



Shroud of Turin

Week 1:
Overview and scientific evidence



4 Week Presentation

1. **Overview and scientific evidence**
2. Argument for authenticity and countering skeptic arguments
3. Body image and shroud history
4. Scripture and relevance

Audience questions

- Who has heard of the Shroud of Turin?
- Who believes the Shroud of Turin is authentic?
- Who believes it is a fake?
- Who doesn't really have a position on it?

Personal background

- Became a Christian in 1986 at Georgia Tech
- In 1987, heard a seminar at Tech about the Shroud of Turin
- After graduating in 1989, didn't really hear anything much about the TS after that
- "Coincidentally" visited the Museum of the Bible when they had their temporary Shroud of Turin exhibit in April 2022
- Started in-depth research of the TS while debating about the resurrection of Jesus in 2022

Personal background

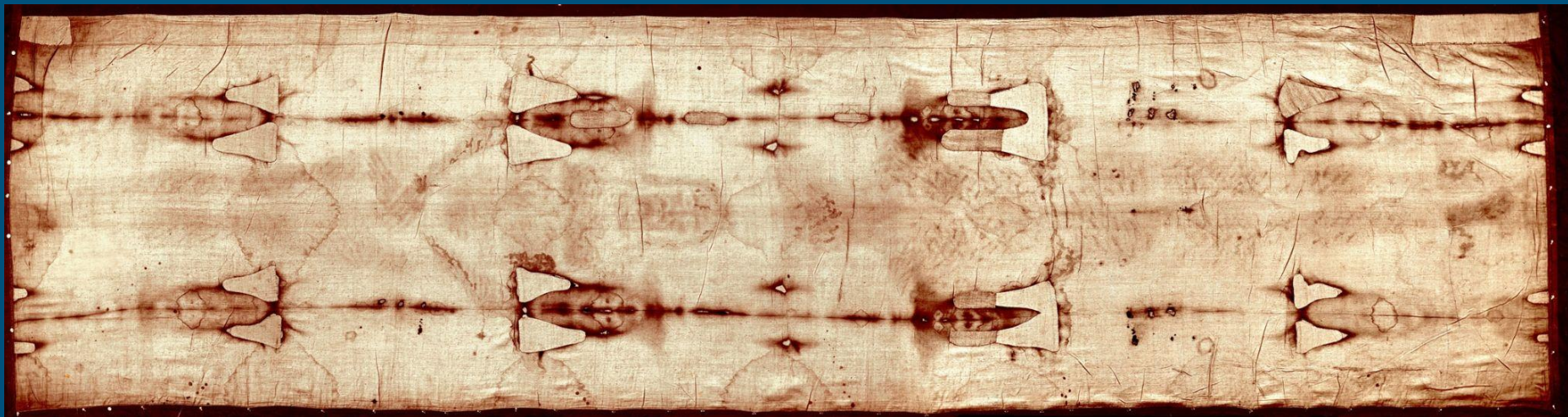
- Founded and operate an online forum, DebatingChristianity.com, since 2004.
- It's one of the largest and oldest online forums for civil and respectful debates on Christianity
- Masters in Science and Religion degree from Biola university in 2013
- I debate primarily in areas of science and religion (cosmology, young earth creationism, global flood, archaeology, refuting evolution, refuting naturalism)
- There's over 1 million posts total and I've posted almost 20,000 posts

Why I think the Turin Shroud is important

- It is the most scientifically studied artifact in human history
- It testifies to the most important doctrines in Christianity (the crucifixion, death, and resurrection of Jesus)
- Strangely, I've never heard of any Christian apologist talk about the Shroud of Turin

What is the Shroud of Turin?

- Located in cathedral of St. John the Baptist (San Giovanni Battista) in Turin, Italy
- Cloth roughly 14' 3" long and 3' 7" wide
- Made of linen fabric
- Faint image of front and back of a crucified person
- Blood marks on body
- Burn marks
- Water damage
- Crease marks
- Pieces cut from shroud in top two corners



