



The Return to Zion

Bodie Thoene , Brock Thoene

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With Moshe and Rachel trapped behind the walls of the Old City, British forces prepare to leave Palestine. David recruits help from America to join in the efforts. Book 3, Zion Chronicles series.

The Return to Zion Details

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From Reader Review The Return to Zion for online ebook

Hannah says

Wow. The Return to Zion was definitely the most exciting book I've ever heard read (or read for that matter!) ! It happened in only a week or so, but was still thick and full of adventure and mystery! It was sad in some ways though because there was a lot of death and evil in certain people.) : I really enjoyed it though and can't wait to hear the next book read!

Monica says

This is the middle book in the series, but overall one of the strongest middle books that I have read. At the end I found myself disgusted for not checking out the fourth one to read right away.

G says

I am really loving the historical part of this series. The Jews trying to return to their homeland after WWII. A lot of Middle Eastern history and how the Arabs were trying to take over Jerusalem. A lot about the Old Testament promises to the Jews and waiting for the Messiah to save them from all the persecution and hatred. Very interesting, from LDS perspective.

Grace says

Done and done...Shaul is a great dog.

Alissa says

The one where everyone gets married and dies. This is more of an "interlude" type novel where some stuff has to happen to propel you to the action of the fourth book and I found it harder to get into. However it's a necessary bridge to cross to keep in sequence. It was disappointing that the real action doesn't start until the 4th book - but the 4th book starts immediately where this left off so be sure to have it on hand.

Lady says

[It's always bothered me that the Mossad never told them they were watching out for them. Or that the guy confronted her on his own instead of warning David and Michael. But I guess since they didn't know where the information was being leaked from they didn't want to alert the wrong people. Still, it's hard to read the whole thing knowing.

And I'm kind of sick of characters not trusting their instincts

Kirstin says

I think this may have been my favorite of this series so far. The characters are consistent with the other books so you come into with an established familiarity. There is a slight review of the big events of the last book, but I would recommend reading them in close succession to avoid forgetting something important. This story picks up exactly where Daughter of Zion left off. Rachel and Moshe are together in the Old City and everything is joyous. With so much conflict around them, they know it won't last long, but enjoying the happiness they found is one of my favorite parts.

Ellie and David also start their own kind of adventure which takes David back to the states to find airplanes and men to fly them before the British pull out of Jerusalem leaving the Jews to fend for themselves against the Arabs. The story jumps back and forth from David in the states to those in the Old City. David is quickly becoming one of my favorite characters. In the first two books, I felt that he was there for Ellie and her alone. His commitment to the cause really captured me in this book as well as the lengths he was willing to go. There is very little contact with Howard, Rachel's grandfather or Yacov. They were large parts of the two previous books and I did miss them some.

This story is a struggle. I have read many books about other struggles but this one makes it more real somehow. The world has almost turned its back on these people after surviving WW2. The worldwide war has finished, but this one still rages on with more fervor than ever and it is ignored. The people fighting for Jerusalem are invested and are fighting for something more. Bodie Thoene does a wonderful job of conveying something different through these characters. WW2 and Holocaust books are usually difficult to read because of their cruelty, but this is just different somehow. Equally difficult, but a courage exists with these characters that I haven't found in other books. I am not saying that there wasn't plenty of courage during the WW2 era, because there were multitudes of it. There is just something about these characters and their circumstances which make you feel different as a reader. It could be because I have gotten to know these characters and they are part of my reader family. If you want to understand exactly what I mean, I would encourage you to read these books and let me know if you also get "something else" from these books.

Glen says

In this third book in the series, it's the final month before the British occupation forces leave Israel, leaving them to their own fate. Rachel is stuck inside the city, and David and Ellie try to smuggle in guns.

Very melodramatic.

Hanna-col says

Definitely my favorite so far of the Zion Chronicles series. It took me a bit to get into book one, in book two I had to adjust to relationship changes between characters, but here in book three things seem to have smoothed out in my picture of the characters. I still love the way Mr. and Mrs. Thoene can weave so many

POVs together in one story.

Shirley Conley says

I love a book that keeps you on the edge of your seat. What danger was ahead. It is terrible the ways the Jews were treated. Like I said I love historical Christian Novels.

