



## The Lost Temple of Israel: A Real Life Indiana Jones Story

Zvi Koenigsberg

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In 1981 a series of chance encounters led me to participate in the excavation of an archaeological site in Israel. Early on, our excavation revealed that the site had been the scene of a remarkable series of events that we could tie to specific biblical texts. Working with those and other texts, I have been driven to examine related archaeological, anthropological, topological, geographical, and historical evidence. Subjecting the combined weight of that evidence to logical evaluation, I have come to what I believe is an inescapable conclusion: The site I helped excavate is the actual site of the first Temple of the people of Israel in the land of Israel.

Contrary to universally accepted religious and scientific doctrine, the site to which I refer is not at the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. More to the point for the modern reader, it was the site that, for about a century, housed the famous Ark sought after by Indiana Jones in Raiders of the Lost Ark. Coincidentally, both of these adventures began in 1981. The glaring difference is that my story, unlike Spielberg's, is real. The origins of this excavation, the discoveries that emerged, and most important of all, how I put the pieces together, are the subjects of this book.

Over the years, I have told this story to people with all levels of biblical, archaeological, and historical knowledge, from those who have no background in these fields to their top experts. Once they have heard my conclusions, rather than ask for further details, most people want to dismiss them. Where, they ask me, do I get the authority to make such claims? However, everyone who has had the patience to listen to the details of my research withdraws that question and subjects me to extensive interrogation. Not even the greatest experts have been able to offer reasonable alternatives to my answers. I suggest that once you understand my conclusions, you will have to recognize that a true understanding of the Bible is still beyond us all.

I was most fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with the best mentor imaginable, the late Professor Benjamin Mazar. During the course of his illustrious career, Professor Mazar served as president of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, was chairman of various departments at that university, and directed the excavations at the Western Wall in Jerusalem after the Six-Day War of 1967. I shall always cherish the generous gifts of his time and patience.



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