Turin, Italy



Cathedral of St. John the Baptist



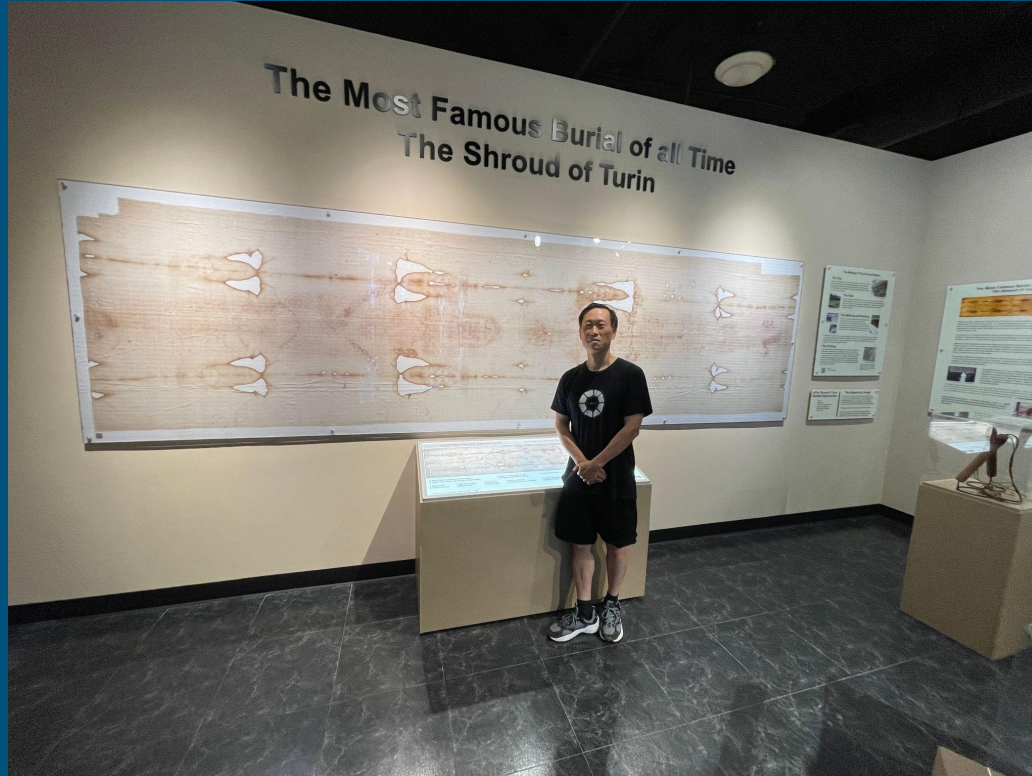
Last public exhibition in 2015



Museum of the Bible in Washington, DC



Museum of Funeral History in Houston



St Brendan Catholic Church in Cumming





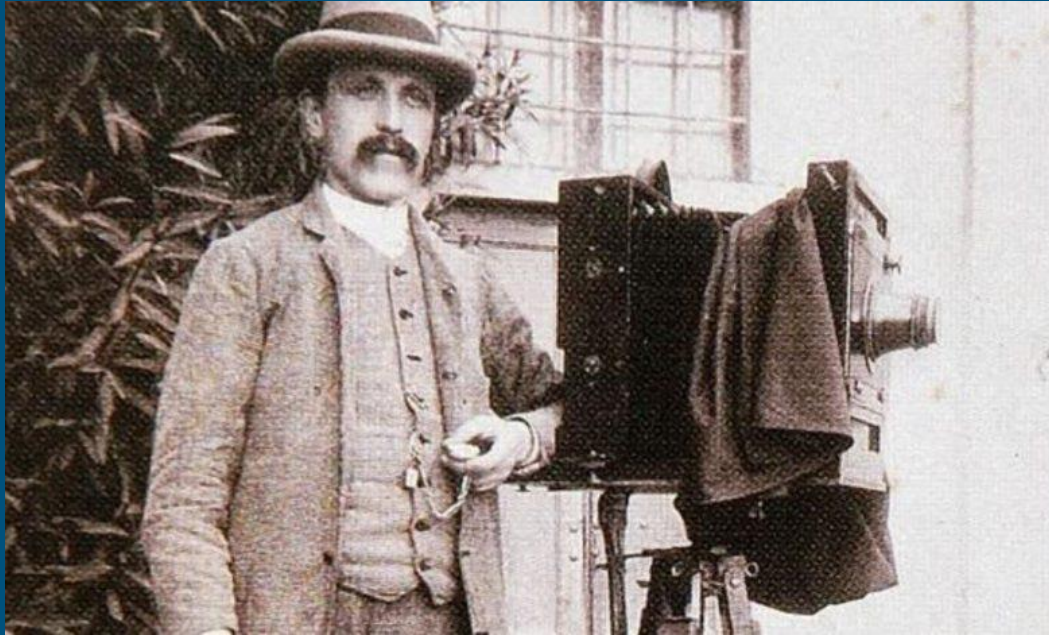
Most studied artifact

- “Perhaps no religious relic has received more scientific scrutiny than the Shroud.” - Discovery magazine
- "the single most studied artifact in human history" - shroud.com

