



The Lost Tribes of Israel: The History of a Myth

By Tudor Parfitt

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The quest for the Lost Tribes of Israel, like the quest for the Holy Grail, is one of the enduring motifs underlying Western views of the wider world. It has spawned legends that have been used to explain the origin of myriad people around the globe, from ancient times until the present. Each tribe of Israel claimed descent from one of the twelve sons of Jacob, and the land of Israel was eventually divided up between them. The tribes disappeared from history centuries before Christ, but the Bible foretold that one day they would be reunited in the final redemption of the people of Israel. Their subsequent history became a tapestry of hearsay, and the belief persisted that they had been “lost” in some remote part of the world. In his new book, Tudor Parfitt travels the world to trace the history of this compelling myth. Tudor Parfitt is the author of *Operation Moses* and *Journey to a Vanished City*.

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Editorial Review

Review

“One of the ‘enduring motifs underlaying Western views of the wider world’ ...” -- *Kirkus Reviews*

About the Author

Tudor Parfitt is Reader in Modern Jewish Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies, and Director of its Centre for Jewish Studies.

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