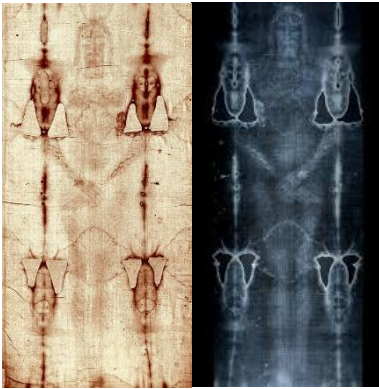


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Faith and Reason – Connecting Hearts & Minds Changing Attitudes 180 Degrees

The Shroud Of Turin

D. Palmer



The Shroud of Turin is a finely woven linen cloth that has the image of a crucified man, which millions believe to be Jesus of Nazareth.... but Is it? Or is it a medieval hoax? The Shroud is the single most studied artifact in human history and modern science has

completed hundreds of thousands of hours studying it, but what scientists have discovered is both baffling and shocking.

So, what is a shroud? It's a piece of cloth most often used to wrap a dead body for burial. They've been used for thousands of years and in Turin Italy there is a mysterious one with a faint image of a bearded crucified man located in the Cathedral of St John the Baptist, encased in bulletproof glass.



The Shroud is approx. 14 ft long and 3½ ft wide bearing a front and back image of a crucified man approx. 5"10" tall. It has been venerated as the burial cloth of Jesus since at least the 14th century. Throughout the Shroud's life this faint image is all that was seen, until 1988. When Secondo Pia (1855–1941) an Italian lawyer and amateur photographer took photos of the shroud and when he was developing the photographs, what he discovered - sent shock waves around the world. The negative image showed incredible detail of what appears to be evidence of the crucifixion of Jesus written about in the Gospels.

In 1978 a team of scientists called the Shroud of Turin Research Project or STURP was given permission to conduct an extensive scientific examination of the Shroud. They spent two years, preparing and planning dozens of

experiments with the goal of determining what the scientific properties of the image are, and what caused it. Their findings were overwhelming and confusing even to them.

Barrie Schwartz, a non-Christian, was the Official Documenting Photographer for STURP. He compares the shroud to a forensic crime scene with scientific accuracy - verifying the details written in the Gospels. So, what exactly do we know about this crime scene and who is the man of the shroud?

Based on the Gospel accounts there were 2 burial cloths, one for Jesus's body and one for His face. ([John 20:6-7](#)). The main cloth referred to as the Shroud, has on it, along with the appearance of a crucified man burn marks from a fire in 1532 as well as water stains from when trying to save the shroud and patches that were sewn on to repair the shroud.

The scourge marks on the man are on both his front and back sides, most being on his back going down his legs. According to experts, they were made with a multi-thonged, lead weighted, Roman whip called a flagrum, ingeniously designed to tear flesh apart to inflict some serious punishment. When examining the shroud along with a flagrum, they match up identically. There are over 120 scourge marks visible on the man's body.



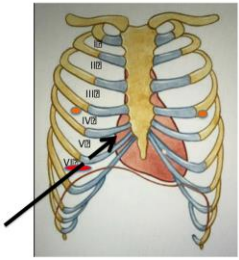
Next are the nail wounds in his hands and even on the back of his foot where you can see an exit wound from a nail with blood trailing off. On the left hand side there is a wound in the chest consistent with the Gospel account of a roman lance being thrust into Jesus' side. The laceration even has the same

dimensions of a roman spear. This would fulfil the prophesy that the Messiah would be pierced and not a single bone would be broken. Which is what they would do - often to crucified victims. They would break their

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knees so they couldn't push up with their legs to take a breath, resulting in quick suffocation.



The side wound is between the 5th and 6th rib where it would have punctured the lung and lower heart explaining the Bible's account that immediately after piercing Jesus, water and blood sprayed out. Also, on the man's head, blood stains are visible on both the front and back

sides - which are consistent to the Gospel's account of a crown of thorns placed on Jesus' head. It's no wonder that the word excruciating comes from the Latin root to crucify... and no one mastered crucifixion innovation and genius like the Romans!

A device called the Vp8 image analyzer which was designed by NASA and used in space imagery by Voyager and other missions, was used on the Shroud. They discovered that it is the only 2-dimensional image in the world that can produce a 3-D image, as if someone hid a blueprint of unique coding.

It is written in the Gospels that Jesus' body was wrapped in a fine linen cloth provided by a wealthy man, Joseph of Arimathea, which is consistent of the Shroud of Turin. As a matter of fact, it's a finer burial cloth than what Cleopatra was wrapped in. Indicating that whoever this man is – was a VERY special person.

Max Frei, a Swiss criminologist was able to remove 58 samples of Pollen from the Shroud. He was able to determine that the majority of the pollen found was from Jerusalem and surrounding areas, further refuting that it is a medieval European cloth.

