



A Man Called Blessed

Ted Dekker

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One man holds the key to locating the Ark of the Covenant—but he's hidden deep in the desert and no one has seen him since he was a boy.

In this explosive sequel to *Blessed Child*, Jewish soldier-turned-archaeologist Rebecca Solomon leads a team deep into the Ethiopian desert to find the one man who may know the final resting place of the Ark of the Covenant. Such a discovery would bring hope back to her people. Her search brings excitement and danger—including unexpected love and a discovery far more powerful than even the holy artifact.

Meanwhile, Islamic fundamentalists dispatch Ismael, their most accomplished assassin, to pursue Rebecca and the man she's searching for. These men fear that the Ark's discovery will compel Israel to rebuild Solomon's temple—on the very site of their holy mosque in Jerusalem. But the man they seek is no ordinary man.

His name is Caleb, and he too is on a mission—to find again the love he embraced as a child and to share that love with the world.

A Man Called Blessed Details

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Amy says

I liked book one better. There was a lot of action and it kept my attention but I thought there was too much of the side stories that fed into the main story. I also felt there was not enough about Caleb in this one.

Tara L. Cole says

This book continues the story of Caleb, the boy who the Holy Spirit moved through, from the book Blessed Child. It asks the question where does our faith come from and how do we find it once we've lost sight of it? Rebecca Solomon is seeking the Ark of the Covenant and Caleb is seeking God. How will they both find what they are after?

Gilsheyela says

Amazing story. I liked A Man Called Blessed even more than Bright and Dekker's Blessed Child. This story related the young adult years of Caleb, the orphan boy who was adopted by Jason and Leah in the first book. Caleb is back at the rebuilt monastery in Ethiopia with his parents, struggling to find his way as he has lost his ability to connect with God. In the meantime, Israel and her Arab neighbors are embroiled in the ongoing hatred of each other that consumes them. Enter Rebecca Solomon, trained Israeli soldier, who is on a mission to find the long-lost Ark of the Covenant. In a race against time, neighbor hostility, and bloodshed, Rebecca and Caleb find themselves on exhilarating and surprising journeys that draw each of them into the arms of God.

I was blown away by this story. Although the violence and killing in this book was probably the worst that I had read in any Christian book, they all seemed to serve the purpose of the story by not sanitizing the Middle Eastern conflict for our American "sensibilities."

My only complaint about this story is that Jason and Leah's fate is never resolved, with the exception of a brief reference at the end to their continued existence. They drop out of the story halfway through. Other than that, I highly recommend this book (and its predecessor) to anyone who wants a glimpse of God's power and purpose in His children's lives as well as in the direction of the world. As Caleb says, "Do you want to walk off a cliff?"

Jeffrey Gerhart says

"A Man Called Blessed" is a sequel to "Blessed Child", which was a story about a child named Caleb who grew up in a monastery in Ethiopia after being left there as an infant. He had special powers from Heaven and he tries to use them to make the world a better place. "A Man Called Blessed" is this child as a grown man and he's lost his faith and power, but due to a band of Jewish people looking for the Ark of the Covenant thought to be in his monastery, he finds his faith and power again, and also finds love in one of the

Jewish people looking for the Ark, a woman named Rebecca. Caleb once again uses his powers to try to save the world once again. It's a very beautiful story with plenty of romance and action to keep everyone who reads it entertained. I recommend reading "Blessed Child" before "A Man Called Blessed", although each story can stand on its own.

Iola says

David Ben Solomon has dedicated his life to searching for the Ark of the Covenant in order to restore it to Jerusalem and welcome the Messiah. He has been joined in his quest by his daughter, Rebecca, an archaeologist and assassin. They Raphael Hadane, a Falasha Jew from Ethiopia, who tells them the information they seek is hidden in the Debra Damarro monastery in Ethiopia.

Caleb is twenty-five and has lived almost his whole life in the Debra Damarro monastery, first in the care of Father Matthew, now with his adoptive parents. He, apparently, holds the key to the location of the Ark. But not everyone wants the Ark found, and one man in particular is determined to stop Rebecca and Caleb ...

A Man Called Blessed is the second in the Caleb Books series by Ted Dekker and Bill Bright. Dekker is famous for his suspense, and that came through in the novel. Bill Bright is famous for his non-fiction books on spiritual maturity, and that came through as well, with quotes such as these:

“You say that you may not be living up to your beliefs, but by definition, this is impossible. We always live up or down to our beliefs. Beliefs are the rails which govern our lives.”

“In reality, most people who call themselves Christians do not believe in Christ at all. Their train is not on his rails. They do not live what they say they believe, because in reality they don’t believe it.”

Thought-provoking.

What didn’t come through so well, for me, were likeable characters I could believe in and relate to. We didn’t see much of Caleb in the beginning, and it seemed as though he had a personality transplant when he arrived in the desert. It didn’t quite ring true. Equally, Rebecca seemed to morph from a military assassin into a stereotypical brash American tourist when she left the monastery. Neither transformation rang true to the characters as they had been established in this book (although the character of Caleb might have been consistent with the previous book, which I haven’t read).

And I had issues with the plot. Some aspects were incomprehensible (how to you build a crate around an object without ever touching said object?). Others felt contrived. Fiction uses a story to demonstrate truth. But one of the issues with fiction, especially Christian fiction, is that we don’t accept miracles in our novels, even though we know we serve a God of miracles. If you must have a miracle as a key plot point, that miracle must be foreshadowed—it must be signalled from the very beginning. It can’t just come out of nowhere. Otherwise it breaks one of the biggest ‘rules’ of fiction: the injunction against using *deus ex machina* to solve plot problems.

