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# King David's Tomb

## 2. Best Discoveries?

by David Sielaff, 2006, March 2024

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

Then read the March 1, 2024 Commentary, "[A Second Site of Burial](#)"



In the first article of this series, "[King David's Tomb, 1. What Is Inside?](#)," I began to examine items that may be in King David's Tomb or in other sepulchers of a larger tomb complex. The subtitle of this article has a question mark: "Best Discoveries?" I present the most important artifacts that might be in King David's Tomb. Each discovery would enhance our understanding of ancient history and prophecy. The discoveries will be made when God wants them to be revealed to the world. The artifacts will demonstrate that God exists, driving individuals and nations to read their Bibles. Given that God exists ... they would be foolish to ignore their Creator.<sup>1</sup>

### *Review and Background About the Tombs*

"Then David lay down with his fathers; and he was entombed **IN THE CITY OF DAVID**" (1 Kings 2:10, CLV<sup>2</sup>). We find later that the location of the tombs of David continued to be known after the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple of YHWH by the Babylonians. After the Persians allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple, the Jewish people needed to rebuild Jerusalem's wall. We are given details in Nehemiah chapter 3 about the location of the Tombs within the City of David:

**"It was the Spring Gate that Shallun ... repaired; he himself rebuilt it, roofed it and installed its doors, its latches and its bars; and he rebuilt the wall of the Shelah reservoir of the king's garden and as far as the stairs descending from THE CITY OF DAVID.**

**After him Nehemiah son of Azbuk, chief of half the Beth-zur tract, repaired [the wall] as far as IN FRONT OF THE TOMB [s] OF DAVID, and as far as the reservoir that had been made, and as far as the house of the masters of war."**

• *Nehemiah 3:15–16, Concordant Literal Version*

| **NOTE 1:** In Nehemiah 3:16 the word "tomb" is translated by the CLV as a singular noun. This is because

<sup>1</sup> See my short article for January 2024, "[Where Is God?](#)" God has seemed distant from His creation. That will soon change!

<sup>2</sup> All verses are quoted from the *Concordant Literal Version* (CLV), unless otherwise indicated.

the compilers of the CLV accept the LXX Greek translation where “tomb” is singular. But the word is clearly plural (“tombs”) in Hebrew manuscripts. Several English translations have notes for this verse that the Greek Septuagint, the Syriac, and the Latin Vulgate translations (from Hebrew) have “tomb” singular.

**NOTE 2:** I believe “... **the reservoir that had been made**” refers to the artificial depression dug into the bedrock just south of the rising of the Gihon Spring as it enters Hezekiah’s Tunnel. Today tourists who go on the City of David tour at one point come to a walkway looking down at a depression lit by blue flood lights, which represent water. Was this the “reservoir” used to store water when the flow of the Gihon Spring was strong. The water was released into Hezekiah’s Tunnel when the flow moderated. This helped regulate the flow of water south to the Pool of Siloam.

**NOTE 3:** In his speech at Pentecost, in Acts 2:29 the apostle Peter says that the location of the “tomb of David” (singular) was known. Peter reminded them of what was common knowledge:

**“Men! Brethren! Allow me to say to you with boldness concerning the patriarch David, that he deceases also and was entombed, and his tomb is among us until this day.”**

• Acts 2:29

David was dead. He was not raised or resurrected from the dead. David’s soul was not (and is not now) “alive” in any way, nor is David in heaven now. David’s spirit is not “alive” praising God. How can we know that? It is because the dead cannot praise God; only the living can do that (Psalm 30:9, 115:17; Isaiah 38:18–19).

David’s body was in that tomb on the day of Pentecost in 30 AD. It is still there today. Was Peter lying? No. Was he mistaken? No. If Peter was mistaken about David, then his testimony about the resurrection of Jesus now being the living Christ (Messiah) could also be questioned. Peter told the truth about both: (1) the Tomb of David and (2) Jesus being raised from the dead.

On Pentecost Peter’s audience all knew about the events of the past weeks, including the earthquakes (when Jesus died and 3 days later when He was resurrected), the splitting of the Temple veil from top to bottom, and the sudden appearance of people who recently died and were suddenly alive again on the day Jesus was resurrected (Matthew 27:52–53). And everyone knew about Lazarus being raised from the dead. He was a wealthy man known in Jerusalem, Those events were **BIG NEWS** in the city still filled with pilgrims who attended both of the spring festivals of Passover and Pentecost.<sup>3</sup>

Nehemiah 3:15–16 and Acts 2:29 both declare that David’s Tomb was in the City of David when those accounts were written. We learn later from the Jewish historian Josephus in the mid-90s AD (confirmed by later Jewish writers decades after Josephus), that in their days the Tombs of David were still secure with the bodies intact and unmolested. Let us consider these most important artifacts that may be in David’s Tombs.

### **ITEM: Writings Within the Tomb Chambers**

For archaeologists, the best discoveries of all are artifacts with writings on them. It does not matter what size they are, what surface they are written on (stone, clay, metal, animal skins, papyrus), from what time period, or how short or long the writing, scholars are thrilled when writings are discovered at an archaeological site. When the first Dead Sea Scrolls began to be discovered there was great excitement. More scrolls were

Luke, a physician, was the compiler for parts of the Book of Acts, just as he compiled all of his Gospel. Luke tells us in Luke 1:1–4 that he wrote the accounts from eyewitnesses. He was a Gentile (compare Colossians 4:11 and 4:14) and a traveling companion in the ministry of the apostle Paul. Luke also wrote the early parts of Acts from the accounts of others. Luke witnessed many events he wrote about later in Acts. He did not witness events at Pentecost in Acts chapters 1 or 2. That information was told to Luke by eyewitnesses, perhaps by Peter himself.  
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<sup>3</sup> See my article “[Memory in Luke](#).” For further background read Dr. Martin’s “[Chapter 15 - The Book of Acts and New Testament History](#)” and “[Chapter 21 - The New Testament Pentateuch](#)” from his book [Restoring the Original Bible](#).

found in other caves in the same area. They had been buried for 1,890+ years in desert caves. The Dead Sea Scroll writings remain the most important archaeological finds in history — so far.

