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King David's Tomb

1. What Is Inside?

by David Sielaff, 2006, February 2024

Read the "[February 2024 Newsletter](#)"

Then read the February 1, 2024, Commentary, "[City of David Is Being Scanned](#)"



What is inside King David's Tomb? King David was the first person buried in a complex of sepulchers with connected chambers.¹ The location of the Tombs of King David, his family, and several royal heirs to his throne can be known once the true site of the Temples of God in the City of David is understood and accepted by the religious and political leaders of Israel. Based on the correct Temple site, the biblical and historical evidence easily locates the tomb complex.

The Tombs will be revealed by God to the entire world. Once opened, the information from the tombs will not be suppressed. Artifacts within the tomb chambers will change the world. These discoveries will reveal to millions around the world that YHWH is the only true God. He is the Creator. He exists. He loves all His creatures, and He is particularly involved in the affairs of mankind who are destined to become mature children of God.²

The many wonders from the tombs will lead to know without doubt that the Bible is, and always has been the true Word of God. This will lead many to acknowledge and accept Jesus as their Messiah (which is the meaning of the term Christ), who is the Lord and Savior of all mankind. This information will spread around the world. Then God will allow a deception and a falling away from the truth. This process will start from Jerusalem, and specifically from the City of David, which is Zion, where the Tombs are located.

"MANY peoples will come and say:

'Come, and let us ascend to the Mount of Yahweh, To the house of the Elohim of Jacob; And He shall direct us out of His ways, So that we may indeed walk in His paths. For FROM ZION shall go forth the law, And the word of Yahweh FROM Jerusalem.'"

**• Isaiah 2:3, Micah 4:2,
 Concordant Literal Translation, CLV**

¹ This is similar to the tomb structures in the Valley of the Kings in Egypt, but on a smaller scale.

² See my short article for January 2024, "[Where Is God?](#)" God has seemed distant from His creation, though in reality He is near. He will prove to the world He exists. One of several ways he will do so will be through the artifacts in King David's Tomb.

The fulfillment of this single prophecy, given by two contemporary prophets, will begin before and continue after Christ returns to this earth. The completion of the larger context of that prophecy will occur after Christ begins to rule when He steps on the Mount of Olives on the Day of the Lord as we are told in Zechariah chapter 14 and Acts 1:6–11.

This article as Part 1, details the biblical and historical data about the Tombs of David that I published in 2006.³ It will focus upon the most important tomb in the complex: the sepulcher where the body of King David still lies awaiting the resurrection.

Yes, David’s body will be in the tomb years from now when it is discovered, just as it was in the time of the apostles after the ascension of Jesus on the day of Pentecost in 30 AD. After the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples of Jesus, Peter said to the gathered crowd that Christ Jesus has been resurrected from the dead (Acts 2:22–24). Peter continued and gave four facts about King David and his burial:

“Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both

[1] **dead and**

[2] **buried, and**

[3] **HIS SEPULCHRE IS WITH US unto this day.**

... For [4] David is not ascended into the heavens: but he said himself, ‘The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit you on my right hand, Until I make your foes your footstool.’”

• **Acts 2:29, 34–35, CLV**

Do you consider Peter’s statement to be convincing? I do. David’s body was near the Temple when Peter spoke to the crowd. David’s body is there today, as I shall demonstrate in future articles about David’s Tomb. I am updating the information and dividing it into several articles because the information on this subject has increased since my 2006 article. I need to explain further details.

In this article I blatantly attempt to “sell the sizzle ...” to attract and hold your interest to read and understand later articles of the biblical and historical evidence of King David’s Tomb.

Are There Prophecies About the Tomb?

There are NO prophecies that explicitly state King David’s Tomb will be discovered, or that its discovery will be important. But there are parts of prophecies regarding David and his descendants, when pieced together they form a single concept ... that God will allow the location and the contents of the King David’s Tomb complex to be found and revealed to the world. It will be the most important archaeological discovery in history. It will lead those in the land of Israel, Jews and Gentiles, to recognize God their Creator, and to learn that Jesus, David’s greater son, was the Messiah (the Christ) of Israel, the only begotten Son of God, and Savior of all mankind.

So much information will come forth from the tombs, that we will be able, God willing, to begin to understand prophecies better than ever before. We will recognize when prophetic events are fulfilled, that God’s plans are moving forward. We learn by the information discovered that we can trust the Holy Scriptures. It will be a crucial step in the restitution of all things.⁴ It will take decades to enter, preserve, translate, and analyze all the information that will be discovered. God will prove Himself showing the world, from artifacts 3,000 years old, that the Scriptures are more accurate than we can imagine, and that God’s Word has been fulfilled in the past, the present, and believers will know they can trust the Word of God for future fulfillment..

It will begin the fulfillment of Isaiah’s and Micah’s prophecies quoted above: **“FROM Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of Yahweh FROM Jerusalem.”** The discovery of the Tombs of David will also, I believe,

³ [“The Location and Future Discovery of King David’s Tomb,”](#) October 2006. I will leave this article online as it first appeared.

⁴ See Dr. Martin’s 1990 article (updated 2019, [“The Coming Revolution in Knowledge.”](#) For additional information see my Commentaries: June 2003. [“Restitution of All Things, What to Expect”](#) and September 2014, [“Restitution and the Temple.”](#)

begin the recognition and fulfillment of several end-time prophecies in ways we cannot yet imagine.

