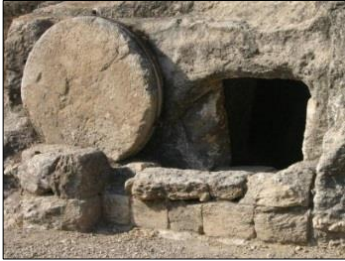


Law & Order, VIII

Two Men Who Gleamed

June 5, 2016



Welcome to where we're trying to learn to truly see, by fixing our eyes *on the unseen*. We're not only intent on a timeline of the tomb; but, today **we continue searching for God's signature through who's at the tomb, and why. Once we understand what Jesus is fulfilling at the tomb, we can appreciate His masterwork, and see the people He invited to be part of it.**



For instance, one who witnessed the resurrection of the Son of David, (Mat 1:1) born in the Town of David, (Luke 2:11) from the royal Line of David, (Mat 1) who died in the City of David, (2 Kings 14:20) and rose as the Branch of David, (Jer 23:5) to restore the House of David, (Amos 9:11) turned out to be ... wait for it ... *David!* That's because **Jesus was fulfilling a promise to restore the tent of David**, and to temporarily sit at David's right hand. So, who are the other two?

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared [for Jesus' corpse] and went to the tomb. [Completely unaware that the tomb had been sealed, guarded, and opened by a terrifying earthquake-angel] They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, [and thought, "Odd."] but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus [and thought, "Odd."]. While they were wondering about **this**, [the broken seals on the entrance and the corpse wrappings on the ground] suddenly **two men** [not angels] in **clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them**. [Odd. David was sitting before Mary and Mary to their right (and that was huge clue). Now, these two stand with 'em. Hmm] In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but **the men said to them**, [Have you ever noticed that they both speak? Know why? They're in perfect harmony. Know why? They embody the two lacking works Jesus came to simultaneously fulfill: *the Law and the Prophets*] "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! **Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee:** ["Hmm. Could you be a bit more specific?"] **'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'** Then they remembered his words. ["Oh, right. You mean when He took us to a secret location (Mark 9:30) to explain, pretty much word-for-word, what you just said, (Mat 17:22-23; Mark 9:30-32) when He returned from the Mount of Transfiguration, (Mark 9:2, 14, 28-30) where two men, Moses and Elijah, "dressed in glorious splendor" "as bright as a flash of lightening" "spoke (with Him) about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem" (Luke 9:29-30) Yeah ... no, we didn't ... remember, that is."] – Luke 24:1-8 NIV

So, is it Moses and Elijah? Not Elijah. On the way down, He said that Elijah had already come and fulfilled his role. (Mat 17:12; Mark 9:13) **Peter, in his first sermon after Jesus rose, focuses on David as a fellow witness; and, in His second post-resurrection sermon, what two men do you suppose Peter focuses his attention on?**



Men of Israel ... **Moses** said, “The Lord your God will raise up for you **a prophet like me** from among your own people ...” Indeed, **all the prophets from Samuel on**, as many as have spoken, have foretold these days. – Acts 3:12b-24 NIV

Samuel is regarded throughout scripture as the foremost prophet.

... Samuel and the prophets ... – Hebrews 11:32b NIV



But, Moses was a prophet long before Samuel, so, what gives? **Moses is the Prophet of the Law, who wasn't allowed into the Promised Land. Samuel was the first and foremost Prophet of the Promised Land.** He was a priest, he trained the prophets, he served as Israel's last Judge, and **he selected and anointed David as Israel's king.**

[When God needed to use the strongest example possible to express His wrath] Then the Lord said to me: “Even if **Moses** and **Samuel** were to **stand** before me, my heart would not go out to this people.” – Jeremiah 15:1 NIV

Together they represent the Law and the Prophets. And together, I believe, they stood with the ladies before Jesus' empty tomb!

[Jesus once said] “Do not think that I have come to abolish the **Law** or the **Prophets**; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.” – Matthew 5:17 NIV

Which means both were lacking: **the puzzles and promises of the Prophets lacked an answer; and, the Law lacked ... life.** By solving and completing the Prophets, Jesus revealed himself as the perfect sacrificial Lamb to remove sin once and for all.

Therefore **no one will be declared righteous** in his sight **by observing the law;** [Paul even calls it “*the ministry of death, written and engraved on stones*”, and he was an expert in the Law (2 Cor 3:7)] ... But now **a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known,** to which **the Law and the Prophets testify.** – Romans 3:20-21 NIV

You see, the more you try to earn it, the less worthy you feel.

[As Paul discovered] I found that the very commandment that was intended to bring life **actually brought death.** – Romans 7:10 NIV

Ever notice the emphasis the Law places on unintentional sins? “If a member of the community **sins unintentionally** ...” (Lev 4:27) “When a leader **sins unintentionally** ...” (Lev 4:22) “When anyone **sins unintentionally** ...” (Lev 4:2) “... the priest will make atonement for him for the wrong he has committed **unintentionally** ...” (Lev 5:18) “... and they will be forgiven, for it was **not intentional** ...” (Num 15:25)

Heaven forbid their sin should be *intentional* ... *literally!* **Despite its complex sacrificial system of burnt offerings, grain offerings, peace offerings, sin offerings, trespass offerings, and the like, the Law simply didn't cover most intentional sins.**

... anyone who sins **defiantly**, [lit. *exalts his hand above God*] whether native-born or alien, blasphemes the Lord, and **that person must be cut off from his people**. Because he has despised the Lord's word and broken his commands, **that person must surely be cut off; his guilt remains on him**. – Numbers 15:30-31 NIV

And, to make sure it was clear what God meant by “cut off”, an example immediately follows, of a man intentionally gathering wood on the Sabbath, in defiance to the command to rest.