Any discovery of written documents from the time of King David found within the Tombs would be a discovery of the highest significance. It would prove beyond doubt that David existed, that he was King in Jerusalem, and he ruled a powerful kingdom. Very few written documents of any size from ancient Palestine exist anywhere, outside of the written accounts in the Holy Scriptures. A discovery of a substantial number of writings would increase considerably our vocabulary of ancient Hebrew beginning around 1,000 BC.

There are Hebrew words that occur only one time in Scripture. When that is the case, translators of the Old Testament often lack sufficient context to confidently determine the true meaning of the single-use words. The meaning of a word is determined and molded by words around it, to help us understand the unknown word. The more times a word is used, the more evidence scholars have to understand the word's true meaning in all of its occurrences, whether in a narrative context, an accounting format, or in symbolic or poetic usage, perhaps in a song. Surrounding words help give precision and context to newly discovered words, single use words, or seldom used words.

There are 305,411 Hebrew words in the Old Testament.<sup>4</sup> Although numbers vary, about 1,500 words occur only one time, and only about 400 have doubtful translations. These words are called *hapax legomena*. In linguistics, a *hapax legomenon* (Greek, meaning “once said”) is a word or an expression occurring only one time in a large body of text. In this case we are interested in Old Testament words. The meaning of a word is always affected by other words, whether in a large body of documents, used by an author, or in a single text.

A discovery of a large number of writings would greatly expand the vocabulary, contexts, and precision of translations not only of *hapax legomena* but of words with more than one meaning in different contexts that translators might not be aware of due to few uses for comparison. More precise understandings could be important in historical and prophetic writings that are culturally influenced, often poetic, and symbolic.

More discovered writings mean more data for more precise meaning of every word in the Old Testament. Revised and more accurate understandings of Old Testament words, may even influence New Testament words used by New Testament Greek writers, and they quote Hebrew Old Testament passages into English. This process in turn may influence our understanding of obscure prophecies in both Old and New Testaments.

This “settling out” of the text from more discoveries, will take time.

Present translations of words that are used only once or a few times with little context, may be speculative or completely wrong. This can be true of ancient Hebrew biblical terms even when hints and suggestions can be deduced from later Jewish writings, Jewish translations from Hebrew Old Testament to Greek, such as the Septuagint (LXX), or from related languages such as Aramaic or even Arabic.

The Dead Sea Scrolls gave an understanding of the theology of a Jewish religious group that existed to the time of the Jewish rebellion in 66–70 AD. The Scrolls expanded the range of meanings of several Hebrew words before the time of Christ and the apostles, perhaps to a time after the Roman conquest of the Jewish Rebellion in 66–70 AD and later in the Bar Kochba rebellion 60+ years later from 132–136 AD.

This should give context for a speculative mass of writings being discovered from before 1000 BC, and later perhaps up to the time of King Hezekiah of Judah.

Again, remember that the processing (and protection) of the writings will be of the greatest priority after the discovery, and that will also take time. Analyzing each text for meaning and relevance to the Bible will also take time. This is all under the control of God the Father. He allowed current mistranslations to go out into the world for multiple generations. But there will be “**seasons of refreshing**” and “**times of restitution of all things,**” all before Christ Jesus returns (Acts 3:19–21). These seasons and times have to do with information from God to the people, beginning again at Jerusalem and going forth from there to the people of the world.

The effect will be even greater than it was the first time after Pentecost of 30 AD. The outreach began

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<sup>4</sup> “[Tanach Stats](#)” is the source of that number of Hebrew words in the Old Testament. Frederick Greenspan’s article “[Words That Occur in the Bible Only Once—How Hard Are They to Translate?](#)” explains the various ways translators approximate the meaning for once-used words and rarely used words. See also the *Jewish Virtual Library* article “[Hapax Legomena](#).”

after the Holy Spirit was given by God to be within believers. It occurs in all believers today and it will occur for a second time in the world now with 8+ billion people alive at present. Each one is a person descended from Adam. Multiple billions will be reached, preached to, and God will give them understanding about His existence and the work done by Christ Jesus.

It will be the task of textual scholars with Jewish and Christian religious leaders to work through and translate all newly discovered information. More data will make the details of biblical texts and translations more precise and accurate than ever before. It will help once obscure passages to become clear, and confusing prophecies to be obvious, especially as time grows short and Christ's return approaches. The writings will not supersede the Bible. They will give background and context to the biblical message. As Paul wrote,

**“Now all this befalls them typically. Yet it was written for our admonition, to whom the consummations [ends, fulfillments] of the eons have attained.”**

• **1 Corinthians 10:11**

**“For whatever was written before, was written for this teaching of ours, that through the endurance and the consolation of the scriptures we may have expectation [hope].”**

• **Romans 15:4**

### **Writings of History and Literature**

Writings found within the Tomb of David would increase our textual resources to know more confidently the ancient Hebrew vocabulary, and the meaning of important Scriptures, particularly obscure Hebrew prophetic Scriptures. God communicates to His people through His written word, and it is important, especially in the decades before the day Christ returns, that we understand His words and His message more precisely as that day approaches. We should ask:

- What possible writings might be in the Tombs of King David?
- Why should we bother to speculate about their existence?