Everything in David's Tomb belongs to the people of Israel, to be properly administered by archeologists as well as religious and even political leaders. There will be intense "discussions." Yes, there will be arguments, but God preserved the Tombs to benefit the people of the world, starting at the burial place of a "good" King of Israel. David is a type of Messiah. Christ Jesus is the archetype fulfillment. After Christ returns to rule in glory, King David will rule Israel as He serves God and Christ.

So, What Could Be In The Tombs? — Speculations

Informed by Scripture, I will describe and discuss the artifacts that might be found within the Tombs. When I read the Bible there are occasionally portions where I stop reading and wonder, "Why is that in there?" Yet information is sometimes presented that has little relevance to the narrative. The translation is clear and straightforward, and there seems to be no cultural misunderstanding, and I know that everything in the Scriptures has a purpose as God tells us through another passage by the prophet Isaiah:

"Seek you YHWH while He may be found, call you upon Him while He is near:

... For My thoughts are NOT your thoughts, NEITHER are your ways My ways, says YHWH. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.

... So shall My word be that goes forth out of My mouth:

[1] **It shall not return unto me void, but**

[2] **it shall accomplish that which I please, and**

[3] **it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."**

• Isaiah 55:6, 8–9, 11, King James Version

Indeed, the apostle Paul reinforces the fact by writing that God **"is operating all in accord with the counsel of His will"** (Ephesians 1:11, CLV). The ambiguity and lack of clarity is intentional and God will make things clear at a time of His choosing. However, as children of God we are permitted to "work on the puzzle" to understand difficult parts of Scripture.

What I present below (and in an article following this one) is a list of items that could be in the structure of multiple sepulchers of the Tomb of David. I present the least important items first and proceed to the most important. But even the least important item is significant compared to what is usually found at archaeological sites. The list will surprise you, but keep in mind that at this point in history, what I present is pure speculation as to what is in the Tombs. We will not know if these things are true until the Tombs are opened and examined. However, it is speculation informed by biblical and historical facts and hints, as you will learn.

ITEM: The Great Crown of the Ammonites

In Second Samuel chapter 12, King David's general Joab besieged the Ammonite capital city of Rabbah, east of the Jordan River and northeast of the Sea of Galilee. At this siege Uriah the Hittite, Bathsheba's husband, was killed according to David's order to Joab. After Uriah died, the Israelites conquered the city. David went to Rabbah to celebrate the victory. In the palace of the Ammonite king a huge crown was found.

Most English translations render the text to be the crown of the Ammonite king, but the Concordant Literal Version (and a few others) have this translation about a very large crown in two history narratives:

"He took the crown of Milcom [a pagan god] off its head [perhaps off the head of an idol, or off its pedestal?]; its weight was a talent of gold, with precious stones in it; and it was put on David's head. The amount of loot of the city that he brought forth was very great."

• 2 Samuel 12:30, CLV

“David took the crown of Milcom off its head, and found it to be a talent of gold in weight, with precious stones in it; and it was put on David's head. The amount of loot of the city that he brought forth was very great.”

• 1 Chronicles 20:2, CLV

A crown that had **“a talent of gold”** weighed more than 48 pounds, more than a human head and neck could support. There must have been some kind of system to lower and support the crown when **“it was put on David's head.”** If it was a crown of the pagan god Milcom, as translated by the CLV, it may have been a crown for a large statue idol of the god Milcom. By putting on the crown, David was likely mocking the weak god of the Ammonites, a god that was unable to protect its city and worshippers.

This crown could also be in David's Tomb. After all, the crown was significant enough to be mentioned in two narratives of King David's history. With other treasures it was taken to Jerusalem with the rest of the **“loot of the city”** as a trophy of King David's glory, suppressing a disobedient pagan Gentile kingdom.

ITEM: Huge Amounts of Gold and Silver

The Jewish historian Josephus wrote all his books in Greek to an audience of elite subjects of the Roman Empire. He tells us that quantities of gold, silver, and other valuables, gilded furniture, and **“precious goods”** were (and still are today!) in the sepulchers of David. In my opinion, these are the least valuable artifacts. Yet there are good reasons to believe there are even more valuable items inside as well.

The materials that David gathered as King of Israel and Judah for the construction of the Temple of YHWH are referred to in 1 Chronicles 22:3–5, 14–16 and 29:2. David contributed a substantial quantity of his personal wealth to the Temple project (1 Chronicles 29:3–5). David was prepared to use all of his wealth for the Temple of YHWH. But David did not have to do so.

David challenged the tribal and community leaders of Israel to contribute materials for the Temple, and they responded generously (1 Chronicles 29:5–8). Lastly, the common people asked David to allow them to contribute and he agreed:

“And the people rejoiced because of their voluntary offerings, for they had willingly and wholeheartedly given to Yahweh. David the king also rejoiced with great joy.”

• 1 Chronicles 29:9, CLV

Josephus knew the biblical information, but expands or updates the situation for his readers, perhaps from historical non-biblical sources that he did not identify. Josephus wrote that King David collected for God's Temple as much as 10,000 talents of gold and 100,000 talents of silver (*Antiquities of the Jews* 7.340). Scripture says David only used 5,000 talents of his own treasure. The smallest estimate for a talent weight measure at that time is 48 pounds per talent of gold. As I write this article in January 2024, gold is just over \$2,000 per ounce. You do the math for the current value of the gold that David collected.

