

Misuse of Tomb Artifacts?

Commentary for October 23, 2006 — Will They be Used for Evil?

QUESTION: Hello David, I just finished your lengthy essay about the discovery of David's tomb. You did a magnificent job! And I found it to be rather well done and interesting.

However, some thoughts began to course through my mind: the thought occurred to me that if perhaps the tomb were to be discovered and many various "artifacts" were to be discovered, think about the possibility of "misuse" of these things, which humans are famous for, for causing "endtime deception"?

One of the most important approaches to understanding the Book of Revelation is, so to speak, "two coins": the Counterfeit Messiah and the True Messiah. I dare say the "two coins" will also or would also be enacted with the discovery of David's tomb and it's contents. I don't want "to rain on your parade," as it were, but perhaps that angle be taken into consideration also. All in all though, you did a bang-up job with the essay! Good work David! Well done!

ANSWER: Thank you for the compliments.

As I wrote the article I had concerns similar to those you expressed in your email. In fact, in the article near the end I wrote:

Problems with this Discovery

Of course, discipline would be needed not to turn any of these "artifacts" into idols, whether that would be the bodies of David or Solomon, the "throne of David," the pattern of the Temple, or other marvelous things that may be in the Tombs (Goliath's sword and armor perhaps?). Also, the historical writings that may be in the Tombs must not supersede in our minds the canonical Scripture as we have today. Even though such a discovery would be seen as a miracle from God, such works would be for historical purposes and not to be considered Scripture. Most likely the Mystery would be diminished and discarded by most people in preference to following the Torah, forgetting that Christ has fulfilled all of those requirements.

Truth cannot be denied because there might be problems or misinterpretation by some people. That is God's problem to deal with such things, not ours to try and second guess Him. We should assume mankind will pervert any good thing, including a tremendous archaeological discovery confirming the Bible!

"So shall my word be that goes forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

• *Isaiah 55:11*

My intent is to show the truth of Scripture, not to prove Scripture. Again, that is God's job, not mine. He shall do that in the mind of every person at a time of His own choosing.

There will be those who shall foolishly make a talisman of this or that object within the Tomb. I am aware that some orthodox Muslims and orthodox Jews may have misplaced reverence toward the bodies preventing detailed examination for such things as DNA. However, that is not my concern.

For me, my great interest is in the writings to be found within the Tombs. There too, some people will take the writings within the Tomb and think that they supersede Scripture. If a Torah written by David's own hand is discovered, or if the "pattern" of the Temple written by God's own hand is in the Tomb, I guarantee that some people will make these into objects of worship. This is absurd and stupid, but I can practically guarantee it will be done — such is the nature of human self delusion.

After all, there were (and are) people who worship and venerate metal, wood, and stone idols for the supposed "god" or "saint" they represent.

There will be something about King David that will lead people to examine the evidence about David's greater son, Jesus the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

- Isaiah made that connection in Isaiah 22:22 (which is messianic).
- Jeremiah did so in Zechariah chapters 12–14.
- Peter made that connection in Acts chapter 2.
- Paul did so in Acts chapter 13.
- And also John did so in Revelation 3:7.
- And, every verse in the New Testament citing or referring to Psalm 110 implicitly makes that connection.

That connection and examination — that faith to believe Jesus is the resurrected Messiah — can only come from God, as you indicated clearly in your follow-on email.

Regarding your double coin idea, Dr. Martin long felt that the false messiah would need to establish his legitimacy in every way possible, including a proper genealogy, signs, and wonders.

I wonder if a "discovery" similar to the Tomb of David would serve to strengthen the legitimacy of the false messiah in the eyes of the world. Some people think that the Ark of the Covenant is in one of the Tomb chambers. I do not. There is NO evidence to believe the Ark is there, but there is good historical evidence to the contrary (2 Maccabees chapter 2). They look upon the Ark as a semi-magical

object, which is ridiculous. However, discovery of the Ark of the Covenant by that false messiah could give him the legitimacy he seeks in the eyes of the world. This passage in Jeremiah is conclusive, at least for me:

"And it shall come to pass, when you be multiplied and increased in the land, in those days, says the Lord, they shall say no more. The ark of the covenant of the Lord:

**neither shall it come to mind;
neither shall they remember it;
neither shall they visit it;
neither shall that be done any more."**

• *Jeremiah 3:16*

Thank you for your compliments, questions, and concerns.

David Sielaff
david@askelm.com