Actually, there are quite a few written documents that might be in the Tombs of David or the sepulchers of David's "good" heirs to the **“throne of David.”** The list of writings below can be found in most every “Survey of the Old Testament” book that has been written. Little is known about any of these books. One of them, [\*The Book of Jasher\*](#) (1887 Hebrew to English translation) exists today, but most scholars doubt it is the book referred to in Joshua and Second Samuel. The text we have adds little to the narratives in the Scriptures. Below is the list of these “lost books” or writings. I quote from Dr. Martin's, *Restoring the Original Bible*:

**“LOST BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT ... let us notice some books which are mentioned in the Old Testament but are not found in the pages of our Bible.”**

<i>The Book of the Wars of the Lord</i>	Numbers 21:14
<i>The Book of Jasher</i>	Joshua 10:13; 2 Samuel 1:18
<i>The Book of the Acts of Solomon</i>	1 Kings 11:14
<i>The Book of Nathan the Prophet</i>	1 Chronicles 29:29
<i>The Book of Gad the Seer</i>	1 Chronicles 29:29
<i>The Prophecy of Ahijah the Shiloite</i>	2 Chronicles 9:29
<i>The Visions of Iddo the Seer</i>	2 Chronicles 9:29
<i>The Book of Shemiah the Prophet</i>	2 Chronicles 12:15
<i>The Book of Jehu the Son of Hanani</i>	2 Chronicles 20:34
<i>The Sayings of Hosai</i>	2 Chronicles 33:19

Do these “lost books” belong in the sacred canon of the Old Testament? **THEY DO NOT.** Ezra in the Book of Chronicles referred to the last seven of these ten books, and it was he who was responsible for canonizing the complete Old Testament. He mentioned these historical documents to support the truth of what he wrote in the Book of Chronicles, but he did not include

any of them as a part of divine scripture. Had he wanted them in the canon, he could easily have placed one or all of them within the divine collection. He did not.”

- [“Chapter 12 - The Old Testament Periods of Canonization”](#)

If even one of these books were to be found in any of the Sepulchers of David, it would add important historical details to our knowledge of the events, times, and lives of people mentioned in the Bible. And their historicity could not be denied. Even then, it would not have the authority of God’s Word in the Bible.

### ***ITEM: The Psalms Of David***

The Psalms of David were important to the everyday life of Israel, to the construction and later operation of the Temple by Solomon, and were used in later generations, up to today. The Bible itself indicates that David composed many of the words of the Psalms himself, before and after he became King of all Israel.

Perhaps David himself arranged music to accompany the words. After all, they were the work of King David himself. Such arrangements, perhaps in the form of notations, may be indicated within the writings and words of the Davidic psalms. We know that David planned, established, and watched over the procedures for the music of the Temple rituals, particularly for the feast days when much of Israel would gather. After David’s death, Solomon and later good kings of Judah followed these instructions.

Would the original documents of those Psalms and procedures be discarded? It is possible they would be copied, and the originals placed with King David in his Tomb. In the box below are the section titles of Dr. Martin’s article about Biblical music: [“Psalms, Music and Prophecy.”](#)

The words of the Davidic Psalms have been preserved for inclusion in our present Hebrew Bibles and in translations. Perhaps they were kept in the Temple and later burned when Jerusalem was captured, and Solomon’s Temple destroyed. Perhaps they were buried with the composer and arranger. I think the words and music of the Psalms, if found in the Tomb of David, would be a miracle.

We know music was important to David. Most of his Psalms were not just poetry, they were songs to be publicly performed. His instructions about the use of music to accompany the rituals, speeches by the King and by the High Priest and others, as well as holy day productions of music and public readings of the Torah and other portions of Scripture (in the days of David and Solomon) were precise and specific. David selected the music leaders Solomon was to use when the Temple of YHWH dedication ceremonies and celebrations were conducted.

Several Psalms were composed by David’s music leaders. The Psalms and music became part of the corpus of the Book of Psalms.,adjusted later by “good” kings of Judah. There may be in David’s Tomb instruments (David’s personal lyre, for example) and documents giving scholars clues to help us understand the music of the ancient Israelite kingdom, information that could be useful in the Temple to be constructed before Christ’s return.<sup>5</sup> Every hint helps.

1. *What Is a Psalm?*
2. *The Prophetic Purpose of the Book of Psalms*
3. *The Psalms Introduce Christ*
4. *Psalms and the Feast Days*
5. *Psalms and the Temple*
6. *Concerts for God*
7. *The Organization of Priests in the Temple*
8. *The Organization of Singers in the Temple*
9. *Three Divisions of Singers*
10. *The Apostle Paul’s Admonition*
11. *Psalms as Prophecies*
12. *The Return of the Psalms and Music*

### ***ITEM: Other Proverbs, Wisdom, Songs, and Correspondence Of Solomon***

If Solomon is buried with David as Josephus indicates, and if there are written documents in the Tombs

<sup>5</sup> See Dr. Martin’s and his [“Appendix One - Preliminary Suggestions For the Structure of the Psalms”](#) from his book [Restoring the Original Bible: The Design and Development of the Holy Scriptures](#).

of David, then it is very possible Solomon had his writings buried with him.