Josephus says Solomon did not use all the gold and silver David collected for the Temple. This follows the biblical narrative. Solomon had more than enough to fulfill David's instructions for both the design and construction of YHWH's temple. Solomon did not need all of David's gold and silver. Rather than spend all the gold and silver (too much wealth and spending can be bad for an economy), Solomon buried it with David as Josephus tells us:

“He [David] left behind such wealth as no other king, whether of the Hebrews or other nations, ever did.

... also buried with him a great abundance of wealth, the vastness of which one may easily gather from what is now to be related: after a period of thirteen hundred years,⁵ when Hyrcanus,

⁵ The chronology of Josephus is faulty. See my October 2006 Commentary, [“Josephus' Chronology and Other Things.”](#) Then click the link, *Antiquities*, Thackeray Translation: 1956, [Volume 5, Book VII, p. 569](#), note b:

the high priest, was besieged by Antiochus ... he opened **ONE OF THE CHAMBERS** in David's tomb and carried off three thousand talents, part of which he gave to Antiochus."⁶

• *Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews 7:391–393, Thackeray Translation*

He says David was buried with greater wealth than any king, up to the time Josephus wrote *Antiquities* in 94 AD. John Hyrcanus removed 3,000 talents of silver (remember, at 48 pounds weight per talent). Josephus also says Herod the Great took an unknown sum from the Tomb of David. But note, neither Hyrcanus nor Herod entered:

“And again, after an interval of many years, King Herod opened another chamber and took away a large sum of money. Neither of them, however, came upon the coffins of the kings, for these had been artfully buried under the earth so that they could not be seen by anyone entering the tomb.”

• *Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews 7:394*

Josephus confirms that the documents he read,⁷ the bodies were in the tomb and there still remains a large quantity of gold and silver in the Tomb chambers. Author Gary Arvidson analyzes these and other passages by Josephus, and estimates the amount of gold and silver remaining in the Tomb of David, perhaps several billions of dollars worth at today's value.⁸

There should be no possibility or concern about the tomb being raided by poachers. Remember Peter's words. Hyrcanus and Herod both failed to reach the bodies, even though they had the resources of their governments at their disposal. Later we will learn that the Romans did **not** enter the Tombs of David.

Understand, however, that the gold and silver is YHWH's, to be given to Israel and the world direct through the discovery of David's Tomb. It will serve God's purposes. Perhaps the gold and silver provided by King David could be used to finance and decorate the next Temple to be built, the Temple to be desolated by the Antichrist. As I said before, all treasure from the Tombs of David will be the property of the people (and government) of Israel.

ITEM: The Tabernacle Of David

David constructed a Tabernacle to house the Ark of the Covenant (brought from the town of **“Baale of Judah”** in 2 Samuel 6:2–16). The Tabernacle was placed in Zion, the City of David (2 Samuel 6:17–19; 1 Chronicles 16:1–3, 37–40) at the Gihon Spring where Solomon was later anointed to be King of Israel just before David died (1 Kings 1:33, 38, 45; 2 Chronicles 5:1–7).⁹

Sacrifices and offerings were made there by David and the Levites up to the time Solomon's Temple was dedicated. This Tabernacle functioned until the Temple was built by Solomon. This was not the Tabernacle of Moses.

Hundreds of years after the Temple was built, the **“Tabernacle of David”** was no longer mentioned in the Bible histories. But the **“the Tabernacle of David”** is mentioned in a messianic prophecy and a **“throne”** was also referred to in prophecies of the Book of Isaiah. (This was the throne of David, in my opinion).

Isaiah chapters 15 and 16 contain prophecies of a future judgment by YHWH to come upon the people of Moab. In Isaiah 16:5 the message changes focus from Moab and tells of a time when a throne, the Tabernacle of David, judgments, and righteousness will begin from Zion (Isaiah 16:1):

“The siege of Jerusalem, here referred to, took place in 135/134 B.C. Josephus thus places David's death in 1435 B.C., which is almost 500 years earlier than the generally accepted date (c. 970 B.C.).”

⁶ Antiochus VII Sidetes (died 129 BC) was a Greek Seleucid King who invaded Israel with a large army. The ruler of Israel at that time, John Hyrcanus, bribed Antiochus to take the treasure and leave without putting the city of Jerusalem under siege.

⁷ From the writings of King Herod's court historian, in *Antiquities of the Jews* 16:183.

⁸ Gary Arvidson, *In Search of King David's Lost Tomb & Treasure*, 2nd edition (Kings Mountain, NC: Gary Arvidson, 2001).

⁹ After the Temple construction was completed, the Ark was brought up from the Gihon Springs (1 Kings 1:33–45).

“And in mercy shall THE THRONE be established: and he shall sit upon it in truth in THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID, judging, and seeking judgment, and hastening [speedy, prompt] righteousness.”

• *Isaiah 16:5, KJV*

From “**THE throne**” within the “**tabernacle of David**” will come judgments upon Moab and other peoples. Is this figurative language, or will that Tabernacle already exist somewhere, say ... in the Tomb of David? The prophet Amos, a contemporary to Isaiah, also prophesied during the time of King Uzziah of Judah about this Tabernacle of David:

“IN THAT DAY will I raise up THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old [during David’s time]. [Why build it up?] That they may possess the remnant of Edom [or *adam*, mankind], and of all the heathen, which are called by my name, says YHWH that does this.”