Scientific study milestones

- 1898 - First photograph of shroud by Secondo Pia
- 1978 - Shroud of Turin Research Project (STURP) team investigates shroud in Turin for 5 days
- 1988 - Shroud carbon dated by 3 labs (Oxford, Tucson, and Zurich)

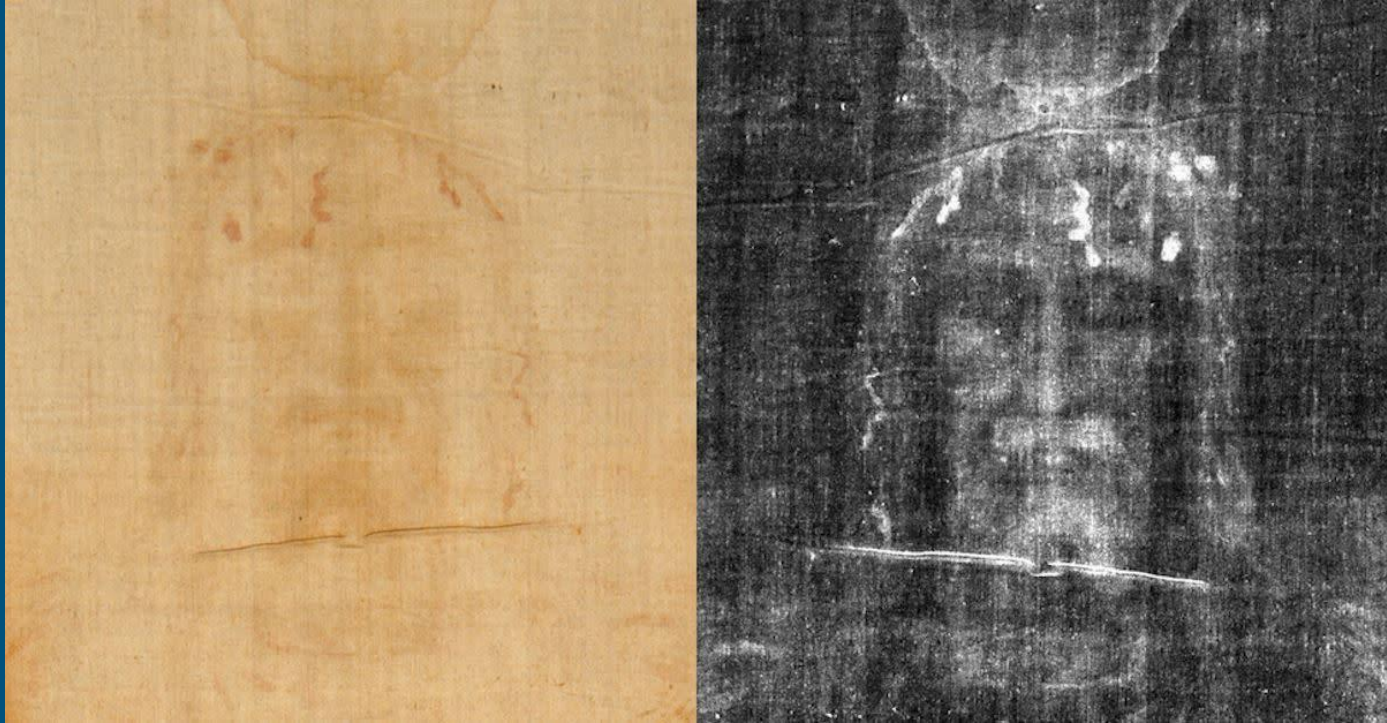
Photographed by Secondo Pia in 1898



Photographic negative



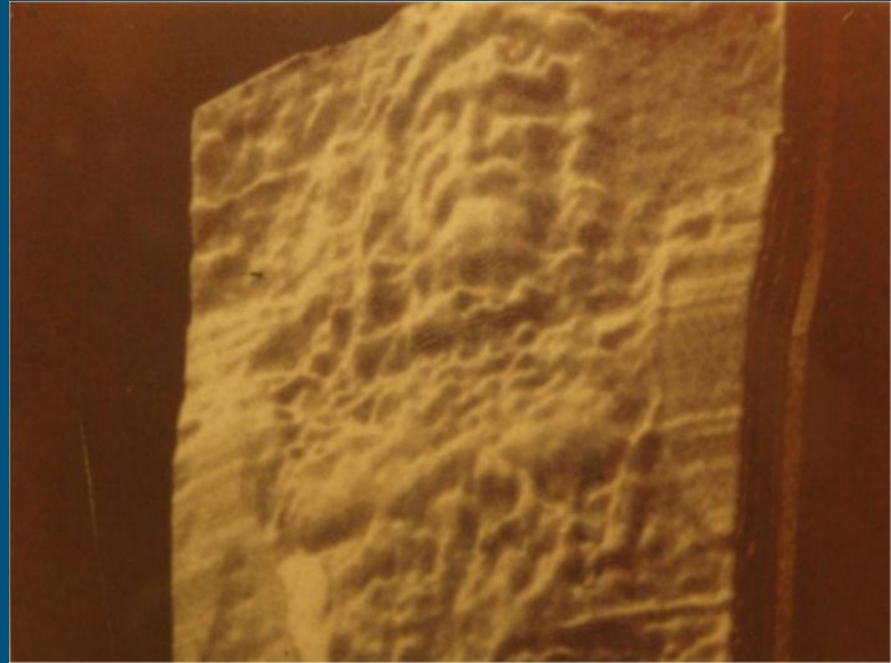
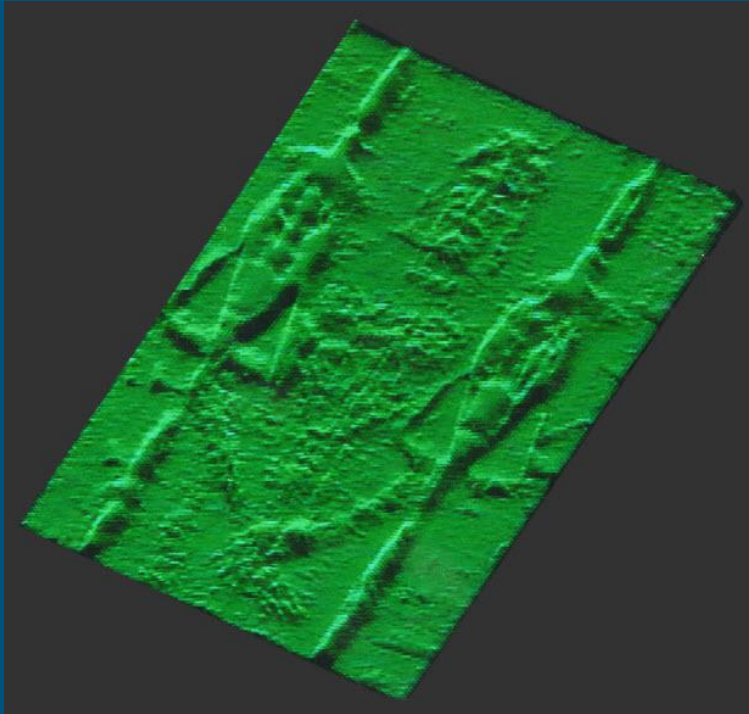
Photographic negative effect



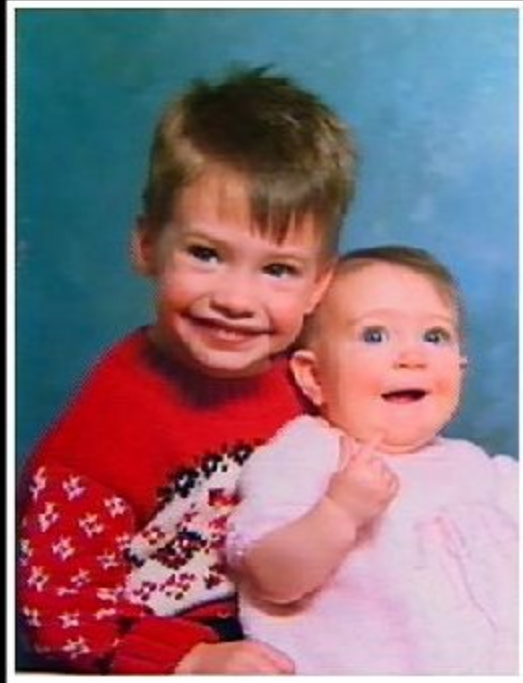
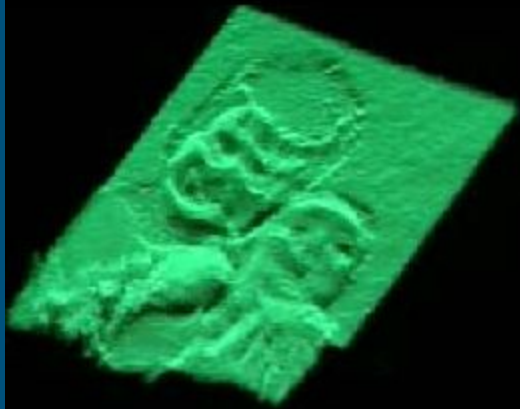
VP-8 Image Analyzer in 1976



Depth encoded information



No other photo using VP-8 has true 3D



3D encoding launched 1978 STURP team



STURP studied shroud for five days in Turin



Topmost fibers discolored (32x mag)



Real blood and is red



No body image under blood

This absence of body image on the wound image margins suggests that the blood images were present on the cloth before the body image was “placed,” “appeared,” or perhaps “developed.”