**“Elohim gave Solomon wisdom, exceedingly much understanding and wideness of heart, like the sand which is on the seashore.**

**The wisdom of Solomon was greater than the wisdom of all the sons of the east, and all the wisdom of Egypt. He was wiser than any other human, wiser than Ethan the Ezrahite and Heman and Calcol and Darda the sons of Mahol. So his name became famous in all the nations round about.**

**He composed 3,000 proverbs, and his songs came to be 5,000 [the Hebrew text has 1,005 songs].<sup>6</sup>**

**He spoke about the trees, from the cedar of the Lebanon unto the hyssop which is coming forth in the sidewall. He spoke about the beast and the flyer, about the reptile and the fish.**

**They came from all the peoples to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and he took approach presents from all the kings of the earth who had heard of his wisdom.”**

• *1 Kings 4:32–33*

Solomon’s writings might have been preserved in the Temple, and taken from the Temple to Babylon when the army of Nebuchadnezzar conquered Jerusalem some 350+ years after Solomon died. Or those writings might be buried with Solomon in his sepulcher. He was, after all, the wisest man in history — until Jesus was born. The Jewish historian Josephus wrote about Solomon:

**“He was buried in Jerusalem, having been superior to all other kings in happiness, and riches, and wisdom, excepting that when he was growing older, he was deluded by women, and transgressed the law; concerning which transgressions, and the miseries which befell the Hebrews thereby, I think proper to discourse at another opportunity.”**

• *Antiquities of the Jews 8:211*

Of Solomon’s 3,000 proverbs, only a small sample are in the Books of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes.<sup>7</sup> Of the 1,005 songs he is reported to have written, we have only one of them (see Song of Songs 1:1). Regarding Solomon’s proverbs and songs, Solomon also wrote down observational writings about nature. We would call that science today. If those report writings are in David’s Tomb, then Solomon’s writings might be there also.

Solomon also conducted extensive correspondence with other kings near and far, examining questions of life that only kings and royalty have time to think about. Those letters between kings (who likely would be named) may also be buried with Solomon.

**NOTE 1:** Josephus wrote that when King Herod entered into David’s Tomb complex, Herod expected Solomon’s body to be there: **“However, he [Herod] had a great desire to make a more diligent search, and to go farther in, even as far as THE VERY BODIES of David AND SOLOMON,”** (*Antiquities of the Jews* 16:18).

**NOTE 2:** Read the [“April 2008 Newsletter”](#) to learn about a possible breakthrough by French Jewish musician and scholar Suzanne Haïk-Vantoura (d. 2000). After studying biblical Hebrew manuscripts for decades, she claimed a solution of the “code” for the musical notations in older Hebrew texts. These marks made musical sense. The resulting music is said to be beautiful. Did the notations originate with David or some other musician? Similar marks found in texts within David’s Tomb perhaps could be decoded and “played” instruments copied from David’s time. Drawings of instruments from kingdoms nearby to Israel have been found. Perhaps those instruments can be crafted and played.

See the website of the [“Hebrew Music Museum”](#) in Jerusalem. It is a must see experience if you are ever in Jerusalem.

<sup>6</sup> The number of “5,000” songs is from the Greek LXX. The Hebrew texts say “1,005.”

<sup>7</sup> See the interesting Commentary [“Who Wrote Ecclesiastes?”](#) where author Vladimir Gelesnoff wrote in 1920, that perhaps Hezekiah and not Solomon wrote the Book of Ecclesiastes. Note where he was buried: **“Then Hezekiah lay down with his fathers; they entombed him in the ascent of the tombs of the sons of David ...”** (2 Chronicles 32:33).

### ***ITEM: David's Court Histories And Records***

King David's court records were kept by officials of David's kingdom (Solomon's were also). The existence of those detailed records is recorded for us in Scripture. The books are named with titles and the subjects within them are indicated. I have set out the verse in an outline format for clarity:

**“The affairs of David the king, first and last, behold,  
they are written  
in the annals of Samuel the seer,  
in the annals of Nathan the prophet and  
in the annals of Gad the vision seer,  
together with ALL  
his reign and  
his masterful deeds and  
the times that had passed  
over him and  
over Israel and  
over ALL the kingdoms of the lands.**

• **1 Chronicles 29:29–30**

Three authors wrote over four decades detailing “records” of King David's 40 years as king. Was this passage written to tell us that David was a great man? No. So why was this information included in the Chronicles?

Perhaps it was written to fulfill a purpose of God later in history. Remember, that such a statement is my “informed speculation.” The topics of the writings are identified to us:

- (1) David's “**reign**” — details of his significant decisions and their outcomes, good and evil.
- (2) David's personal “**masterful deeds**” — acts of great heroism when David risked his life many times in battle and outwitted his enemies in clever and “masterful” ways.
- (3) “**Times that had passed**” — this probably means “time-dated” events that relate to other noteworthy events, or the events were put in order relative to other events. Some of these major events in David's life may be known to us today in Scripture or history. Perhaps these events reference important historical events around the world, both natural events (eclipses, earthquakes, droughts, plagues, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, signs in the skies, etc.), and human events, such as the dates of battles, events outside Israel, David's marriages, deaths of his wives and his relatives (such as David's immediate family), births and deaths of his daughters and sons.

These are all reasonable “speculations” as to the range of subjects these writings might contain — if they are in David's Tomb.

The writings of Samuel, Nathan, and Gad are already the sources of the books of First and Second Samuel and First Chronicles for King David. According to 1 Chronicles 29:29–30, what we have in our Bible are only tiny bits of what was written and what may be discovered. However, the items mentioned might be key facts God wants us to know. But more information will not only widen our horizon of Iron Age Israel, but knowledge of this expanded information would mean God has preserved this information for us to know:

**“Afterward the sons of Israel shall return, And they will seek Yahweh their Elohim, and David their king; They will come in awe to Yahweh and to His goodness in the latter days.”**

• **Hosea 3:5**

Why would Israelites want to learn more about King David? Some of the events in David's life are already known, such as David's victory over Goliath, his affair with Bathsheba and his murder of Uriah the Hittite,

one of David's "Mighty Men" and husband of Bathsheba. YHWH's written instructions to David (1 Chronicles 28:19) about how the Temple was to be built, and the details (also likely written) that David gave to Solomon on the "pattern of the Temple" (See "[King David's Tomb, 1. What Is Inside?](#)")

The Hebrew term *dabar* means "word," "writing," or "account," but it also can mean "book" and can even mean "history," depending upon the context. In fact, several translations render the Hebrew *dabar* as "*history*" in the 1 Chronicles 29:29–30 passage above, depending on the topics. Certainly, a compiled set of "records" (plural) could be translated by the terms "account," "book," "saga," or "history." The books by the two seers and one prophet during the reign of David contain information about his acts during his 7 years reigning as King of Hebron over the tribes of Judah, Benjamin, and Levi, and 33 years reign as king of all the tribes of Israel.

