

One Page Summary on the Shroud of Turin

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A shroud is a piece of cloth that a person is buried in. Turin or Torino is a city in north-western Italy. Thus, the Shroud of Turin is a burial cloth in Turin, Italy. It is kept in the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Turin. The Shroud is a linen cloth that measures 14 feet 6 inches long by 3 feet 8 inches wide. The unique characteristic about the Shroud is that it contains full-size front and dorsal (back) images and blood of a man who was crucified exactly as Jesus was crucified according to the New Testament. Most Shroud researchers believe that the Shroud of Turin was initially in Jerusalem, was taken out of Jerusalem prior to the destruction of the city in 70 AD, may have been exhibited in Galatia (Gal. 3:1), arrived in Constantinople sometime between the 6th and 10th centuries, was exhibited as Jesus' burial cloth about 1355 AD in Lirey, France, was in a fire in Chambery, France in 1532, and was brought into Turin, Italy in 1578 where it is today.

The only systematic scientific examination of the Shroud was conducted by the Shroud of Turin Research Project (STuRP) in 1978. About 26 American scientists were invited to Turin, Italy to perform non-destructive testing of the Shroud over a period of five days, 24 hours per day. Their main goal was to determine how the images were formed. However, after 120 hours of testing, they could only conclude that the images were not formed by pigment as in paint, dye, or stain, and not by a scorch with a hot object, not by any liquid, not by a photographic process, and not by body decay products. Based on evidence related to the images, most leading Shroud researchers now believe that the front and dorsal images on the Shroud were formed by radiation emitted from his body. Nuclear engineer Bob Rucker has proposed an image formation hypothesis (Papers 34, 41, and 44 on his website www.shroudresearch.net) in which protons were emitted from the body that produced an alternating electric current in the fibers, which deposited heat in the very thin outer circumference of the image fibers, which scorched this thin region on the fibers to form the front and dorsal (back) images of the crucified man.

In 1988, three samples were cut from the corner of the Shroud and sent to three laboratories for carbon dating. The average date for the samples was reported to be 1260 to 1390 AD, which is contrary to the time of Jesus. However, serious questions arose about whether the analysis was done correctly. After the British Museum released details of the 1988 carbon dating, four papers in peer-reviewed journals concluded that the reported carbon dates for the samples were not sufficiently consistent within their uncertainties, so that the 1260-1390 date should be rejected, i.e. given no credibility. Using nuclear analysis computer calculations, Bob Rucker developed the neutron absorption hypothesis (Papers 13, 33, 35, 41 and 44 on his website) which proposed that neutrons were emitted from Jesus' body in his resurrection, with some of these neutrons being absorbed in N-14 to produce new C-14 in the cloth. This new C-14 shifted the measured carbon data forward relative to its true date. This is the only hypothesis that explains not only the 1260-1390 average date of the samples, but also the different laboratory dates, the distribution of the dates for the 12 subregions cut from the three samples, and the 700 AD carbon date for Jesus' face cloth (John 20:7). Four new dating methods (Tensile strength, Ramon and FTIR spectroscopy, and Wide Angle X-ray Scattering) dated the Shroud to the first century consistent with the time of Jesus. The only person and event that can explain the images on the Shroud and the evidence for radiation emitted from his body is Jesus in his resurrection.