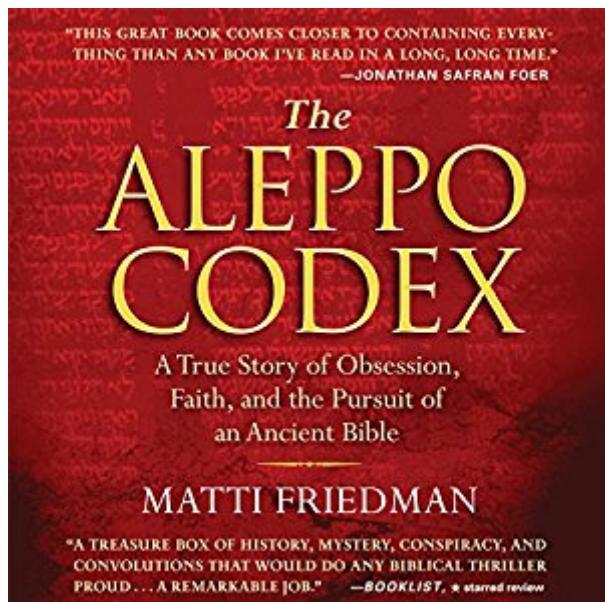


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# The Aleppo Codex: A True Story Of Obsession, Faith, And The Pursuit Of An Ancient Bible



## **Synopsis**

A true-life thriller about the journey of one of the world's most precious manuscripts - the 10th-century annotated Hebrew Bible known as the Aleppo Codex - from its hiding place in an ancient Syrian synagogue to the newly founded Israel. Using his research, including documents that have been secret for 50 years and interviews with key players, AP correspondent Friedman tells a story of political upheaval, international intrigue, charged courtroom battles, obsession, and subterfuge.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Journalist and author, Matti Friedman details the history and the journey of one of the greatest books in Jewish Biblical Literature. The Codex, known as the Aram-Tzova, and later, the Aleppo Crown, originated in Tiberius in 930CE. Scholars painstakingly copied in an exact and precise replication, each and every letter, each and every vowel, and each and every word of the Tanach, the Hebrew Bible. The express purpose of the Codex was to insure that Jews in the Diaspora would have only one exact Bible for every Jewish community throughout the world, as singularity and unification was ultimately the only possibility for the survival of Judaism. The Codex, meant to be a reference guide, issued as a bound book rather than a rolled scroll. Mattie Friedman's non-fiction work offers a wealth of information on Jewish history, and though slows in parts, bogged down in detail, ultimately brings to light the fate of the treasured and beloved, priceless Crown of Aleppo.

Plus -1. The Aleppo Codex, including its ancient and modern history, is worth reading about. You will learn more about it here than you will in Wikipedia, &c.2. The discussion of the Israeli government's treatment of the sacred texts of North African and Arabian Jewish communities that were resettled in Israel is a sidelight, but interesting. It's also illustrative of the attitude of the the secular Jews who founded modern Israel. They placed the culture of these ancient communities in museums, while pushing their people into the modern socialist framework. Minus -There simply isn't enough here for a book length piece. Too much conjecture, both on the part of the author and many of the interviewees. Overall, I'm glad the author took the time to do the leg work. I bought the Kindle version.

This book had many twists and turns in the author's dogged determination to find out what really happened to this sacred book. Had this not been labeled non-fiction, I would have thought it was fiction. This author takes the reader on his journey to discover the truth. His conclusion as to what happened is unexpected, yet makes sense.

This is a terrific account of the recovery of the Aleppo Codex, perhaps the most important surviving manuscript of the Hebrew Bible. The story of this codex is well known -- or should I say, thought to be well known. Friedman shows that much of the story surrounding this codex is false. He tells his quest for the true story in a very compelling manner. I highly recommend this book. It is far, far better than the other recent account of the codex, which now sells for over \$100 on .

This is an amazing story. I love science fiction but this true story beats almost anything and it's true. More twists plots and characters than any fiction writer could manage. Including a death that might be murder! A morality tale of the venality and corruption that people and governments are capable of when an object of great value comes into play. A sad commentary on the people involved in a country that could have been a "light onto the world

I have been aware of the official, sanitized, history of the Codex, so I was surprised at Friedman's exposure of the apparent theft of the missing pages. Maybe I shouldn't have been surprised at the cover-up by so many academicians, but I found this at least as disturbing as the apparent theft itself. Friedman leads the reader through his own stages of discovery. He writes well and makes a convincing case. Friedman refrains from an actual "j'accuse" moment, but lets the reader draw his

own conclusions.

Talk about convoluted mysterious loss of papers that are a part of the history of the Jewish people . Deception seemed to be everywhere, the Israeli officials were far from honest, the Syrian people were equally duplicitous and it all made for a great whodunit with no real answers at the end. The Mystery remains to this day as far as I know but Mr. Friedman made it into a great story. thanks

This is wonderful book. I highly recommned it not just for people fascinated by the Codex (like myself) but for anyone. Great elements of mystery, history, fraud, and possible murder, all wraped up in the murky world of rare book collecting. I think also, given the strong feelings of all involved, this book is presents a balanced approach, and does not promote one side or the other. And for me, the book gives much to think about. The community of Aleppo claims jurisdiction, but only by possession (true a 700+ year possession). It was written in Tiberias, taken to Jerusalem, ransonmed to Fustat (Cairo) and then taken to Aleppo. Who really gets to say - this is mine? And even more, why is the question is it mine even relevant? In the end, the Codex is a book. It was meant to be read, not hidden away in a vault, not collected, not pursued, and not argued over. It even lost its identity as a codex/book and referred to as a crown. As is so often the case with so many things, we tend to look only at the cover, and forget to look inside! But the Aleppo Codex is a good read, a good read that gets one to think. What more can one want from a book?

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