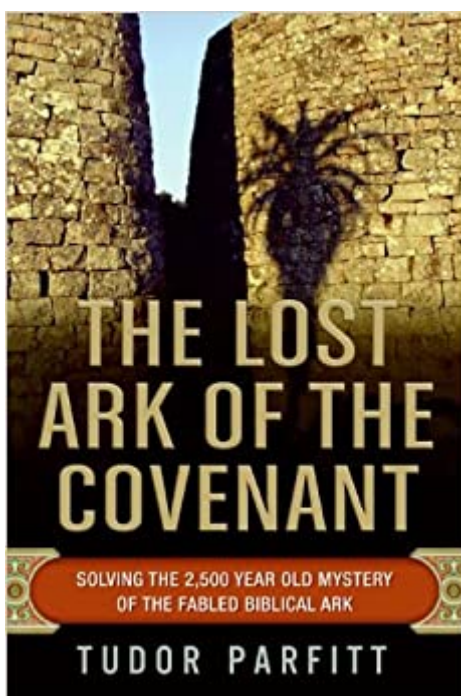


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# The Lost Ark Of The Covenant: Solving The 2,500-Year-Old Mystery Of The Fabled Biblical Ark



## Synopsis

The Lost Ark of the Covenant is the real-life account of an astounding quest—professor Tudor Parfitt's effort to recover the revered artifact that contained the Ten Commandments, sacred to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. This holy object disappeared from the Temple when the Babylonians invaded Jerusalem in 586 BC and was lost—apparently forever. According to the biblical account, the Ark was built at the command of God, in accord with Moses's prophetic vision on Mount Sinai. The Ark, believed to be the throne of God, was carried by the Israelite high priests in the wilderness during their harrowing search for a homeland. When the Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem, the Ark entered the domain of legend. The mysterious disappearance of arguably the most important religious artifact in history led to a plethora of theories about the location of the Ark. Its whereabouts unknown, adventurers risked their lives and fortunes for over two millennia in attempts to discover this sacred treasure. With painstaking historical scholarship, groundbreaking genetic science, and hair-raising fieldwork, Parfitt, who the Wall Street Journal calls "a British Indiana Jones," debunks the previous myths and reveals the shocking history of the Ark and its keepers. From Israel to Egypt, Ethiopia, and the ruins of Great Zimbabwe, the journey leads to places Parfitt could never have imagined. He encounters a cannibalistic tribe in Papua, New Guinea. He is ambushed and shot at in Africa. And he narrowly escapes being kidnapped by Islamist outlaws in the wilder reaches of Yemen. Throughout his search, he is aided by a motley crew of kabbalistic mystics, Muslim holy men, charlatans and crooks, tribal elders, and scheming politicians. The Lost Ark of the Covenant is a vivid and page-turning account of the culmination of two decades of research by an acclaimed scholar and adventurer. In the end, legend becomes reality as an unknown history comes to light, and with it our understanding of this lost treasure is changed forever.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In 1993, Parfitt, a professor of Jewish studies in London, published *Journey to the Vanished City*, a fascinating look at the Lemba people of South Africa, who believed they were descended from Jews. In the intervening years, through use of DNA, the Lemba's claim was proven correct. Here, Parfitt, a real-life Indiana Jones, details another quest, his attempt to solve the mystery of the Ark of the Covenant, a Jewish artifact said to have contained the Ten Commandments.

Parfitt's narrative fits the Indiana Jones label; it's thoroughly cinematic in tone, with scenes of heartstopping action and featuring characters so quirky they feel more fictional than real. (With no notes, and the disclaimer that names and personal details have been changed, who can say for sure?) But the book also has strong scholarly underpinnings that explain the mystical nature of the Ark, its possible uses, and why and how it could still exist. The resolution of the mystery again evokes *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, but it could have real-world significance, and it just might lead to another fascinating adventure. --Ilene Cooper

"It's worthy of a Spielberg epic: an intrepid British don's 20-year mission to find the Lost Ark of the Covenant." (Daily Mail) "Parfitt's passionately crafted new theory, like his first, could eventually be proven right." (Time Magazine) "Parfitt's scholarly, fascinating work explains and explodes a pervasive myth." (The Times) "Deemed 'the British Indiana Jones' by the Wall Street Journal, Parfitt is both scholar and adventurer. This real-life account [is] a gripping yarn. Recommended." (Library Journal)

The *Lost Ark of the Covenant* was an interesting account of Tudor Parfitt's search for what he considers is the lost Ark of the Covenant. For the most part, Mr. Parfitt's account was written in an engaging and witty manner. His conclusions, though interesting, left a lot to be desired. The ending was a bit disappointing and unsatisfying. If you are looking for the resting place of the traditional Ark of the Covenant then you won't find it here. On the other hand, if you find the oral traditions surrounding the Ark worthy of further investigation then you will enjoy the author's decades of research into this intriguing subject.

For a scholar, it was disappointing. I wanted to know where the Ark went, not all the places the author drank whisky or the clever ways he could insult people. He brought up interesting facts, but didn't contact them well.

A fascinating real life quest for the answer to an age old question.

Excellent and interesting

It was fun following Tudor Parfitt on his wander through northern Africa and Israel. No observable conclusion, but a great trip.

Tudor Parfitt's account of his search for the lost Ark of the Covenant is brilliant. Never mind that it's based on a myth - all our civilizations are based on foundational myths. His interactions with those he met are compelling and offer to many of us a glimpse of people and cultures we're not likely to have the opportunity to meet ourselves. I hated for it to end and have ordered copies for family and friends. emilie barnett  
Cleveland, Ohio

If you are looking for an authoritative and informative book on the Ark of the Covenant, my advice is for you to keep looking and pass this one by. If however, you are looking for information about the lost descendants of ancient Israel, this is for you. I also get the distinct impression that Mr. Parfitt is one of those types that only looks for those facts that fit his particular theories. I can't quite buy into them. Mainly because he doesn't seem to have any respect for anyone's religious beliefs and constantly refers to them as "cults". He doesn't believe that the ancient Israelites had the tools, material or ability to construct a gold covered ark, even though they were the artisans and craftsmen of Egypt and had all of the spoils of Egypt with them. Doesn't seem to bother him that they made a golden calf to worship though. Wonder how they did that? He discounts all the testimony of the power and presence of God and replaces it with a crude wooden drum and theories of gunpowder or some other inflammable material. If you are interested in the history of the Lemba, by all means buy this book. It has some interesting parts, but nothing that I would consider relevant to the present whereabouts of the Lost Ark of the Covenant.

I am looking forward to be able to sit down and read this book on my up-coming vacation. It looks

like great history and wonderful pictures

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