

THE SHROUD OF TURIN



Scientific Evidence That Jesus Christ Raised From The Dead

Actual Book Size 8.5 X 5.5

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3. They are used to counsel those inquiring about salvation.
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**SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE (PROOF!)
THAT JESUS CHRIST
RAISED FROM THE DEAD**

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INTRODUCTION

The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the central theme and foundation of the Christian religion. The belief that Jesus raised from the dead is founded on the eye-witness accounts of thousands of people. There were thousands of people who saw Him die, and there were thousands of people who saw Him after He had arisen from the dead.

What we refer to today as the New Testament is a compilation of personal letters and systematic re-counting of the teachings and activities of Jesus by those who knew Him personally, and were writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. These people give testimony that they saw Jesus killed on a cross – crucified as a criminal. And they give testimony that they, along with thousands of others, saw Him alive after three days, having risen from the dead!

Jesus Christ was crucified in the year 33 AD. (The designation “AD” is an abbreviation of the Latin words meaning “In the year of our Lord.”) The person of Jesus Christ so changed the history of the world that our calendars were re-written so as to reference His Life.

The designation “BC” means “Before Christ.” But the belief that Jesus rose from the dead and still lives today is why we use the Latin term that means “In the year of our Lord.” This is still another “year of our Lord” since He still lives today!

Many people have had sincere “intellectual” problems believing that someone could actually have risen from the dead. They find it difficult to believe that Jesus was the Son of God, and that He arose from the dead. Modern science has, in many cases, encouraged this agnostic or atheistic attitude. Many have been so influenced by science, they have had difficulty embracing anything “by faith.”

It is ironic that it is science that now gives the strongest evidence that the miracle of the resurrection of Jesus from the dead actually happened. If you are a person who has seen “science” as being opposed to “religion,” you will now find yourself in an unusual dilemma: It is advanced technologies of science that now presents insurmountable evidence that Jesus Christ was crucified in the first century, and that He came back to life on the third day after His death, just as is recorded in those first century documents now known as the “New Testament.”

This scientific evidence surrounds the investigation of a burial cloth known as “The Shroud of Turin.” The word “shroud” means “burial cloth.” Turin is the town in Italy where this burial cloth has been kept since the year 1578.

There are literally thousands of burial cloths in today's museums that date back as far as one thousand years BC. And many of these burial cloths were woven in the first century. However, out of the thousands of ancient burial cloths still in existence today, only one has an image on it. And this one has an image of the person who was buried in the cloth. That one is the "Shroud of Turin." And, as you will see, the evidence is overwhelming that the image is that of Jesus Christ.

In 1978 a group of 26 American scientists, from many diverse disciplines, (known as STURP: Shroud of Turin Research Project) began research on the Shroud of Turin. This team of scientists has invested more than 150,000 hours of intense scientific testing, greater than that applied to any other ancient artifact in history. Among the conclusions they came to were:

1. The image is not a fraud.
2. The image is not a painting.
3. The image was not made by a person.
4. How the image was made is a mystery.

The purpose of this small book is to make available to the general public the scientific findings of the "Shroud of Turin" that give strong evidence for the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. (If the subject of these findings were anyone other than Jesus Christ, the findings would be called "proof", not "evidence.") It is not the purpose of this book to document all of this evidence. There have been many books written and videos filmed that do document the evidence, and I have listed several at the end of this introduction. I highly recommend that you purchase one or more of these books/videos and study them closely. There is a wealth of information in these books/videos that I have not been able to include in this small book.

Please understand that the conclusions drawn by the author of this book, and by the authors of the books that are mentioned, are conclusions that have been reached after careful consideration of the scientific and historical **facts**. Every person that I know of, approached this subject initially as a skeptic, including myself. It was only after an honest evaluation of **facts** that we eventually had to be honest with ourselves and admit that the scientific **facts** allow no other conclusion than this:

The burial cloth known as "The Shroud of Turin" is indeed the cloth that was placed around the body of Jesus after His crucifixion. And, the mysterious image that is on the cloth is actually a "photographic negative" of the body of Jesus Christ.

This burial cloth has no supernatural power. It is **not** to be worshipped. That would be idolatry. It gives evidence that Jesus was more than just a man. He was the Son of God. **He** is the object of our worship.

I challenge you to read this book with a sincere willingness to let the facts speak for themselves. If you need more verification, purchase one or more of the books and videos listed on the following page.

As fantastic as it may seem, it appears that God has given us scientific evidence that Jesus Christ rose from the dead!

Calvin Wayne Wright
January, 2002

**THIS BOOK IS A SUMMARY OF FACTS THAT CAN
BE DOCUMENTED BY THE FOLLOWING PUBLICATIONS:**

Verdict on the Shroud, book by Dr. Kenneth E. Stevenson (Member of the STURP Group that did scientific investigation of the shroud)

The Shroud and the Controversy, book co-authored by Dr. Kenneth E. Stevenson and Gary R. Habermas.