• *Amos 9:11–12*

The phrase “**In that day**” refers to a time before the Second Coming of Christ. This is what James, the brother of Jesus and a leader of the Jerusalem *ekklesia*, understood when he quoted Amos 9:11–12. This verse came to his mind when the Jerusalem council met to decide what should be required of Gentile believers:

“After this I will return, and will build again THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID, which is fallen down; and [1] I will build again the ruins thereof, and [2] I will set it up: [Why?] That the residue of MEN [*anthropos*, definitely referring to descendants of *Adam* and not *Edom*] might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, says the Lord, who does all these things.”

• *Acts 15:16–17, KJV*

This word “**MEN**” (above) is usually translated as “Edom,” the people descended from Jacob’s brother Esau. However, the same Hebrew consonants could be translated *adam*, or mankind. There are no vowels in Hebrew so both *Edom* and *adam* are spelled with the same consonants (?-D-M). It seems the correct translation is *adam* as referring to mankind. It cannot mean Adam the first man because the prophecy would be nonsense. The Greek Old Testament, the LXX, translates ?-D-M in Amos 9:12 as *anthropon* (ἀνθρώπων), indicating a human being. James also uses the Greek translation of *anthropon* (ἀνθρώπων) when James in Acts 15:17 quotes directly from Amos 9:12.

James was not saying the Tabernacle of Moses would be reconstructed, but that the Tabernacle of David would be raised again.¹⁰ So, after David died, Solomon completed the Temple, and placed the Ark of the Covenant inside the Holy of Holies, what happened to the physical Tabernacle of David? It was taken down, certainly, but how can it be rebuilt?

Was the Tabernacle of David folded up and placed within David’s Tomb? After all, it has only been almost 3,000 years since David was buried. Could such a thing still be preserved, be repaired, and “raised” again? If so, it would seem to be a miracle, not only that the tent would survive, but that it was prophesied to be raised, and, even more miraculous, could be unfolded and raised again. Any other tent would be just that — a tent and nothing more — no matter what anyone would call it. It seems impossible, under normal circumstances. But this is in God’s control, and the prophecies seem to say that the “**Tabernacle of David**” will be built again. I think it likely will be before a new Temple is begun.

Question: could the Ark of the Covenant be within the Tombs of David? Some people have proposed that to me, but I think that eventuality is highly unlikely. The prophet Jeremiah said the Ark shall not be spoken of, come to mind, remembered, visited, or done with anymore. Jeremiah wrote, the people of Israel should appeal to the throne of God:

¹⁰ The Tabernacle of David was set up before the Temple was built, and lasted for a few years until the Temple was completed and dedicated by Solomon after 7 years of construction (1 Kings 6:38). Note also that when the Tabernacle of David will be rebuilt, on ruins, and the setting up all occurs, the Gentiles will seek after YHWH.

“When it comes to be that you increase and are fruitful in the land, in those days, averring is Yahweh, they shall no longer say, ‘The coffer [Ark] of the covenant of Yahweh’;

- [1] it shall not ascend on their heart,
- [2] nor shall they remember it,
- [3] nor shall they miss it,
- [4] nor shall another one be made again.

In that era they shall call Jerusalem ‘**the throne of Yahweh,**’ and all the nations will be expectant toward her, for the Name of Yahweh at Jerusalem, and they shall no longer walk after the obduracy [stubbornness] of their evil heart.

In those days the house of Judah shall walk with the house of Israel, and they shall enter together **FROM** the land of the north **TO** the land which I allotted to your fathers.”

• *Jeremiah 3:16–18, CLV*

This prophecy by Jeremiah did not occur in the past, nor is it the situation today. It will occur after Christ returns. See also what is said in the often-reliable historical book of 2 Maccabees 2:4–8 (Revised Standard Version) which states that Jeremiah buried the Ark.

“It was also in the writing that the prophet, having received an oracle, ordered that the tent and the ark should follow with him, and that he went out to the mountain where Moses had gone up and had seen the inheritance of God.

And Jeremiah came and found a cave, and **he brought there** [1] **THE TENT** and [2] the ark and [3] the altar of incense, and he sealed up the entrance. Some of those who followed him came up to mark the way, but could not find it. When Jeremiah learned of it, he rebuked them and declared:

‘The place shall be unknown until God gathers his people together again and shows his mercy. And then the Lord will disclose these things, and the glory of the Lord and the cloud will appear, as they were shown in the case of Moses, and as Solomon asked that the place should be specially consecrated.’”

• *2 Maccabees 2:4–8*

Note that this passage refers to “**the tent.**” What tent does the author mean? Is that the tent or tabernacle of Moses? Of David? Both are doubtful. This is not Scripture, so we would be wary to rely on its information. However, keep it in mind. Who knows, perhaps the Antichrist will “find the Ark” and use its discovery as credentials that he is the true Messiah, the Christ. Remember what Jeremiah said in verse 3:16 above, the Ark is no longer important.

So, what else might be in David’s Tomb(s) and why might it be possible that artifacts are there?

ITEM: Goliath’s Head

The major writer of the biblical books of First and Second Samuel likely was the prophet Samuel himself. Later editors compiled and edited his writings, updating the text in some instances, perhaps David was one of the editors after Samuel died.¹¹ One addition by an editor was a mention of the head of Goliath: “**And David took the head of the Philistine, and brought it to Jerusalem; but he put his armor in his tent**” (1 Samuel 17:54).