Ed says

This is book 3 of the Zion Chronicles. In all three of the books, I shed tears and I laughed at the things that happen in this series. Each book relies on the one previous to it. A great story, and I never really realized the persecution that the Jews faced even after World War II. But like the book of Esther in the Bible, you can see a provident God in the working. I also like all the Scripture references used by the author and how they reflect on the things that took place in the story.

Charyla Olsen says

This is my twelfth book by the Thoenes. I just can't put them down and I'm grateful for the history that I absorb in the process. The stories are fast-paced and intriguing and the characters are well-developed.

Deb says

This is the 3rd book in the Zion Chronicles series. I really like historical fiction including this series. These books are extremely interesting since they deal with the Jews in Palestine shortly after WWII. I plan to read the last 2 books as well. I recommend them to anyone who likes this type of fiction.

Jeni Enjaian says

A review from my old blog...

I cannot get enough of this series. When I left off reading this book this morning I almost made myself late for work when I had to find out if one of the characters had actually died in such a tragic manner. She was okay.

The fact that the the Thoenes were able to draw me in so easily like that speaks to their amazing writing ability. I usually skim just a bit when I read books and especially when I try to finish a book in a single day. :D With this books one simply cannot do that. One would find oneself like me, a little lost at one point because I missed a very important detail.

The little details taste like choice morsels. I feel full when I finish one of their books and this one did not fail

to meet that standard. I wish there were more hours in the day or that I didn't want to do so many other things. I would love to sit down or walk around and read the rest of the Thoene books I have sitting by my chair right now.

Once again I still strongly recommend the Thoene's to any lover of Christian historical fiction.

Heather Painter says

Another Great Read!

I have truly enjoyed this series. What I find most interesting is the struggle of the Jews to establish the nation of Israel. This book was great, from start to finish! Part love story, part war novel, and part political intrigue, it kept me interested and engaged! I am looking forward to the next book in the series!

Stephanie Fitzpatrick says

There is something compelling about this series that keeps me coming back for more.

I'll confess at first "Return to Zion" was hard to get into and I struggled to pick up the book at all - then suddenly it became difficult to put down.

Again I found myself absorbed in the historical background this book is set in.

I like that each book in this series focuses on a different character. And the focus on David was a refreshing change of pace to Ellie (Gates of Zion) and Rachel (Daughter of Zion) (which I loved also)

Diverse cultures, religious attitudes, romance and war time espionage. Everything required for an allnighter. This is a series I will encourage my future children to read a very eye opening and worth while venture.

Anna says

This book starts right out with two marriages and only grows from there. David flies back to America to recruit an Air Force, Ellie goes into hiding after a bomb incident, Moshe is arrested, and Rachel is left alone to take care of Tikvah in the Old City. All four have an amazing adventure throughout this book, and all of them realize the depth to which they are committed to this cause.

My only complaints are that it left us hanging (which is a good thing, in a twisted way), and I would have liked to see the couples together more throughout the book. But that is all, and the next installment shall rectify these. Overall I loved it just as much as the previous two.

Derek says

The reason I chose 5 stars was because this series usually I walk past, but on a friends recommendation I picked up the first book. I was pleasantly surprised. I loved this book. So much that I bought the entire series in a nice collection. I loved the History and the fact that the characters and the events are actual events and real people that lived in these most trying times of faith and perseverance. I loved the fact that this book

brought this History to life for me about the creation of the Jewish state of Israel. I liked the characters and the fictional conversations. I think sometimes the folks that give this book a dismal review are probably not Christians and every book they read has to be epic of sorts. I can't wait to get into the other continuing series from Thoenes.

Beth Goehring says

Superb recreation of the siege of the old city of Jerusalem and Jewish strategies to liberate it including the initial creation of an air force and Ben Gurion's leadership prior to the 1948 creation of the state of Israel. Bodie Thoenes's books are well researched and incredibly well written. Riveting.

Jeri says

This is book three of the series, giving us the story of the settlement of Israel in 1948. The Old City of Jerusalem is under siege, the US arms embargo against the Jews is in effect but the Arabs have all the weapons and seemingly all the power -- bent on the destruction of the Jews. Ellie and David have now fallen in love and have married, briefly, before he leaves for the states to hire pilots and buy planes. And then we have Mosche, whom we met in book #1, who has now wed a survivor of the holocaust, under the worst terms of having given herself to the nazi's in the camps, Rachel.

There's a spy in the midst of all this, a cruel English captain, and an evil Arab.....much intrigue makes this historical saga an excellent read.