Image of the Risen Christ, book by Dr. Kenneth E. Stevenson
Frontier Research Publications, Inc.
P.O. Box 129, Station “U”, Toronto, Ontario M8Z 5M4

Jesus the Great Debate, book by Grant Jeffrey
Frontier Research Publications, Inc.
P.O. Box 129, Station “U”, Toronto, Ontario M8Z 5M4

Jesus the Great Debate, video by Grant Jeffrey
Frontier Research Publications, Inc.
P.O. Box 129, Station “U”, Toronto, Ontario M8Z 5M4

The Man of Pain: The Holy Shroud, Video
Goldhil Video, Thousand Oaks, Ca. 91360

In Pursuit Of The Shroud Video
TLC Video, Discovery Channel Video, Bethesda, MD 20814

**BOOKS THAT GIVE HISTORICAL EVIDENCE
FOR THE RESURRECTION**

What Is The Proof for the Resurrection? By Ralph O. Muncaster
Harvest House Publishers, Eugene, Oregon 97402

The New Evidence That Demands A Verdict By Josh McDowell
Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville

HISTORY OF THE BURIAL CLOTH

You may be saying to yourself, “I have never heard of the Shroud of Turin. Where did it come from? Where has it been for the past 2,000 years?”

These are good questions. I asked myself these same questions when I was first introduced to the burial cloth.

I have discovered that there is very clear historical evidence for the “Shroud of Turin.” Of course, it has been referred to by several “names.” It has been called “The Image Of Edessa,” “The Mandylion,” and “The Shroud Of Turin.”

It is beyond the scope of this small book to give all of the details and historical references that document the history of the burial cloth. This book is intended only as a summary of the available information. We highly recommend that you read the books and view the videos that are mentioned in the Introduction of this book. The following is a summary of the history of the burial cloth of Jesus.

The city of Edessa, in ancient Syria (present day Urfa) was the residence of King Abgar V. He ruled this city kingdom from AD 13 to AD 50. This king, upon hearing of the healing ministry of Jesus, wrote a letter, asking Jesus to come and heal him of a deadly disease. Jesus sent a letter in reply explaining that He must stay and finish the work He was sent to do, but He would shortly send one of His disciples to him.

Shortly after the crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus into heaven, one of His disciples came to Edessa. He had with him a cloth with an image of Jesus on it. The King was healed of his disease and Edessa became a center of Christian evangelization of that area. There was a tradition in Edessa that a holy image of Jesus was associated with this evangelization. There are many ancient church paintings and even images on coins that depict the image of Jesus on a cloth being displayed in ancient Edessa. However, the image was lost for about three hundred years, during which time the city of Edessa was attacked by enemies of the Christian faith.

In the year 525 AD, while the walls around the city of Edessa were being repaired, the cloth containing the image of Christ was found in a niche above the west gate. It had most likely been hidden there during a siege on the city. Those who knew of its whereabouts were obviously killed. The cloth remained there undisturbed, protected from sunlight and the elements that might harm it.

After its re-discovery, the Emperor Justinian built a shrine and a cathedral for the cloth. It remained there on display for the Christian population until the seventh century when the city was captured by a Muslim army.

In AD 944 the Byzantine Emperor Romanus, head of the Christian Greek Orthodox Church, headquartered in Constantinople, sent an army to Edessa to demand that the Muslim king turn over the Christian relic, “The Image Of Edessa.” In return for the cloth the Christian army agreed to spare Edessa, release 200 Moslem prisoners, pay a ransom, and guarantee Edessa’s perpetual immunity from attack. The emir of Edessa agreed to these demands and turned over the burial cloth to the Christians.

The army, with “The Image of Edessa“, arrived in Constantinople on August 15, 944 AD. The next day the Emperor initiated the “Feast Of The Holy Face.” (The shroud was folded 4 times leaving the face of Christ visible on the top.) To this day, the Greek Orthodox Church celebrates this feast every August 16th.

The linen cloth was listed in the royal records of Constantinople by Nicholas Mesarites, the curator of the imperial collection. A manuscript states that the collection included:

“the burial shroud of Christ: these are of linen. They are cheap and easy to find materials, still smelling of myrrh and defying decay since they wrapped the outlineless, fragrant-with-myrrh, naked body after the Passion.”

While at Constantinople the burial cloth came to be know as “The Mandylion,” a name derived from an Arabic word meaning “veil.” It remained at Constantinople, considered to be one of the holiest and most revered of Orthodoxy’s relics, until its disappearance in 1204 AD.