The information in these "histories" would be very comprehensive. They would be first-person accounts, outside of the Biblical record, but they would confirm the Old Testament narrative. These histories would not replace the Scriptures. But they would have a purpose. They will expand and clarify the Scriptures and make the Word of God compelling to read and cause people to crave more information about people God used in history. God tells us how He works:

**"For MY designs are not your designs, And your ways are not My ways, averring [saying] is Yahweh. For as the heavens are loftier than the earth, So are My ways loftier than your ways, And MY designs than your designs**

**... So shall MY word be that shall go forth from MY mouth; [1] It shall not return to Me empty, [2] But rather it does what I desire [3] And prospers in that for which I sent it."**

• *Isaiah 55:8–9, 11*

If these writings about King David are revealed, they should never be considered inspired Scriptures, but they should lead people to read the Scriptures, and perhaps they will be the reason they will ... **"seek Yahweh their Elohim, and David their king"** as Hosea 3:5 says as quoted above. These writings will tell about his great deeds ("**his might**") about his strategic and tactical genius on the battlefield. After all, David never lost a battle and was always helped by God.

His "**masterful deeds**" might refer to his fighting skill, daring to fight at the front of his army, leading and inspiring his men, fighting in the middle of hand-to-hand combat. These writings will be compelling. Yes, again I am speculating. David's great deeds were throughout his entire active life. When David was older, his troops and leaders insisted he stop risking his life by going into danger of physical combat (2 Samuel 18:1–4).<sup>8</sup>

### ***ITEM: "Fixing" (Correcting) Biblical and Historical Chronology***

A proper understanding of biblical chronology is vital to understand biblical prophecies of the future. While the Bible is true in its history, there are chronological difficulties that are very problematic. Finding these records in King David's Tombs would go a long way to fixing these difficulties. See Dr. Martin's articles "[Chronological Falsehoods](#)," "[Chronology - The Key to Prophetic Understanding Part 1](#)," and "[Chronology - The Key to Prophetic Understanding Part 2](#)."

Some things in David's court records may even have a bearing on New Testament writings. (See Dr. Martin's article, "[The Chronology of New Testament Times](#).") For example, the most significant event after the Creation was the Son of God becoming flesh, being born of Mary, growing, living, giving the world His

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<sup>8</sup> Following King David's example, Solomon had the same type of court records prepared by his court officials during his 40 years of ruling united Israel: "**And the rest of the affairs of Solomon, and all that he did, and his wisdom, are they not written on the scroll of THE ANNALS OF SOLOMON?**" (1 Kings 11:41). If Solomon is buried in the tombs of David, Solomon's records might be there with his body. Other kings of Judah may have done the same.



ministry and sinless life, His crucifixion, death, and resurrection. It was the most pivotal crisis in world history. Only Christ's Second Coming will rival it.

A true understanding and widespread knowledge of the truths in God's written Word should be (and I believe will be) part of the "restitution of all things" that Peter taught in the Portico of the Temple:

**"And now, brethren, I am aware that in ignorance you commit it, even as your chiefs also. Yet what God announces before through the mouth of all the prophets — the suffering of His Christ — He thus fulfills. Repent, then, and turn about for the erasure of your sins, so that SEASONS OF REFRESHING should be coming from the face of the Lord,**

**and He [God] should dispatch the One fixed upon before for you, Christ Jesus, Whom heaven must indeed receive UNTIL the TIMES OF RESTORATION OF ALL which God speaks through the mouth of His holy prophets who are from the eon."**

• *Acts 3:17–21, citing Malachi 4:5–6*

King David was also called a prophet in 2 Samuel 23:1–7. Peter called him a prophet in Acts 2:30; and some of the Psalms attributed to David were prophetic.

Have **"the times of refreshing"** been fulfilled? I believe so. This was done in the first century after Christ ascended, but there will be a second fulfillment of those **"times."** Have **"the times of restitution of all things"** begun yet? No, they have not yet occurred or even begun to occur. What Peter said was a restatement of the last two verses in the Book of Malachi.

**"Behold, I will send to you Elijah, the prophet, BEFORE the coming of the great and advent day of Yahweh.**

**And he will restore**

**the heart of the fathers to the sons and**

**the heart of the sons to their fathers,**

**lest I [Yahweh] come and smite the earth to its doom."**

• *Malachi 4:5–6*

This has a future fulfillment because the **"Day of Yahweh"** judgments have not yet happened. So yes, a third Elijah shall appear on the scene. (The second was John the Baptist, who died before Jesus was crucified) in our future before Christ returns.<sup>9</sup> The discoveries in King David's Tomb may play a role to begin the **"TIMES OF RESTORATION OF ALL."**<sup>10</sup>

The **"ELM Timeline Project"** was a wonderful volunteer undertaking compiled by two engineers Henry Dye and Tim Parrott (both died in recent years. They worked to systematize Dr. Ernest Martin's chronological information in his books and many articles. The result is a clarification of several chronological issues studied by Dr. Martin and closely examined by these two engineers and me. I highly encourage you to look at and study them. Read the source material and the verses. It is a wonderful addition and analysis of Dr. Martin's chronological work, but everything is always subject to change with new and verified information.