... it was not clear what should be done to him. [How is he to be cut off and to remain guilty?] Then the Lord said to Moses, “The man must die. The whole assembly must stone him outside the camp.” – Numbers 15:34b-35 NIV

That'll get your attention! Do you get why the Teachers of the Law went into hyper-drive to try and identify and quantify what constituted intentional sin? Yet, **if you stop and think about it, sin is rarely unintentional. Without a sacrifice for willful sin, you're stuck with two choices: die or lie**. So, the Scribes scoured the Law/Torah of Moses (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy), and isolated 613 commands. **Then, it was just a matter of “refining” and replacing ‘em with rigid religious restrictions, and a myriad of loopholes. Does that describe your walk with God in any way?** And thus, the Torah of Moses was tamed by the traditions of men. *Until Jesus*.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘**Do not commit adultery** [a sin very rarely committed by accident].’ **But I tell you that** [If you stop and think about it] anyone who **looks at a woman lustfully** [lit. *with desire*] **has already committed** [the very intentional sin of] **adultery** with her **in his heart**. [And, He goes on to say] ... if your right hand **causes you to sin**, [intentionally] **cut it off** [before it gets you “cut off”] and **throw it away**. [NKJ: “cast it from you”] It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go [NKJ: “be cast”] into hell.” – Matthew 5:27-30 NIV

A big part of Jesus' ministry was to bring a sense of utter hopelessness in our own ability to earn God's favor, and our utter need ... for a Savior of grace. The Law didn't make a Jew worthy to be in God's presence even in death. **They bunked with Abraham in Sheol below, until the Christ would call, redeem, restore, and resurrect them to eternal life**.

By **faith Moses**, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. ... [Why?] He regarded disgrace **for the sake of Christ** [the Anointed; the Messiah] as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because **he was looking ahead to his reward**. – Hebrews 11:24-26 NIV

[Hosea offers afterlife instructions, 780 years before Jesus] Come, let us **return** to the Lord. For **He has torn us**, [By the Prophets] but **He will heal us**; [By their Fulfillment] **He has wounded us**, [By the Law] but **He will bandage us**. [By its Fulfillment] He will revive us after two days; **He will raise us up on the third day**, that we may **live** before Him. [Sadly, most didn't and don't see the Law as lacking, let alone as a “ministry of death”] ... His going forth is as certain as the dawn ... **I have hewn them in pieces by the prophets**; [who bring confusion instead of understanding until the coming of the One who completes ‘em] **I have slain them by the words of My mouth**; [in the Law/Torah of Moses, with imperfect and incomplete sacrifices, until the coming of the One who fulfills ‘em, by being “cut off” on our behalf] and the judgments on you are like the light that goes forth. – Hosea 6:1-5 NAS

Pre-Jesus, it was by grace through faith in the *coming* Christ.

Post-Jesus, it's by grace through faith in the Christ who *came*.

Samuel [whose name (Shěmuw'el) means: *El who Answers*. (1 Sam 1:20) El means: *Mighty God*, and it's a shortened form of 'ayil: *chief and ram*] continued as judge over Israel **all the days of his life**. [And *once, after his death*, when God raised him the first time, before the proper time, at the house of the witch, to curse king Saul for his wickedness. (1 Sam 28:7-20) *But*] ... **he** [Samu'el: *the Mighty God, pictured as a Ram, who hears and responds*] always went back to **Ramah**, [where he was born and buried (1 Sam 1:19-20; 28:3); And Saul lived on the gib'ah (hill) of Ramah (1 Sam 15:34; 22:6)] **where his home was**, [and where great weeping and mourning is heard from *Rachel* (the sheep; the ewe) at Jesus' birth, when a wicked king (Herod) condemned the innocent children (Mat 2:18)] **and there he also judged Israel**. [And *there*, according to Hosea, the ram's horn will sound the call to return to be redeemed, restored, and raised on the third day! (Hosea 5:8)] – 1 Samuel 7:15-17 NIV

On the Road to Emmaus, Jesus isn't referring to scripture when ...

He said to them, "How foolish you are, and **how slow of heart to believe** [trust] **all that the prophets have spoken!** [He's referring to the fact that they'd just left a huge debate regarding what the Prophets told the women at the tomb – He's possibly addressing one of these women] Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And **beginning with Moses and all the Prophets**, [And, Samuel is the beginning of the Prophets] he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. – Luke 24:25-27 NIV

That evening, when He comes to His group of disciples, that now includes Mary and Mary, who saw David inside the tomb.

He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: **Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me** in the **Law of Moses**, the **Prophets** [of Samuel] and the **Psalms**." [of David] – Luke 24:44 NIV

And, He opened their minds, to the scriptures, like Psalm 99:

The Lord reigns, **let the peoples tremble**; [like the guards at the tomb (Mat 28:4)] **He is enthroned above the cherubim**, [like He was in the tomb (John 20:11-12)] **let the earth shake!** [Like it did at the tomb (Mat 28:2)] **The Lord is great in Zion**, [according to Samuel (5:7) Zion is another name for the "City of David" where Jesus' Tomb, and temporary tent of David, was (Amos 9:11; Acts 15:16)] and **He is exalted above all the peoples**. [And the strongest example God could use would be Moses and Samuel (Jer 15:1)] ... You have executed **justice** [by fulfilling the Law] and **righteousness** [by fulfilling the Prophets] ... **Moses and Aaron were among His priests**, [but Aaron couldn't be at the tomb, because he represents the old system; according to David, Jesus comes in the priestly order of Melchizedek (Ps 110:4; Heb 7:11-17)] and **Samuel was among those who called on His name**; [and the first official prophet of the Promised Land] **they called upon the Lord** [through the Law and the Prophets] **and He answered** [and *completed and fulfilled*] them. – Psalm 99:1-6 NAS