(Note the mention of Goliath’s head being “**brought to Jerusalem.**” Jerusalem was not captured by the Israelites until after David became King at Hebron and permanently captured Jerusalem and made it his capital city (2 Samuel 5:5–12). Only then would Goliath’s head have been brought to Jerusalem.

Obviously, David was proud of his achievement killing Goliath (done only with YHWH’s help, as David said). He was so proud about it that he likely preserved it and took it to Jerusalem. Why? To show people that the event actually happened. No doubt David gave YHWH the glory as he told his story, and he had the proof!

¹¹ I will present more about the Old Testament writings and editions later in this series of articles.

There is a chance it might be in King David's Tomb.

“David, with sling and stone, was faster than the Philistine; he smote the Philistine and put him to death.

But there was no sword in David's hand; so David ran up and stood over the Philistine, took hold of his sword and pulled it from its scabbard; and with it he put him to death and cut off his head.

... Then David took the head of the Philistine and was about to bring it to Saul, but he put his [Goliath's] weapons in his tent.

So, when David had returned from smiting the Philistine, Abner had taken him and brought him before Saul, while the head of the Philistine was still in his hand.

• 1 Samuel 17:50–51, 54, 57 CLV

I quote from my July 2007 Commentary “[Goliath's Head](#)”:

When did David take Goliath's head to Jerusalem, and what was “David's tent”? It is thought by most commentators that “his tent” refers to David's flight as King Saul tried to kill David. The idea is that the armor [of Goliath] was not that difficult to manage (it broke down into pieces) and it could be useful in battle. But no one knows for sure what that statement means. The other statement “brought it to Jerusalem” is clear.

During the time of King Saul the Israelites did not control Jerusalem. The narrative of David's conquest of Jerusalem is found much later in 2 Samuel 5:6–10 (paralleled in 1 Chronicles 11:4–9). The verse 1 Samuel 17:54 was inserted into the text sometime after King Saul died, after David became king of both Judah and Israel, and after David conquered Jerusalem. David brought Goliath's head to Jerusalem after the city was conquered. It was probably kept with King Saul's court artifacts.”

My question is this: If David thought the head of Goliath important enough to bring to Jerusalem once the city had been conquered by the Israelites and after it became King David's capital city, what would have happened to Goliath's head after David died? Was the head of Goliath (as an artifact of King David's success given to him by God) put inside King David's Tomb as a memorial? I think that may be the case. The artifact was important to David and would be of no value to anyone else, so it may very well be buried with King David. Time will tell.

If the Tomb of David were accessed in some future time, and there is a very large human head found within the Tomb, then that would assist in validating that it was the Tomb of David. However, I feel that the Tomb complex will be self-identifying. There will be many indications that [a particular] Tomb is King David's. There will be many, many items labeled in various ways that this or that item belonged to King David. This was the case in King Tut's tomb. As a minor Egyptian pharaoh, he had many items within his tomb that identified the tomb as King Tut's.

King David was the most important ruler of his time. King Tut was a minor Pharaoh, yet his treasure has toured the world several times. Other kings of Israel and Judah may be buried in David's tomb complex. Some are specifically indicated: Solomon, Hezekiah, Asa, Josiah, to name just a few. It seems only “good” kings were buried there. How were evil kings prevented from being buried with “good” kings? I cannot imagine how that worked. It is a mystery and Scripture does not tell us. We are told about evil kings who were specifically buried elsewhere than the Tombs of David.

Know also that if Goliath's head is in David's Tomb, there will be an opportunity to analyze Goliath's teeth. Under certain conditions tooth enamel of a preserved skull can yield useful DNA information. In my understanding of the relevant verses, Goliath like all of the Raphaim and Anakim, was definitely a human being, **“of Adam.”** See my June 2013 Commentary “[Anakim Are From Adam](#).”

News of the discovery of Goliath's head will send every child to the Bible to read every verse about

Goliath and the other giants. They will read the biblical story, everyone will know the biblical event was true. For a brief period of time, it would drive people to their Bible. They would ask, “What else is true?”

ITEM: Goliath’s Arms and Armor

Not only should Goliath’s head be buried with David, but so too Goliath’s sword, perhaps his spear (or just the spearhead), and his armor (see 1 Samuel 17:54 above) should be in David’s Tomb. What was meant by “armor”? Some items are identified but they probably meant a helmet (that David removed so he could cut off Goliath’s head). The breastplate or chest protection of Goliath should also be there.

Goliath’s sword is mentioned several times as being important to David: 1 Samuel 17:51–54;

“A champion marched forth from the array of the Philistines; his name was Goliath of Gath, a man of lofty six cubits and a span [1 cubit = 18 inches, he was about 9½ feet tall].”

A bronze helmet was on his head, and he had put on a scale body-armor with the weight of the body-armor being 5,000 bronze shekels.

He had bronze greaves above his feet, and a bronze scimitar between his shoulders [a curved sword, in a scabbard strapped to his back].

The shaft of his spear was like a heddle-rod of the weavers [“a weaver’s beam,” KJV], and the cutting-blade of his spear was 600 iron shekels. The bearer of his large shield went before him.”

• 1 Samuel 17:4–7, CLV

The various pieces of defensive armor in the Bronze Age were not solid pieces of metal, but small-scale pieces connected to each other. Larger pieces of armor were tied to each other with leather straps. Finding battle weapons would help us understand how they fought, and it would confirm how deadly even simple ancient weapons were — especially for Goliath. Again, the Scriptures would be validated.

