



The Temple of Solomon: From Ancient Israel to Secret Societies

By James Wasserman

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A fully illustrated history of the Temple of Solomon

- Examines the Temple of Solomon in the Hebrew Scriptures, the New Testament, and Apocryphal writings
- Explores its role in the founding of Freemasonry, the legends of the Knights Templar, the doctrines of the Kabbalah, and the teachings of Islam
- Explains the sacred nature of the Temple Mount--the site of the Temple of Solomon--and the secrets that may still be hidden there
- Richly illustrated, including many photos and images from rare archives

The spiritual heart of many esoteric societies, the Temple of Solomon was located atop the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, a site venerated by the three great monotheistic religions as the intersection of Divine and human. Built by King Solomon at the peak of ancient Israel's power, the Temple of Solomon housed the golden Ark of the Covenant in its Holy of Holies, a sacred chamber where one could communicate directly with God. Centuries after the temple's destruction, the Temple Mount was used as the headquarters for the Knights Templar during the Crusades, and countless legends have come down through the centuries about the secrets they may have uncovered there, including discovery of the Holy Grail or the Ark of the Covenant.

Richly illustrated with biblical and Masonic illustrations, photographs, and ancient and modern paintings--many from rare archives--this book explores the Temple of Solomon in the Hebrew Scriptures, the New Testament, and Apocryphal writings as well as its role in the founding of Freemasonry, the legends of the Knights Templar, the doctrines of the Kabbalah, and Muhammad's visionary journey from the Temple Mount through the heavens. Seeking to understand the powerful desire of many religions and secret societies to re-create the temple through ritual and prayer, James Wasserman explains why it was built, the magical forces King Solomon may have used in its creation, what its

destruction meant for Jews and Christians alike, and why the Knights Templar as well as several modern secret societies named their orders after it. Detailing the sacred architecture of this perfectly proportioned mystical edifice through words and art, the author reveals the Temple of Solomon as the affirmation of God's presence in human affairs, the spiritual root of Western culture, and an important monument to the Divine nearly forgotten in today's secular times but sorely needed to bridge the divide between our ancient past and our spiritual future.

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Editorial Review

Review

“Erudite and gorgeously illustrated, *The Temple of Solomon* places the Jerusalem Temple in its historical and cultural perspective, drawing on sacred books and ancient historians alike to trace the history of the Tabernacle, the First and Second Temples, and the Temple as a visionary experience and esoteric paradigm through more than three thousand years of transformations. This is essential reading not only for students of esoteric spirituality and ancient mysteries but also for anyone fascinated by the lore of the world’s most famous holy place.” (*John Michael Greer, author of The Wealth of Nature, The New Encyclopedia of the Occult, and “T”*)

“For those of all faiths or none, layman or specialist alike . . . this erudite and eminently informative book is a comprehensive, readable survey of the history of the Temple of Solomon, one of Western culture’s most important buildings, replete with fascinating reflection and objective historical detail. A visual cornucopia, its beautiful illustrations take the reader further toward the heart and soul of the timeless wisdom of Solomon--a journey not to be missed. Highly recommended.” (*Karen Ralls, Ph.D., world religions and spirituality scholar at the University of Oxford, England, a*)

“*The Temple of Solomon* represents the separation of sacred and profane, the sacrifice of space, effort, and resources to a greater yet invisible purpose. It signifies the distillation of the spiritual aspiration from the realm of the physical body. It is the manifestation of faith, the materialization of intention, the dedication of oneself and one’s community to the service and celebration of the divine. It is the Word made Flesh.” (*From the prologue*)

“Wasserman’s lavishly illustrated narrative places the Temple of Solomon, with all its rich cultural and metaphorical meanings, in its proper literary context by returning to the original source of everything we know about it: The Bible. *The Temple of Solomon* is more than just the literary biography of a building, however; it is the anatomy of an icon that has shaped humanity’s faith, history, art, literature, archaeology, fraternity, and so much more.” (*Richard Kaczynski, Ph.D., author of Perdurabo: The Life of Aleister Crowley*)

“In *The Temple of Solomon*, James Wasserman has delivered an inspired work on one of the most important subjects in the history of the spiritual tradition. This book is unique and timely, serving to bring the Judeo-Christian foundations of Western civilization into focus. *The Temple of Solomon* explores the spiritual and cultural origin of the threats to life and liberty we face in our lives today. The author brings clarity, wisdom, and personal experience to this work, which sets it apart from all other books on the subject.” (*Daniel Pineda, author of The Book of Secrets*)

“James Wasserman provides a great service by keeping the story of the Holy Temple firmly fixed in the narrative of the Scriptures. From the Books of Moses to the vision of the New Jerusalem in the Revelation of St. John the Divine, from the Crusades of the Knights Templar to the esoteric interpretations of Freemasonry, the evolution and meaning of the Temple is revealed in a rich matrix of history, hope, faith and personal spiritual experience. It is this latter component that gives this book such immediacy. With genuine passion, the author demonstrates that historicity--while vital to our knowledge of the subject--is far less important than coming to understand that the Holy of Holies lies within the human heart and that the Temple of God is the body of the flesh that beareth it.” (*J. Daniel Gunther, author of Initiation in the Aeon of the Child*)