The writings or books that may be in King David's Tomb also relate to what happened *when*, the time events occurred in history. This likely means that the accounts in the books give the events in sequence and how those events relate to other kingdoms, nations, and peoples. This means that chronologies of ancient history up to the death of King David could be understood with precision. This is important because little is known outside of Scripture about the world outside Israel and Judah during this period of the United Kingdom. This has implications for the kingdoms of Hatti (the Hittites), Assyria, and even Babylon which were not yet powerful. Also, Egyptian history could be coordinated with the Bible. That is not the case at present. As Dr.

<sup>9</sup> Read Dr. Martin's articles **"The Elijah to Come"** and **"The 'Great Generation' and Modern Prophecy."** Here are two commentaries I wrote on this subject: **"Restitution of All Things, What to Expect"** and **"Restitution and the Temple."**

<sup>10</sup> See three of my Commentaries I have written: **"Josephus' Chronology and Other Things,"** **"Bible Prophecy, Time, and Chronology,"** **"Chronology of Isaiah's Prophecies,"**

Martin wrote in his 1981 article "[The Importance of Egyptian History](#)":

**"The way to come to a proper knowledge of the history of Egypt, in my view, is to first of all to be certain that we understand what was happening in Palestine, in the land of Canaan from the time of the flood of Noah right on through until historical times come along which we can be pretty well assured of.**

**If you can understand the history of central Palestine, and Isaiah said Israel is placed in the middle of everything, then we should be able to understand what is happening on the flanks of Israel."**

The mention in such writings of the Hebrew name of just one pharaoh (and we should expect several others to be mentioned) within the writings of David, Solomon, and other kings of Judah could revolutionize ancient history. Such identifications would not only synchronize Egyptian history to biblical history. It would totally LOCK the two together. There would be many surprises to come from reconciling Egyptian dynastic lists to all of ancient history.<sup>11</sup>

At present there is a 400-to-600-year mismatch between biblical history and Egyptian history that has evaded any attempts to reconcile the two, according to accepted traditional scholarship. It is my belief that "suddenly" the misunderstood Egyptian chronology and history would coordinate positively to the biblical record. Ancient history would suddenly "make sense" to scholars around the world. Events in one kingdom could be understood as having an impact upon another kingdom. A drought in one kingdom would have an impact upon other kingdoms.

Finding just one of the "books" within the Tombs of David would be a major breakthrough in understanding the events in Palestine perhaps going back to the exact time of the Exodus from Egypt.

Even more important, as we approach the end times, it is vital that we have an accurate grasp of ancient history, to better understand the prophecies in the Bible in the time of David and later. Such knowledge would be informative for the great and sweeping prophecies that came after David. Such a discovery would show that the Bible is the basis for history of the ancient world, and that it is the standard to which all historical writings of the ancient world must compare. The Bible is accurate.

The most important find in the Tomb chambers of King David would shock the world for the better. This one find in the Tombs would turn people to God and to the Bible. People would begin say to themselves and to each other, "*Moses really did exist! He did write, he did lead Israel out of Egypt and to the border of the Promised Land. This is fascinating! Moses is buried at Mount Nebo.*":

**"Then Moses ascended from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, the summit of the Pisgah ridge, which is overlooking Jericho. And Yahweh showed him all the land: Gilead as far as Dan;**

**all the land of Naphtali, all the land of Ephraim and Manasseh,**

**all the land of Judah as far as the sea that is behind it, the Negeb and the valley basin of Jericho, the city of palm trees, as far as Zoar. Then Yahweh said to him:**

**'This is the land about which I had sworn to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob, saying, To your seed shall I give it.**

**I have let you see it with your eyes, yet you shall not cross over there.'**

**Moses, the servant of Yahweh, died there in the land of Moab in accordance with the word of Yahweh."**

**• Deuteronomy 34:1-5**

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<sup>11</sup> Serious attempts to solve chronological problems has been made by the excellent work by the films of the "[Patterns of Evidence](#)" series. While I have some disagreements with some of their conclusions, I have seen all of their movies. ASK has no affiliation with the company that produced the films.

## ***ITEM: The Most Important Find Possible — King David's Book of the Law***

We finally come to the most amazing discovery of all — **IF** it is in David's Tomb. There is an interesting passage in Deuteronomy chapter 17. It tells about the Torah being copied (written down) by each new king:

**"It will come to be when he [a new king] is seated on the throne of his kingdom, that he will write for himself A DUPLICATE OF THIS LAW [Torah] on a scroll from the one before the priests, the Levites. And it will be with him, and he will read in it all the days of his life that he may learn: to fear Yahweh his Elohim, to observe all the words of this law and these statutes to do them ... so that he may prolong his days on the throne of his kingdom,"<sup>12</sup> he and his sons among Israel."**

• ***Deuteronomy 17:18–20***

This does not mean the Ten Commandments. These words refer to the first five books of Moses: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. It is conjecture, of course, whether this unbelievably valuable writing is even in the Tomb of David, but there is reason for this speculation:

If each new king were instructed to write and make a copy of the law, can we expect that such a command would be followed by the righteous kings of Judah? Yes.