I also had issues with the writing, particularly the overuse of adverbs and exclamation marks, and the developing relationship between Rebecca and Caleb. I continually felt I was being told how they felt about each other—I never saw it.

On a more practical level, it was interesting to gain insight into the minds of the modern Jew and Muslim,

especially Palestinian Muslims. There are serious problems in the Middle East, and *A Man Called Blessed* illustrated them well.

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Libby says

Wow! I just finished this book after reading the first in the series many years ago. (it was first published in 2001). If you desire a closer walk with Jesus or want of glimpse of what it looks like to walk with God I highly recommend both this book and the first one called “Blessed Child”. There is just so much wisdom and life in these books!

Ted Dekker co-wrote this book with Bill Bright, who was the man who God used to start Campus Crusade for Christ (now call CRU) so you have the exceptional writing of Ted Dekker commingled with the wisdom that Bill Bright gained from walking by faith with God for many years. A rare combination.

Audrey says

The reader is in for a thrilling ride joining a group of Israeli soldiers into the Ethiopian desert looking for the lost Ark of the Covenant. The Arabs are determined to stop them and the war to end all wars is inevitable. Into the turmoil comes Caleb who grew up in the monastery where the ark was hidden. He disappeared into the desert to seek Christ whom he ardently loved as a child. The power of the Nazarene is made manifest in this intense book.

Richard Yeatman says

Yet another great adventure

Caleb's struggles and return to Faith is so well woven into the real world problems in the middle East. The book is both spiritual and political. Ted Decker can keep you turning pages.

Amy Hammond-Hagberg says

I didn't like this book as much as *Blessed Child*, which was great! Although the plot was interesting, it was hard to keep track of all the side stories and characters. *A Man Called Blessed* was too sappy and contained too much proselytizing. I honestly couldn't wait to finish it. Sorry Ted.

Vivian says

I really wanted to like this book. Unfortunately, it felt to me like a cheesy romance novel. The core story was

promising but it seemed to veer off into the made for TV movie realm where everything comes together and wraps up neatly in the end.

Janet Johnson says

I put off reading this book because I didn't see how it could possibly be as great as "Blessed Child." Surprisingly, it's just as good.

When Rebecca Solomon and her father discover the Ark of the Covenant is hidden in Ethiopia, Rebecca and her team are dispatched immediately. Unbeknownst to her, an assassin with a grudge sets out after her with his own team. Not only are they supposed to stop Rebecca from bringing the Ark to Jerusalem, Ismael wants to make certain she doesn't return at all. Then there is Caleb, the Blessed Child who has grown into a man. He doesn't carry a gun like the people heading his way. How can he possibly stop them from tearing down his home in their pursuit of the Ark?

This magnificent novel is action-packed, with scenes that leave you breathless. I cared so much about Caleb and his parents, and I hated to think what was going to happen when these people reached their home. Amazingly, I cared about Rebecca as well. Her team was strictly forbidden to take lives. They were supposed to complete their mission without leaving a trail of devastation in their wake. Too bad someone on her team had his own agenda...

I highly recommend this novel. It's as good as books get.

Terri says

15 years after the events in Blessed Child, Rebecca is sent to Ethiopia on a mission to find and recover The Ark of the Covenant. Palestinian forces follow and try to stop her. As the Jews focus on the need to rebuild the Temple on the Mount, Arabs are mobilizing to make war.

Caleb is at the monastery and is forced to flee into the desert with Rebecca following him - he is the key to the Ark's location. Ismael following her to kill her. In the desert they find truth and love. And Caleb finds his belief again.

There are betrayals and violence as the Ark makes its way to Jerusalem. Caleb and Rebecca following. Caleb forces all - Jews, Christians and Muslims to face the reality of God and true faith.

Really enjoyable story

Christina says

Ted Dekker is a big name in Christian fiction for a good reason. He has a captivating way of writing, with a carefully thought-out plot. Some books have too much fluff and move too slowly. Ted Dekker's talented story moves at an easy, although exciting pace. He used enough military and political jargon to give it depth and reality. There was a good amount of "spiritual talk" but he (and Bill Bright) says it with a new twist,

showing God's presence in our hearts instead of in an artifact, such as the Ark of the Covenant.

What can draw a beautiful assassin and a peaceful man of God together? What one thing can first make a person confused and sorrowful, and next, bring relief and joy? How can a newly discovered relic such as the Ark of the Covenant NOT bring a major war? Read this novel to find out!

While the ending moves too fast for my taste, I did like how there was closure with the Ark. I kept wondering how it could possibly end. But I thought the ending was true to the story and the characters.

I definitely recommend this book to anyone who likes to read Christian fiction. And I would expand that audience to those interested in archaeology. It's a modern story with a historical twist.

Heidi Williams says

A great mystery

Wade Woodbury says

This book was written by Bill Bright and Decker. I loved Bright's theology (until the end), disliked Decker's love story. The premise that stuck with me was taking God at his word and jump off our cliff of unbelief. God wants to do as he said to those that came before us. I loved the Jewish factor except for the main female character. She was a drag that was obsessed with having a husband and babies. The love story SUCKED! Without it this would be maybe in the top up till the end. Caleb ends up melting the ark and what's inside, the point being we are the ark of the covenant now, which I love. I want to be the ark, but I disliked the way they came about it. I feel like Israel was kind of kicked out in this book. I would recommend with a warning.