The blood on the Shroud are from a Human male type AB and according Dr Alan Adler a blood chemist and expert, says that old blood stains turn black or brown. However, the blood on the shroud is red! He says this occurs when the body releases high counts of bilirubin into the bloodstream. Which is produced when someone is tortured and given no water. Their body goes into shock producing high levels of bilirubin in the blood. Science has refuted the artistic theory that there is paint or pigments on the cloth. As well as the theory that it was some form

of mysterious photography. Someone would have had to have had an immense understanding of 20th century negative imagery - centuries before photography was even invented.

So, how old is the shroud of Turin? Here is what many scholars believe. The Shroud begins in Jerusalem in the first century and moved to Turkey until 944. Remaining in Constantinople until 1204. Then it was rediscovered in France in 1353 and then moved to Turin in 1578 where it remains today. In 1988 the Shroud was carbon dated and the results indicated an origin between 1260 to 1390. The very odd thing about this is that they agreed to take three samples from three different areas of the shroud. But that's not what they did. For some unknown reason, they took all 3 samples from the same outside corner where repairs had been made to the cloth.

Ray Rogers, a thermal chemist from Los Alamos laboratory has over 50 peer reviewed articles. He obtained a thread sample from the edge area where the carbon dated samples came from and compared it to the main body cloth. Even to his surprise, his findings were shocking... they were not the same. He found that there was cotton twisted in that corner sample where the repairs had been made and none anywhere else in the main body. Therefore, the carbon dated samples were not representative of the entire shroud. Before his death, Rogers published his last paper of his career. In his expert opinion he said that this was the worst area to take a sample for carbon dating and could not represent the shroud's origin. The cotton fibres are coated with gums and dyes, but the main linen cloth fibres show zero evidence of dyes or gums.... making the carbon dating results either disingenuous or at best misleading.



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The Sudarium of Oviedo



The second cloth mentioned in the Gospels as being folded and put aside is widely believed to be the cloth that was used to cover the face of Jesus,

which brings us to The Sudarium of Oviedo. Which is approx. 20"x30" and like the shroud - has type AB blood. Both have pollen from Jerusalem and when overlaid many experts believe that it is *beyond any reasonable doubt that the Shroud of Turin and the Sudarium of Oviedo once covered the same man.*

The history of the sudarium is well documented, and much more straightforward than that of the Shroud. Most of the information comes from the twelfth century. According to this history, the sudarium was in the Israeli and Jordanian region until shortly before the year 614, when Jerusalem was attacked and conquered by Persia. It was taken to avoid destruction in the invasion and landed in Spain where it still resides. And since 1113, the chest holding the Sudarium has been kept in the cathedral at Oviedo in Spain.

There was an investigation into The Sudarium by a team of the experts. They found the stains on the cloth show that when it was placed on the dead man's face... from the composition of the stains, it's evident that the man died in an upright position.

In 1994, there was an international event held in Oviedo at which time Dr. Frei's research regarding pollen was also confirmed on the face cloth. Also residues of what is most probably myrrh and aloe.



Which is also mentioned directly in the gospel of John, (19:39-40) "Nicodemus came as well...and he brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes...They took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, following the Jewish burial custom."

The fascinating evidence is when the sudarium is compared to the Shroud of Turin. The first is that the blood on both cloths are both AB. The length of the nose on the sudarium has been calculated at just over three inches. The same length as the nose on the image on the Shroud. There is a small stain visible proceeding from the right-hand side of the man's mouth on both the shroud and the sudarium.

Dr. Alan Whanger, a Duke University Professor applied a Polarized Image Overlay to the sudarium, comparing it to the image and bloodstains on the Shroud. The results showed seventy points of coincidence with the Shroud, and the rear side shows fifty. He concluded that the only possible explanation was that the sudarium covered the same face as the man in the Shroud of Turin.

So, what could have produced the image and characteristics of the Shroud of Turin. Well after years of study, STURP issued its Final Report in 1981 and made the following conclusion. *"No pigments, paints, dyes or stains have been found on the fibrils. X-ray, fluorescence and microchemistry on the fibrils preclude the possibility of paint being used as a method for creating the image... It is clear that there has been a direct contact of the Shroud with a body, which explains certain features such as scourge marks, as well as the blood... Furthermore, experiments in physics and chemistry with old linen have failed to reproduce adequately the phenomenon presented by the Shroud of Turin. Thus, the answer to the question of how the image was produced or what produced the image remains, now, as it has in the past, a mystery... The image is an ongoing mystery and until further chemical studies are made, perhaps by this group of scientists, or by some scientists in the future, the problem remains unsolved."*

So, is the Shroud of Turin, the burial cloth of Jesus? In the end with all of the evidence, the question that I believe that we are all being asked by the man in the shroud is, who do you say that I am?