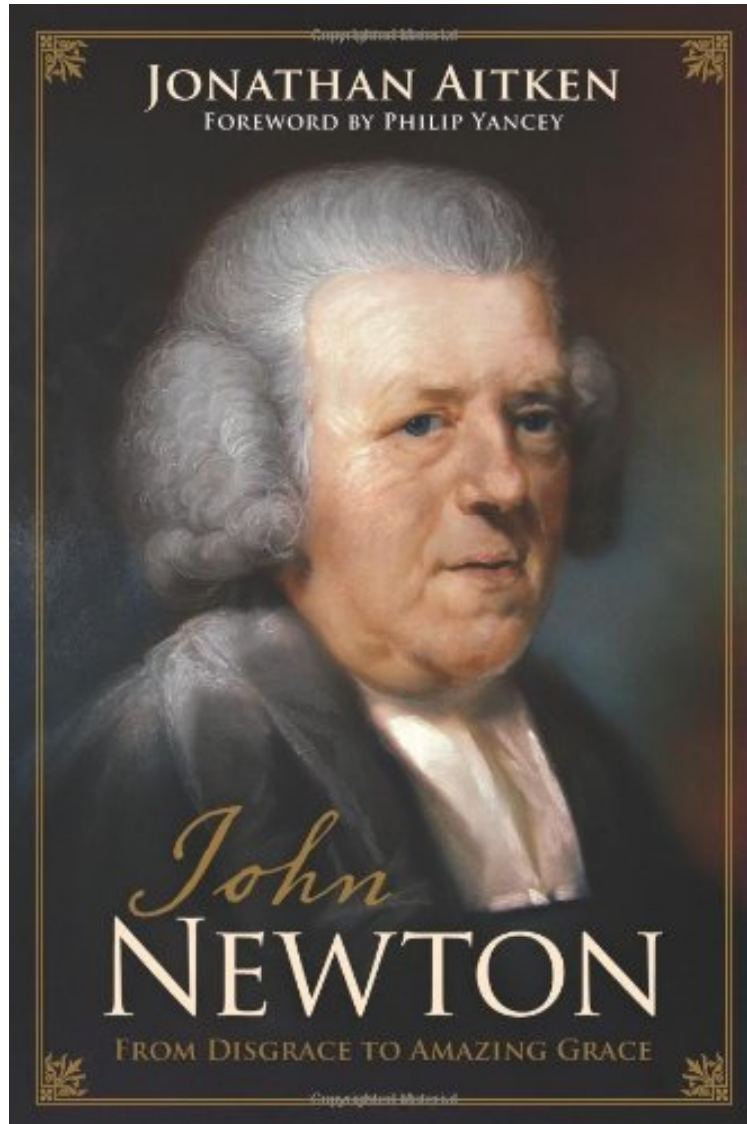


(Ebook free) John Newton: From Disgrace to Amazing Grace

John Newton: From Disgrace to Amazing Grace

Jonathan Aitken

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Jonathan Aitken : John Newton: From Disgrace to Amazing Grace before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised John Newton: From Disgrace to Amazing Grace:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Depth For A Redeemed Sinner's Great Story By Z. D. Houghton Many people have likely heard of John Newton either as the author of "Amazing Grace", or by the William Wilberforce biopic of the same name. Jonathan Aitken's biography of Newton, however, reveals a Christian life with an influence far beyond hymns or his association with the abolition movement. This is a story of redemption and ministry as much as it is anything. Newton's early dissolute life is well-covered in this book: a troubled childhood, a

quick mind given over to blasphemy and atheism in his wild youth, and his dark years as both slave and slave trader. Newton's conversion (and many narrow escapes) is well-documented, and his turning to God is portrayed as the agonizing, deep process it was--there are no sudden changes here, but continual pitfalls and setbacks in a man who slowly turned into a great warrior for the Lord. For those with a calling to the ministry, Newton's struggles with ordination and his following career as a pastor will be of great interest. Newton was innovative, lively, inclusive, and gospel-centered as a pastor. It is not to say that his ministry did not have great struggles and stumbles, but his attitude and perseverance will likely inspire readers. Some of the machinations and historical aspects of the society in Newton's time will be of great interest to lovers of history. The aspects dealing with abolition and the writing of "Amazing Grace" might seem brief to some readers expecting to find those items front-and-center, but honestly, John Newton's life is exemplary for his larger-than-life conversion story and preaching as much as it is for his more well-known accomplishments. Aitken's book starts a bit slow, but finds a livelier rhythm when it comes to Newton's ordination and subsequent ministry. The depth of the book is quite excellent, with many of Newton's correspondences and diaries mined for context and to show just how committed Newton became in the service of Christ. This is a book worth sticking with, as readers will be rewarded with an insight into a man who was one of the great redemption stories in his generation, and many generations to come.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Strong Retelling of a Remarkable Life By Crestviewer John Newton was incredible (*incredible*), and Jonathan Aitken does an admirable job recounting his life. An impressed Navy sailor; a deserter; a slave ship captain; a new Christian struggling to cast-off his immoral habits; a more mature Christian struggling to find his calling; a small-town pastor impacting his nation; a big-city pastor impacting his government and the world; a hymn-writer; a best-selling author; a loving, tender husband; a networker (in the best sense of the word); a man committed to prayer and reflection; an adoptive father ... he lived a remarkable life. Escaping near death multiple times in his early years, he lived a long, faithful life and - in the end - he wasn't afraid of dying (nor of his wife's death) because he knew the one who would welcome him home.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Engaging text on a fascinating life By T. Hooker Like many believers before and since, John Newton was a man who struggled. He had struggles with his temper, foul language, immorality, morally dubious business, rejection, and so many other things in his life. Yet, once he came to know Jesus in a personal way at 23, Newton encountered a grace that was not only greater than all his sin but that would, in time, transform him into one of the most godly men of Christian history. This grace would even lead him to mentor William Wilberforce, whose tireless efforts brought down the trade that had earlier supplied Newton's livelihood! There is so much more that could be written about John Newton, from his humility to his generous heart. Yet, readers should never forget that all the good in Newton's life came from knowing that he was a great sinner and that Christ is a great Savior. (347)

Most Christians know John Newton as the slave ship captain who famously converted to Christ on the high seas and then penned one of the greatest hymns of the faith: Amazing Grace. Less well-known is Newton's significance in his own day as an evangelical icon, great preacher and theologian, and important influence on abolitionist William Wilberforce. In this fascinating biography, Jonathan Aitken explores many facets of Newton's eventful life story, helping readers better understand his remarkable conversion and passionate fight to end the slave trade. The first modern account to draw on Newton's unpublished diaries and correspondence, this colorful and historically significant portrait provides fresh insights into the life and legacy of one of the most important Christians of the 18th century. Now available in paperback.

"Using diaries and correspondence, this biography crosses the boundaries of history and religion."