

Rabbi Claims Lost Temple Treasures Are Hidden Beneath the Vatican and Could Return to Israel

What if some of the holiest artifacts in biblical history never disappeared at all?

For centuries, the fate of the sacred treasures once housed in Jerusalem's Temple has fueled speculation, archaeological searches and more than a few wild theories. But one rabbi now says his decades-long investigation points toward an explosive possibility: At least some of the treasures may be hidden beneath Vatican City.

Rabbi Harry Hirschel Moskoff, an investigative archaeologist and author, told Israel365 News that more than 20 years of research have convinced him that sacred vessels carried away following the destruction of the Second Temple in A.D. 70 survived.

And when it comes to the legendary Temple menorah, Moskoff isn't mincing words.

"That for sure is there," he told Israel365 News, while acknowledging that he has never personally seen it.

Moskoff says his conclusion is based upon a collection of testimonies he has gathered over the years from people allegedly connected to the treasures.

One involves the late Rabbi David Menashe, whom Moskoff described as a French medical student living in Vatican City during the 1960s. According to Moskoff's account, Menashe befriended the son of the Vatican governor, who later became

chief archivist. Moskoff claims Menashe was offered the opportunity to see the golden temple vessels if he converted to Christianity.

Menashe ultimately did not convert, Moskoff said, but allegedly saw what was being kept underground. Moskoff further claims Menashe gave testimony about the encounter to Israeli authorities in 2002.



To order Kirt Schneider's new book, The Mystery of the Tabernacle, visit .

Another bizarre account involves a Swiss Guard whom Moskoff says found out he had Jewish ancestry. The guard allegedly gained access to an underground location and saw the menorah illuminated so brightly that his eyesight was affected afterward. According to Moskoff, the guard later gave his testimony to Rabbi Elio Toaff, the former chief rabbi of Rome.

But here's where the mystery gets even deeper.

Moskoff himself says he has descended four or five stories beneath St. Peter's Basilica during a Vatican-arranged tour. He didn't find the Temple treasures, but described an underground world filled with security checkpoints and glass doors.

None of these extraordinary claims has been independently verified, something Moskoff himself acknowledges. Yet he believes the Vatican's response has changed over time, telling Israel365 News that where officials once denied possessing such artifacts, the institution now neither confirms nor denies his claim.

Then there is perhaps the greatest biblical mystery of them all: the Ark of the Covenant.

Moskoff stops short of claiming he knows exactly where the Ark

rests. His research, however, has led him to theorize that it could be inside a chamber southwest of the Dome of the Rock on Jerusalem's Temple Mount.

And that's where this story becomes more than an archaeological treasure hunt.

Jeremiah 27:22 describes sacred vessels carried into Babylon remaining there until the Lord's appointed time to bring them back and restore them. The biblical pattern is striking: exile does not necessarily mean destruction. Sometimes what appears lost is simply waiting to be restored.

Could sacred objects from Israel's ancient Temple still be waiting for their moment to return to Jerusalem?

Moskoff certainly believes that day is coming.

"God willing," he told Israel365 News, "as soon as in our days."

If he's right, one of history's greatest archaeological mysteries may not end with a discovery.

It may end with something being returned.

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