Would David have followed this command of Deuteronomy? Again, the answer is yes. David took the Law of YHWH very seriously. In fact, David loved the Law of YHWH, as he expressed several times in the Psalms.<sup>13</sup> Here are some examples:

**"Happy is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, And in the way of sinners does not stand, And in the seat of mockers does not sit. But rather in the law of Yahweh is his delight, And from His law is he soliloquizing [meditating aloud] by day and night."**

• ***Psalms 1:1–2***

**"The law [Torah] of Yahweh is flawless, restoring the soul; The testimony of Yahweh is faithful, making wise the simple; The precepts of Yahweh are upright, rejoicing the heart; The instruction of Yahweh is pure, enlightening the eyes."**

• ***Psalms 19:7–8***

I ask the question: If David wrote a copy of the Law given to him by **"the priests, the Levites"** (cf. Deuteronomy 31:9, 25–26), **WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT COPY after David died?**

- Would it have been thrown in the trash?
- Or — just maybe — would that copy of the Law that David loved, written by King David himself, be placed with his body in the "house" **made by God**<sup>14</sup> for David's body — waiting — within the Tomb of David to be discovered with the body of David?

The Jews have a good tradition recorded in a written work called the Mishnah. It is a compilation of Jewish oral tradition and ritual, written down after the 70 AD destruction of the Temple and Jerusalem. The Mishnah states that no Scriptures can be thrown away or burned, **they MUST be stored or hidden** (Mishnah Shabbath 9.6, 16.1). Does this tradition date back to David's time, or did it originate with David? We cannot know.

<sup>12</sup> During the reign of King Josiah of Judah repairs were made to the Temple; a book of the law, a TORAH, is discovered in the House of YHWH, the Temple, as told in 2 Kings 22:1–23:24. It apparently survived several hundred years. This discovery caused a repentance and a turn to righteousness in Judah by the people, the leaders, and the king. God delayed His punishment upon Judah until after the death of Josiah. The repentance by the people and King Josiah did in fact **"prolong his days in his kingdom."**

<sup>13</sup> We know David himself wrote a very private letter in 2 Samuel 11:14. We also know that David instructed the priests to **"minister before the Ark continually"** (1 Chronicles 16:37) in accordance with **"all that is written in the law of YHWH"** (1 Chronicles 16:40) after the Ark of the Covenant was moved to Jerusalem. This included providing security for the Ark.

<sup>14</sup> You will understand what is meant by the "House of David" in the next article. David greatly desired to build YHWH a house (the Temple). He was not allowed to do so. YHWH told David that HE (YHWH) would build David a house. That confused David for a while ... and then David understood.

However, “burial” of King David’s personal copy of the Law in his tomb might solve such questions. Yes, such a copy could exist if David’s Tomb were dry and sealed.<sup>15</sup>

### ***The Importance of This Discovery***

If David’s personal copy of the Law would be in the Tomb of David, it would be the single most remarkable historical event this side of the resurrection and ascension of Christ. Can you imagine the impact this would have on the world? The discovery of a genuine copy of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy all written in the old Hebrew text,<sup>16</sup> and the words would be written in King David’s own hand.

Still better, I would not be surprised if David’s Torah would be “self authenticating,” although this too is speculation. I would think that David would be proud of his work (copying a text was a noble work, and like anyone he would, in some manner, “sign” or identify that this book was his personal copy of the Torah.

Keep in mind that such a document would have been written some 200 years before Elijah the Prophet was born, and even longer before Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and all of the Minor Prophets appeared on the scene. It might have been (and likely was) written soon after David became King of all twelve tribes of Israel, years before Solomon was born. We might even be able to know the precise time when King David finished his copying of the Torah text.

Archaeologists would be in total awe to behold such an artifact. There is more ...

### ***The Law Out Of Zion***

A discovery of the magnitude of the Law of Moses being discovered is predicted regarding an interesting prophetic verses concerning the first five books of the Law of Moses, the Word of YHWH coming OUT of Zion (which is the City of David).

This is not a prophecy about Jesus coming as the Messiah of Israel. Yes, He is the Law personified. He is the Word of Yahweh, and yes, He did teach at the “House of Yahweh.”

But this prophecy is set to be fulfilled **“in the latter days”** and the time of Christ’s first coming was not the latter days, although His disciples and apostles hoped it was so. The prophecy is for a time future to us today. I hope it will be soon.

Such a discovery and revelation of a copy of the Law of Moses being revealed from the Tomb of David would be a precise fulfillment of this prophecy. The world would correctly consider it to be a literal fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah 2:2–3 and Micah 4:1–2. The world would recognize and pay attention to the fact that the Law would be coming forth **“out of Zion”**:

**“And it will come to pass IN THE LATTER DAYS, The Mount of the House of Yahweh [Mt. Zion with the Temple on it]**

**shall be established on the summit of the mountains, And it shall be lifted up above the hills, And all the nations will stream unto it. 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 [1] FROM ZION SHALL GO FORTH THE LAW,  
And [2] THE WORD OF YAHWEH [SHALL GO FORTH] from Jerusalem.”**

**• *Isaiah 2:2–3, Micah 4:1–2***

<sup>15</sup> Later in this series of David’s Tomb articles you will read the details of King Herod’s two attempts to enter the Tombs of David. Josephus tells us he did not reach or enter the chambers or rooms where the bodies are stored.

<sup>16</sup> Remember, Ezra the priest changed the letters of the Hebrew alphabet after the return of the Jews from Babylon. The Hebrew letters today are different from the ancient Hebrew alphabet letters that David would have used to write his copy of the Torah.

Such an event will suddenly bring every Jewish person to seriously examine their roots, their Scriptures, and their God. I believe such an event would also bring a serious examination of every Christian to reexamine their faith, from the Bible and not just from what people say about the Bible. Many will suddenly **“... look to Him whom they stabbed ...”** (Zechariah 12:10, “pierced” in the KJV, quoted in John 19:37).

Most all Jews, Christians, and Muslims would rejoice at such a discovery!