Imagine yourself being an archaeologist, holding Goliath’s sword in your hand, while his head may be in an adjoining chamber. I think you would take the Bible more seriously than you may have previously.

By the way, iron weapons and armor existed in the Bronze Age of King David, but they were very expensive to produce, and the quality was not much better than bronze weapons.

King David’s Throne

The throne of David is mentioned above in the section “The Tabernacle of David.” David’s son Solomon sat on the throne of David for a period of time: **“Then sat Solomon upon the throne of David his father; and his kingdom was established greatly”** (1 Kings 2:12). Solomon did this openly in 1 Kings 2:19 to demonstrate his physical and personal possession of the throne to all who came before him. Now Solomon ruled in place of David.

Later Solomon built a physical throne for himself, no doubt to his own personal specifications. He used it instead of David’s throne. Solomon’s throne is described and the details are interesting:

“The king also made a great ivory throne and overlaid it with glittering gold. The throne had six steps, and as a cover a rounded top on its back, also armrests on this side and on that side of the place of the seat, and two lions standing beside the armrests. Twelve lions were standing there on the six steps, on this side and on that side; such a thing had not been made for any other kingdom.”

• 1 Kings 10:18–20, CLV

Solomon built his palace with a judgment area and a raised porch and put the throne on it (1 Kings 7:1–7).

If Solomon had a new physical throne built for himself, with great splendor, what then was done with David’s physical throne? Would he have it destroyed? Would it have been thrown in the trash? Would it have been used like any other chair? No.

Perhaps David's physical throne was put in David's "house," his Tomb. A psalm of David included in the Book of Psalms by King Hezekiah, Psalm 122, specifically states that there are multiple "thrones" of the house of David.

"I rejoiced with those saying to me, 'Let us go to the house of Yahweh.' ... For there are located thrones of judgment, The thrones [plural] for [or TO] the house of David."

• *Psalm 122:1, 5, CLV*

Multiple thrones are referred to, perhaps one for each deceased king. In Hezekiah's day they were in some kind of relationship to the Temple of Solomon, and perhaps to **"the house of David."** How would Hezekiah know about multiple **"thrones for the House of David"**? Perhaps they were in the tomb chambers of his ancestors, the tombs in **"the House of David."** (Hezekiah should be buried among them in a special location).

I will show later in this series of articles that in a minimum of occurrences determined by context, the phrase **"House of David"** refers to the Tombs of David.

Read all of Psalm 122 where there is an interconnection of **"the House of YHWH"** (verses 1, 9); the **"gates"** (verse 2), **"walls"** (verse 7), and **"palaces"** (verse 7) of Jerusalem (verses 3, 6); and **"the thrones for the House of David"** (verse 5), which are **"thrones of judgment"** (verse 5). All are physical structures. All are within the gates of the city of Jerusalem **"a city that is compact together"** (verse 3). While the term **"thrones"** is plural in both occurrences of the word in verse 5, the usage may be a plural of majesty, indicating the one seated on that throne has many dominions. There is also the intriguing verse:

"But king Solomon will be blessed, and the throne of David shall become established before Yahweh unto the eon."

• *1 Kings 2:45, CLV*

Christ will sit on that throne of David as prophesied in Isaiah, and later when the angel Gabriel announced to Mary about God's choice for her to give birth to Jesus:

"For a Boy, He is born to us; A Son, He is given to us, And the chieftainship shall come to be on His shoulder, And one shall call His name Marvelous; Counsel to the master shall He bring, Unto the chief, well-being. To the increase of the chieftainship And to the well-being there will be no end; On the THRONE OF DAVID and over his kingdom, To establish it and to brace it with right judgment and with justice, Henceforth and in the future eon, The zeal of Yahweh of hosts, it shall achieve this."

• *Isaiah 9:6–7, CLV*

Gabriel quoted this Isaiah verse to Mary when announcing her birth of Jesus:

"And lo! you shall be conceiving and be pregnant and be bringing forth a Son, and you shall be calling His name Jesus. He shall be great, and Son of the Most High shall He be called. And the Lord God shall be giving Him THE THRONE OF DAVID, His father, and He shall reign over the house of Jacob for the eons. And of His kingdom there shall be no consummation [end]."

• *Luke 1:31–33, CLV*

The throne of David might be in the sealed Tomb of David waiting for Christ to return. Why not? The throne is mentioned often. A physical fulfillment of the prophecy would be even more astonishing if God's mention of something will be a physical reality. Such things greatly enhance wonderful symbolism.

Consider this fact. Jesus will destroy Jerusalem with an earthquake when He sets foot on the Mount of Olives. This earthquake will destroy the Temple polluted by the Antichrist who commits the abomination of desolation in Daniel 8:13; Matthew 24:15; and Mark 13:14.

Christ will rule Jerusalem, Israel, and the world from David's throne in Jerusalem. Just any unbroken chair would do. Yes, Christ could create a throne for Himself. But why not use the original **"throne of David"** just as Isaiah 9:6–7 and Luke 1:31–33 clearly say. It is prophesied and I believe it will be David's original throne.

