal have provided opportunity for fresh consideration. This significantly revised edition is the result of Webber's interaction with current worship trends. It is intended to be used both in the classroom and by those who want to improve worship in the local church. Reformatted for an easier, logical approach to worship theology, this revised edition of *Worship Old and New* is divided into four major sections, addressing the biblical foundation of worship, its theology, its history, and its practice. New information has been incorporated into each section to give the reader a better grasp of the biblical themes of worship, a deeper understanding of Old Testament customs, and a solid grounding in modern-day renewal movements. Especially significant is a reexamination of the actual practice of worship that goes beyond the merely academic to provide a practical perspective through the eyes of the worship leader and worshipers. Well-versed in the best of both past and present, *Worship Old and New* is a scholarly, up-to-date, and thought-provoking resource for those serious about exploring worship.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Three years ago, when doing research for a course on the history of worship I had been assigned to teach, I came across the writings of the late Robert Webber for the first time. I found them refreshing, insightful, and challenging. Having by then spent a sixty-year lifetime in various worship settings, from the fairly informal but still structured fundamentalist church of my youth, through the informal praise choruses and Psalms set to music of the Jesus Movement, followed by a decade immersed in the simple but staid liturgy of Presbyterian and Reformed circles (including six years as a pastor of Reformed congregations), through a seven-year flirtation with Lutheranism, and finally to a ten-year but increasingly frustrating encounter with the "contemporary-style" worship in a large megachurch auditorium, Robert Webber's books, particularly "Worship Old & New" crystallized many of my nascent ideas and affirmed most of the conclusions I was in the process of reaching on my own. But more than that, Webber's writings opened my eyes to new issues that I had not considered--for example, why the Lord's Supper ought to be an integral part of the worship service, the importance of integrating music into the entire service (rather than having a half hour or so of music followed by a half hour of preaching, with no obvious connection between the two), why elements such as a formal call to worship and a benediction are so important, the purpose of the recitation of creeds, confession of sin, and the reading of the Word, and so forth. As a result of thinking through these issues I came to see that worship ought to be like a finely woven and rich tapestry, and not like the monochromatic entertainment that too often passes for worship today. I also found Webber's brief history of worship in the Old and New Testaments and in the Early Christian church to be helpful, as well as his history of the forms of worship in the church in subsequent centuries. Although covered briefly in "Worship Old & New," as well as in his other books, it formed an ideal primer for understanding the history of worship and gave me a frame of reference for my subsequent study of this history in works more specifically devoted to this issue. With Webber's overall analysis as a basis (along with ideas I picked up from other books on the subject) I was able to formulate my own critique of "contemporary-style" worship, one that

eventually saw fruition in the bookÂ Spiritual Anorexia: How Contemporary Worship Is Starving the Church.

great resource

Good book

Dr Robert Webber and my life crossed paths of which I am Blessed and Grateful in 2000. It was the second year of his Institute of Worship in Florida. If you want to learn the insight of worship from the first century christian to our moving into the 21st century. This is your book. You will feel his brilliance, knowledge and heart for worship as you let your heart and mind guide you through this book. He was a man of greatest integrity and love for worshipping the Lord.

Clear and to the point. It is being used in my Biblical Lay Ministry Course as the official text.

I was gladly surprised by this book. It is not a testimonial or a confessional book. It is some sort of "light scholar" book, providing the historical background behind the liturgies elements.

Everyone has an opinion of how music should be done in the church. But we tend to argue over personal preference and not what gives God the most glory. This is a great way to understand where music has come from, where it is going, and how to use music in our local church to glorify God.

Good book for worship class

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