- **For Jews** David was a type of Messiah and David will reign (again) as the future King over Israel under YHWH and Christ. He was a strong King of united Israel, and he was also a prophet.
- **For Christians** David is also a type of Messiah who will reign over the 12 tribes of Israel under Christ, with one of the twelve apostles ruling over each tribe of Israel.
- **For Muslims** David is one of the Prophets of Allah, who, if writings are discovered in his tomb, they must consider it a miracle and may accept David’s writings as a message from Allah.

Writings in David’s Tomb could lead directly to the prophesied conversion of Israel beginning at Jerusalem (Zechariah chapters 12–14). If the restitution of all things is not related to this event, then God will do something even more fascinating and powerful than I imagine. (That is fine with me!)

The Law will go forth **“out of Zion,”** while at the same time the Word of YHWH will go out from Jerusalem. Isaiah and Micah were contemporary prophets, and this was a prophecy in a future far from their time. As Christians we understand that this prophecy was fulfilled through Christ, who was the Word of God and the fulfillment of God’s law. But look at verses that say similar things, keeping in mind that Isaiah 2:3 and Micah 4:2 and these other verses deal with Israel and not Gentiles: Deuteronomy 6:1; Isaiah 51:4; Jeremiah 31:6, 50:4–5; Zechariah 8:20–23, Psalm 25:8–9; Luke 24:27.

We can now begin to understand this Zechariah passage:

**“In that day Yahweh shall be a protection about the dwellers of Jerusalem, And the unsteady one among them, in that day, will become like David, And the house of David like Elohim, Like the messenger of Yahweh before them. And it will come to be in that day, I shall seek to exterminate all the nations coming against Jerusalem.”**

• *Zechariah 12:8–9*

Most people read the phrases [1] **“the house of David shall be as God,”** and [2] **“like the messenger [angel] of YHWH before them”** and believe it refers to a situation similar to Joshua 23:10 where it is promised that if Israel is faithful to God, He shall assist them in their battles and **“one of you shall chase a thousand.”**

However, Zechariah 12:8–9 specifically states that God **“will seek to destroy all the nations.”** The destruction will not be done by the House of David or the inhabitants of Jerusalem or the people of Israel. Let me emphasize another thing in Zechariah 12:8:

**“In that day Yahweh shall be a protection about the dwellers of Jerusalem, And the unsteady one among them, in that day, will become like David, And THE HOUSE OF DAVID like Elohim, Like the messenger [an angel] of Yahweh before them [the inhabitants].”**

• *Zechariah 12:8*

**If** we understand the House of David to be a physical structure (as it is), and

**If** the structure houses the sepulchers of David and his descendants (as it is), and

**If** the sepulchers can be located (as they should be), and

**If** David’s copy of the Torah of Moses, written by his own hand should be in his sepulchers,

**If** David wrote his Torah from the copy Moses placed in the Ark of the Covenant, the same Ark David placed down at the Gihon Springs before Solomon was anointed there as David’s successor and before Solomon built God’s Temple.

**THEN,** it is possible that David’s copy of the Torah might be just one generation (or one copy) from

the original Law that Moses himself wrote down and placed in the Ark of the Covenant.

**Impossible?** Consider ... the original Ark survived from the time of Moses to the time of King David, and from then to just before the Babylonians finally conquered Jerusalem and burned down the Temple.

That would be a miracle. Or is that foolish even to speculate about such a thing?

### *Conclusion to This Article*

The research by Dr. Martin provides a most important framework for additional evidence leading to the location of the Tombs of King David of Israel. In turn, the discovery of the Tombs of King David will completely validate Dr. Martin's evidence. The bodies of David, his family, and royal heirs are in those tombs waiting to be discovered, along with the astonishing artifacts, and most important of all — written documents.

It is my understanding and belief that these written documents, along with the other artifacts, may initiate a period of rediscovery and presentation of the truths of Scripture to the world, leading to a remarkable final stage of history before Christ returns.

There are times (plural, not just one) of refreshing and a repentance of the people of Israel is described in Zechariah Chapter 12:

**“Yahweh will save the tents of Judah first So that the beauty of THE HOUSE OF DAVID And the beauty of the dwellers of Jerusalem may not be magnified over Judah.**

**IN THAT DAY** Yahweh shall be a protection about the dwellers of Jerusalem, And the unsteady one among them,

**IN THAT DAY**, will become like David, And **THE HOUSE OF DAVID** like Elohim, Like the messenger of Yahweh before them.

Yet I will pour out on **THE HOUSE OF DAVID**, And on the dwellers of Jerusalem, A spirit of GRACE and SUPPLICATIONS [to YHWH];

And they will look to Him Whom they stabbed [Jesus Christ!], 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.

And the land will bewail, family by family alone: The family of **THE HOUSE OF DAVID** alone, and their wives alone; The family of the house of Nathan alone, and their wives alone;

The family of the house of Levi alone, and their wives alone; The family of Shimei alone, and their wives alone<sup>17</sup>;

All the families that remain family by family alone, and their wives alone

**IN THAT DAY** there shall come to be a fountain opened for **THE HOUSE OF DAVID**, and for the dwellers of Jerusalem, for sin and for impurity.”

• *Zechariah 12:7–13:1*

What Peter said would happen is described in Zechariah. It has not yet happened on the scale that Peter described.

David Sielaff, 2006, 2024

<sup>17</sup> The ISBE Article “Nathan” explains the use of David’s son “Nathan” in Zechariah 12:12–13:

“**‘The family of the house of David and the family of the house of Nathan’** represent the highest and lowest of the royal order; as **‘the family of the house of Levi and the family of Shimei’** represent the highest and lowest of the priestly order (Zechariah 12:12–13).”