“James Wasserman has done it again! In *The Temple of Solomon* he brings dusty, biblical history to life in an exciting but scholarly way and then fully meets the challenge of making it relevant to the modern reader. He shows that when the law of God is written in our hearts and flowing in our blood, our physical body temple becomes our spiritual temple. Well done!” (*Dr. Bob Hieronimus, author of Founding Fathers, Secret Societies and host of 21st Century Radio*)

“While the Holy Ground of the Temple Mount has long been mentioned in esoteric literature, for far too long those who would claim to be its modern heirs have ignored and even been hostile to their Abrahamic origins. In the Holy of Holies it is said that God spoke to Israel; in these pages, it may be said that God is speaking to us, making it essential reading for students of the Western esoteric traditions.” (*Mark Stavish, author of Between the Gates and Freemasonry: Rituals, Symbols & History of the Secret*)

“Whether your interest is mystical, metaphysical, or academic, this is a book you don’t want to miss. Wasserman has captured the power of both the Temple Mount and the structures that have been built there through the millennia. . . Available in both hardcover and paperback - and filled with photographs, paintings, and drawings - this is a great coffee table book, gift item, or religious / historical resource.” (*Anna Jedrzejewski, InannaWorks.com, October 2011*)

“With colorful paintings, illustrations, and photographs all throughout, *The Temple of Solomon* is a strongly recommended pick for community and library religion and history collections.” (*Midwest Book Review*)

“This is an excellent book that covers the entire history of the Temple of Solomon. This covers the building of the temple, its operation by the priests, and its destruction by the Roman Legions. This covers the knights Templars, the Crusades, and the Dome of the Rock and explains the modern day conflict between the Jews and the Muslims. This book makes everything clear to the reader. This is an Excellent book that you should add to your religious library.” (*Ed Porter, Lone Star Book Review, January 2013*)

“If you are looking for deeply embedded truths that unite the Judeo-Muslim-Christian religions, you will find them in this book, an in-depth study of the very temple where their beginnings all took place.” (*Rahasya Poe, Lotus Guide, July 2013*)

From the Inside Flap
HISTORY / RELIGION

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JAMES WASSERMAN is the author of several books, including *The Templars and the Assassins* and *The Secrets of Masonic Washington*. A longtime student of the occult and a member of the Ordo Templi Orientis since 1976, he lives in New York City.

From the Back Cover
HISTORY / RELIGION

"Erudite and gorgeously illustrated, *The Temple of Solomon* places the Jerusalem Temple in its historical and cultural perspective, drawing on sacred books and ancient historians alike to trace the history of the Tabernacle, the First and Second Temples, and the Temple as a visionary experience and esoteric paradigm through more than three thousand years of transformations. This is essential reading not only for students of esoteric spirituality and ancient mysteries but also for anyone fascinated by the lore of the world's most famous holy place."

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jessica Bradsher:

The book *The Temple of Solomon: From Ancient Israel to Secret Societies* give you a sense of feeling enjoy for your spare time. You need to use to make your capable considerably more increase. Book can to be your best friend when you getting anxiety or having big problem along with your subject. If you can make looking at a book *The Temple of Solomon: From Ancient Israel to Secret Societies* for being your habit, you can get a lot more advantages, like add your personal capable, increase your knowledge about many or all subjects. You can know everything if you like wide open and read a guide *The Temple of Solomon: From Ancient Israel to Secret Societies*. Kinds of book are a lot of. It means that, science publication or encyclopedia or other folks. So , how do you think about this book?

Sara Otoole:

Reading a e-book tends to be new life style within this era globalization. With examining you can get a lot of information that may give you benefit in your life. Having book everyone in this world may share their idea. Guides can also inspire a lot of people. Many author can inspire their very own reader with their story or their experience. Not only situation that share in the books. But also they write about advantage about something that you need case in point. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your kids, there are many kinds of book which exist now. The authors on earth always try to improve their talent in writing, they also doing some investigation before they write to the book. One of them is this *The Temple of Solomon: From Ancient Israel to Secret Societies*.

Carlos Reese:

Reading a book to get new life style in this season; every people loves to examine a book. When you read a book you can get a great deal of benefit. When you read books, you can improve your knowledge, because book has a lot of information into it. The information that you will get depend on what sorts of book that you have read. If you wish to get information about your research, you can read education books, but if you want to entertain yourself read a fiction books, these kinds of us novel, comics, and soon. The *The Temple of Solomon: From Ancient Israel to Secret Societies* offer you a new experience in studying a book.

Harry Anderson:

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