In 1204 AD a European army of Christians, preparing for the Fourth Crusade into Muslim territory, decided to attack their fellow Christians of Constantinople instead. This has proved to be one of the most shameful eras of Christian history; a time when Christians, in the name of Christ, were doing shameful acts that Christ, Himself, condemned. The city of Constantinople was looted and pillaged. When the rampage was over, the Mandylion was gone.

The burial cloth containing the image of Jesus emerged 153 years later in Lirey, France, a village about one hundred miles southeast of Paris. Geoffrey de Charny, the man in possession of the shroud, had family connections with a religious order called the Knights Templars. This order of knights was very strong during the era of the Crusades. Many princes and nobles in those unsettled times often entrusted their valuables to the Templars for safekeeping. Among these valuables would have been the relics brought back from the holy land by the Crusaders.

Geoffrey de Charny was killed by the English at the Battle of Poitiers in 1356. His widow, Jeanne de Vergy, impoverished by her husband’s death, attempted to raise money by displaying the burial cloth of Jesus in her local church. The year

was 1357. Since that year, the history of the “Shroud of Turin” is well known and well documented. The grand-daughter of Geoffrey de Charny, Margaret de Charny, had no children, and thus, no heir to whom she could leave the burial cloth. She deeded the Shroud to Louis of Savoy in 1453, and the House of Savoy has owned it ever since.

The House of Savoy was successful in war and politics, and the head of the family eventually became the king of Italy. Under the influence of this powerful family, the Shroud gained a reputation of being the true burial garment of Jesus. In the year 1464, Pope Sixtus IV let it be known that he regarded it as an authentic relic. The dukes of Savoy built a special chapel for the Shroud in Chambéry, France.

On December 4, 1532 fire broke out in the chapel and raged around the silver-lined box where the Shroud lay folded. The fire melted part of the silver lining of the box, and a piece of molten silver fell on the folded cloth and burned through it. One of the duke of Savoy’s counselors and two Franciscan priests carried the burning box out of the building and doused it with water, extinguishing the flames. Fortunately, the image was virtually untouched, but the marks of the fire and water disfigure the Shroud to this day.

In 1578 the Savoys moved the Shroud to their new capital in Turin, Italy. It remains there to this day. That is why the burial cloth of Jesus is now referred to as “The Shroud Of Turin.”

Although the Shroud of Turin is under the care of the Roman Catholic Church, it is an important historical relic to churches of every denomination. For 1500 years the Catholic Church was the only church. If the Shroud of Turin is the actual burial garment of Jesus, it is an invaluable part of history that can be used to bring men and women to faith in Jesus Christ.

THE AWESOME POWER OF FORENSIC SCIENCE

The power of forensic science is nothing less than awesome. With this science we can now identify particles that are not even visible to the human eye. A person can be identified by the slightest residue of blood, hair, or skin. The scientist can tell where a person has been by examining residue on his shoes or clothing that cannot be detected without the aid of modern technology. Items such as clothing, paper, fibers, ink, etc. can be identified, traced, and matched by the use of forensic science. Crimes are being solved and criminals are being identified by the use of forensic science. It is now possible to tell who is the real father or mother of an unclaimed child. The modern scientist can do things today that were unheard of, indeed, **un-thought** of just a few years ago.

It is this same forensic science that has been used to examine the Shroud of Turin. Scientists from a number of scientific disciplines have spent more than 150,000 hours of investigation of the Shroud of Turin. This item has been examined more closely over a longer period of time than has any other ancient artifact!

SCIENCE VS. FAITH

For many people science and faith are antithetical; they are opposed to each other. And in some respects this is true. The very definition of science refers to something that can be observed in a controlled environment, repeated, and analyzed. The Christian faith on the other hand is based on incidences that took place in history. And history is not subject to control, repetition, or analysis.

The development of science has caused many people in our modern time to become skeptical of religious faith. That is one reason why the scientific investigation of the Shroud of Turin is so important. For the first time, a historical event has been preserved in such a state that it can be investigated, tested, and analyzed. The Shroud of Turin challenges unbelief by presenting scientific evidence that the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ actually occurred. For some, this is the only type of evidence that will be convincing.

Even many religious people have difficulty believing the actual, historical, literal, physical resurrection of Jesus from the dead. They have decided that the resurrection of Jesus is nothing more than symbolism or myth. As difficult as it may be for you to comprehend now, you will see by the scientific evidence presented that the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus from the dead is an actual, literal, historical event.

You must be honest with yourself and examine the scientific facts on their own merit. You must not allow your previous views of Jesus (or Christians) to cause you to circumvent the facts and evidence that will be presented. Remember, these same scientific disciplines are accepted in our courts today and determine life and death cases. People actually live or die based on the exact same type of evidence that we have presented to us concerning the Shroud of Turin.

End of sample pages actual book contains 30 pages.
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