That throne was not just David's or Solomon's throne, it was actually the throne of YHWH. That throne was symbolically on loan to David, Solomon, and all the later kings of Judah, if they obeyed God's commands. I am amazed that God spoke personally to Solomon. A few years later he began to perform rituals for the non-existent gods of his foreign wives. Before that happened, note what God said to the young king. Solomon told the leaders of his kingdom who inserted God's conversation with Solomon in the chronicles of his reign. God told Solomon whose throne it truly was. The chronicler wrote ...

“So Solomon sat on THE THRONE OF YAHWEH as king instead of his father David and prospered; and all Israel hearkened to him.”

• *1 Chronicles 29:23, CLV*

Everything went well for Solomon until he began to assist his wives to worship their gods. Perhaps he was not as wise spiritually as he was wise in knowledge of the world. As quoted in the section above on “the throne of David,” Jeremiah was also told whose throne it really was. In fact, the thrones of kingship are merely on loan to human rulers according to God's will. He is the One who places all rulers in their positions. In times to come, all Jerusalem will be a **“throne of Yahweh.”** This will be the situation after Christ returns:

“In that era they shall call Jerusalem THE THRONE OF YAHWEH, and all the nations will be expectant toward her, for the Name of Yahweh at Jerusalem, and they shall no longer walk after the obduracy [stubbornness] of their evil heart.”

• *Jeremiah 3:17, CLV*

ITEM: The Bodies of David, Bathsheba, and Solomon

An important aspect that Peter spoke about in Acts 2:29 said **“the patriarch David, that he IS BOTH dead and buried, and his sepulcher IS WITH US unto this day.”** Peter is saying, yes folks, David's body is in that tomb, unlike Jesus who was raised from the dead, and He left the sepulcher He was in. And those listening to Peter felt guilty because they demanded the authorities crucify and kill Jesus.

If the body of King David is present in the Tomb, when it is discovered, forensic scientists could show the world, using computer modeling, a close approximation of what King David of Israel looked like at the moment of his death at age 70. We would be able to see the face of King David (and Bathsheba, Solomon, Hezekiah, and others) from the bones in the Tombs.

“David was thirty years old when he became king, and he reigned forty years. In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months; and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years over all Israel and Judah.”

• *2 Samuel 5:4-5, CLV*

David's favorite wife Bathsheba is likely buried with him, and we know that his son and successor Solomon is buried with David. So also, perhaps David's other children are buried in the tomb complex. If the bodies of David, Bathsheba, and Solomon are present (or other family of David), then it is possible that the entire DNA sequence of the Davidic kingly line could be determined. Any Jewish person could evaluate his or her DNA to see if they were directly descended from King David.

How should the bodies be exhibited to the public? Should they be put on display like the body of King Tut? Orthodox Jewish people and particularly their Rabbis are very sensitive about such matters. I went on only one archaeological dig, but the people in charge told the diggers, if you find a bone, it might be a human bone. Do not broadcast it to people outside the group. We were told, if the orthodox find out, they will try to shut down the dig site until the bone(s) are reburied. It is very disruptive. So ... there are cultural issues to be considered and managed.

Consider another interesting situation. Did you know that David and Solomon are both prophets of Islam according to the Koran?¹² A discovery of the bodies of a prophet of Islam might be very upsetting to strict

¹² See [“David in Islam - Wikipedia”](#) and [“Solomon in Islam - Wikipedia.”](#)

Muslims. However, any writings discovered in the Tombs written by the hand of a prophet of Islam would be important to all Islamic believers.

Such a find might be considered by Muslims as highly significant and even miraculous. Many would feel compelled to read everything that David and Solomon wrote, because they are recognized prophets of that religion. Even more important, they would inevitably make an association between David and Jesus and many will perhaps “discover” the New Testament. This could lead many Muslim believers to accept Jesus as their Savior, especially to those in Jerusalem. In this regard note this passage in the Book of Zechariah:

“Yet I will pour out on the house of David [the tombs of David], And on the dwellers of Jerusalem, A spirit of grace and supplications; And they will look to Him [Jesus] Whom they stabbed, And they will wail over Him as the wailing for an only son, And they will grieve bitterly over Him as one grieving bitterly over a firstborn. In that day, the wailing shall be great in Jerusalem, Like the wailing of Hadad-rimmon in the valley of Megiddon [Megiddo].

• *Zechariah 12:10–11, CLV*

“For these things occurred that the scripture may be fulfilled, ‘A bone of it shall not be crushed.’ And again, a different scripture is saying, ‘they shall see Him whom they stab.’”

• *John 19:36–37, quoting Zechariah 12:10, CLV*

ITEM: The Body Of Hezekiah And His Family

Other kings of Judah are mentioned as being buried in the City of David, as we will read later, but one of the latter kings stands out above the others and is worthy of comment.

“Then Hezekiah lay down with his fathers; they entombed him in the ascent OF THE TOMBS OF THE SONS OF DAVID; all of Judah and the dwellers of Jerusalem showed him honor in his death; his son Manasseh reigned in his stead.

• *2 Chroniclers 32:33, CLV*

Note there are several **“tombs”** (plural) **“of the sons** (plural) **of David”** at the time when Hezekiah was buried. Also, what does **“the ascent of the tombs”** mean? Was there a ramp going up to Hezekiah’s tomb chamber? Or does it mean Hezekiah was placed in the highest “location”?

