Review

Challies, Tim, and Keesee, Tim. "From the Rising of the Sun: A Journey of Worship Around the World." Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2025. ISBN 978-0310160533

By Ernie Koop, DMin

This short personal reflection of a journey around the world, visiting different congregations for shared worship experiences, is an enjoyable read. At times it felt like a travelog, with plenty of cultural, ecclesiastical observations, but that was mixed with reflective sections (like 'the heart posture of a visitor') and discussion questions for reflection.

The book could have greater depth, but it is not intended as an academic presentation on cross-cultural contextualization for a seminary class. The conversation about culturally appropriate greeting reminds of J. Daniel Hess' 'From the Other's Point of View'. The authors share a helpful observation, "Norms related to gestures, notions of personal space, tones and volumes of speech, and interactions with members of the opposite sex, or with people much older or younger can all vary widely across the world." (45)

The authors also comment on worship, suggesting that "the best leaders are the ones who fade into the background so God's people can be heard." (60) They also observe, while traveling from country to country, much more variety in the "circumstances" of worship than in the elements. In other words, their assessment was that most held to the same "non-negotiables, but varied in the particular way they worshipped or the included components." (127)

This book also comes with a series of videos that further document the authors' travels. The videos document this journal of worship experiences around the world.

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