While this verse gives us interesting information, what does **“the ascent of the tombs of the Sons of David”** mean? Other translations render it this way:

- “chiefest of the sepulchers of the sons of David”** — King James Version
- “the upper part of the tombs”** — ESV, Evangelical Standard Version
- “they buried him in the upper section of the tombs”** — New American Standard Bible
- “they bury him in the uppermost of the graves”** — Young’s Literal Translation
- “they buried him in the upper tombs”** — New King James Version

ITEM: The “Pattern” Of The Temple?

Before he died King David was given a unique gift. He was given a detailed “pattern” of the Temple by God. David wrote down what he saw in the pattern so he could give it to Solomon. It seems God gave to David both the pattern and an itemized list of particular instructions, how much of what for each item in the Temple. Refer to my November 2003 article **“[The Pattern of the Temple](#)”** for more information.

In the last verse of this passage David describes why he gathered all the materials for the Temple to fulfill YHWH’s instructions. David told his heir Solomon about the mass of material collected for the Temple that Solomon was to build.

Note these interesting details of what David wrote. The information came from God:

“Then David gave Solomon his son

A PATTERN of the portico,

A PATTERN of

- the house,
- its storerooms,
- its upper chambers,
- its inner chambers, and
- the housing for the propitiatory [a covering] shelter; also

THE PATTERN of all that had come to him BY THE SPIRIT

- for the courts of the house of Yahweh and
- for all the surrounding rooms,
- for the treasuries of the house of the One, Elohim, and
- for the treasuries of the holy donations;
- for the apportionments [divisions and schedules] of the priests and the Levites,
- for all the work of the service of the house of Yahweh and
- for all the vessels of the service of the house of Yahweh;
- for the gold by weight for all the gold vessels used in service by service,
- for all the silver vessels by weight,
- for all the vessels used in service by service;
- for the weight of the gold lampstands and their gold lamps with the weight of lampstand by lampstand and its lamps;
- for the silver lampstands by weight
- for each lampstand and its lamps according to the service of lampstand by lampstand;
- for the gold by weight for the tables of the bread in array, table by table, as well as silver for the silver tables;
- for the pure gold of the forks, the sprinkling bowls and the chalices,
- for the gold by weight for the small bowls, small bowl by small bowl, and
- for the small silver bowls by weight, small bowl by small bowl;
- for the purified gold by weight
- for the altar of incense; also
- for the gold for the model [pattern] of the chariot of the cherubim spreading their wings and overshadowing the coffer of the covenant of Yahweh.

All this, into which Yahweh gave me insight by His hand on me, is **IN WRITING**, all the details of **THE PATTERN**.”

• *1 Chronicles 28:11–19, CLV*

There are two possibilities as to how David fulfilled his task. First, the writing David gave to Solomon was a written form of the pattern of the Temple that YHWH showed to David. This would be similar to the pattern Moses was shown in Exodus by YHWH:

“According to all that I am showing you, THE MODEL [pattern] of the tabernacle and the model of all its furnishings, thus shall you make it.”

• *Exodus 25:9, CLV*

“And see that you make it by THEIR MODEL [pattern] which is being shown you on the mount.”

• *Exodus 25:40, CLV*

The Concordant Literal Version used the English term “model” in Exodus and “pattern” in 1 Chronicles 28:11–19, however the two English words describe the same Hebrew term.

What happened to that pattern after the Temple was built by Solomon? What would YOU do with an object given to Israel by YHWH, in His own handwriting?

Such a document is similar in importance to the tablets of stone given to Moses. They also were written by the hand of God (Exodus 24:12, 31:18, 32:15–16; Deuteronomy 5:22; Hebrews 8:5), and placed within the Ark of the Covenant. Is it reasonable to think that the “pattern” of the Temple would have been buried with the man who received it, after its usefulness was done?

Two verses in the New Testament mention the Tabernacle model or pattern that Moses SAW.

The tabernacle of the testimony was with our fathers in the wilderness, according as He prescribes, Who speaks to Moses, to make it according to THE MODEL which he had seen,

• *Acts 7:44, CLV*

“[The priests] who, by an example and shadow, are offering the divine service of the celestials, according as Moses has been apprized [made aware], when about to be completing the tabernacle. For see, He is averring [stating], that you shall be making all ‘in accord with THE MODEL shown to you in the mountain.’”

• *Hebrews 8:5, CLV*

Imagine if the document David wrote for Solomon was in the tombs, either with David’s body or with Solomon’s body. The writing would be what David saw and received from God Himself. It was given to David’s son Solomon.

God spoke to Solomon twice soon after he became King of Israel. Solomon, the wisest man in the world until Christ was born, turned to sin. Maybe some part of the writing David gave to Solomon was a diagram of some sort, a drawing? If you knew that God gave that to your human father, and he gave it to you, would you try to preserve it? Probably you would.

Of course, we could never know this side of the grave if it was a true document or a forgery, except in one way. It would be a beautiful drawing, or description, of a magnificent building.

The impact of this discovery of the pattern of the Temple (whatever that “pattern” might be), would be incredible, even for those who would not believe it was written by God Himself. It would give scholars and all believers insight into what Solomon’s Temple was like, and what God’s priorities were in its construction — perhaps in David’s own handwriting.

What Is Next?

The second article in this series will present the most important and interesting possibilities as to what might be in the Tombs of David. We have only begun to examine what God has hidden there. The important information in the Tombs of David that is still to come, could survive and be revealed only by direct actions of God. In articles after the next one, I will present the biblical and historical clues as to why the Tomb complex is located just south of the true site of all God’s Temples in Zion.

David Sielaff, 2006, 2024