Halftone effect



Hyperrealism

“If this is the work of a forger, than the forger would have to have been a trained anatomist, for there is not one single blunder. Indeed, anatomy bears witness to authenticity.”

- Pierre Barbet (Doctor)

Airbrush effect

No brush strokes on the
image



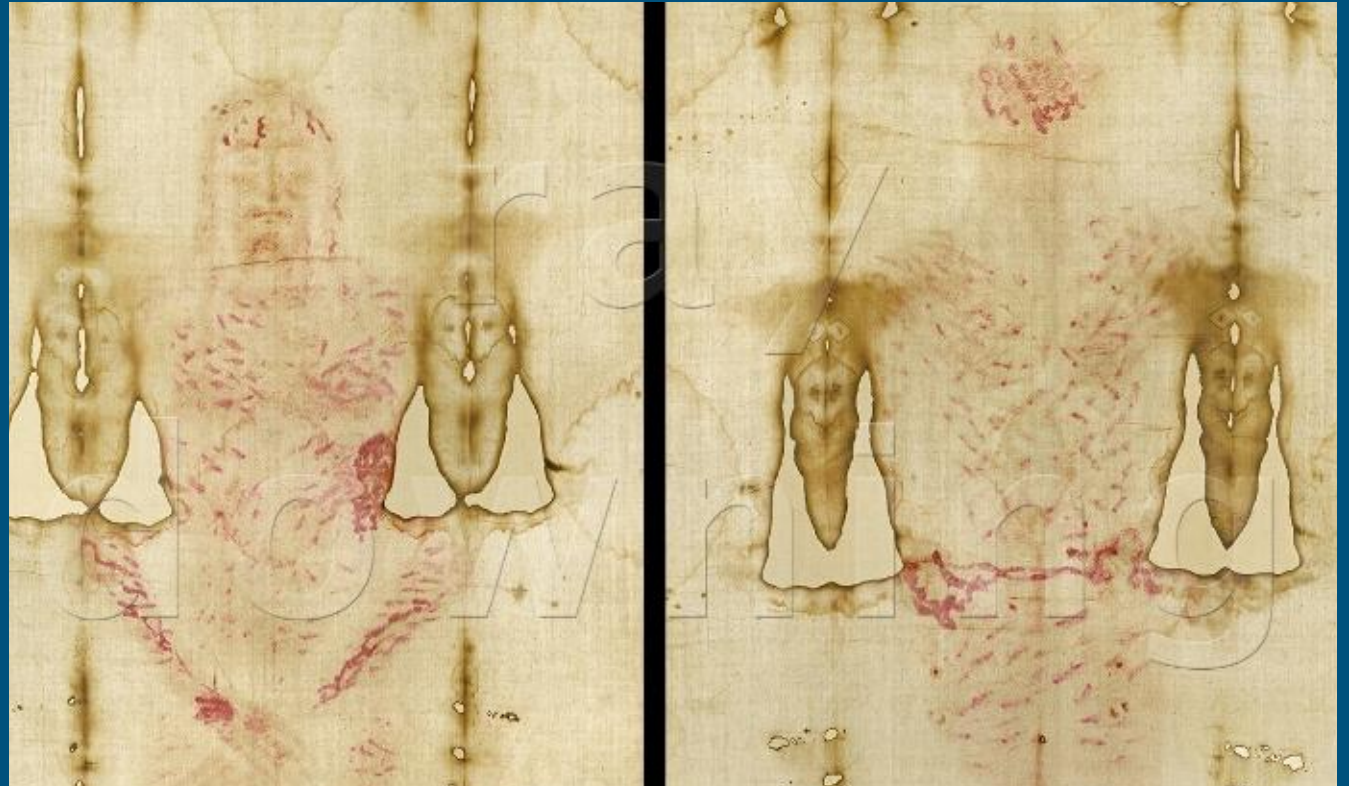
Nail through wrist



Dislocation of shoulder

The Man of the Shroud “underwent an under glenoidal dislocation of the humerus on the right side and lowering of the shoulder, and has a flattened hand and enophthalmos; conditions that have not been described before, despite several studies on the subject. These injuries indicate that the Man suffered a violent blunt trauma to the neck, chest and shoulder from behind, causing neuromuscular damage and lesions of the entire brachial plexus.”

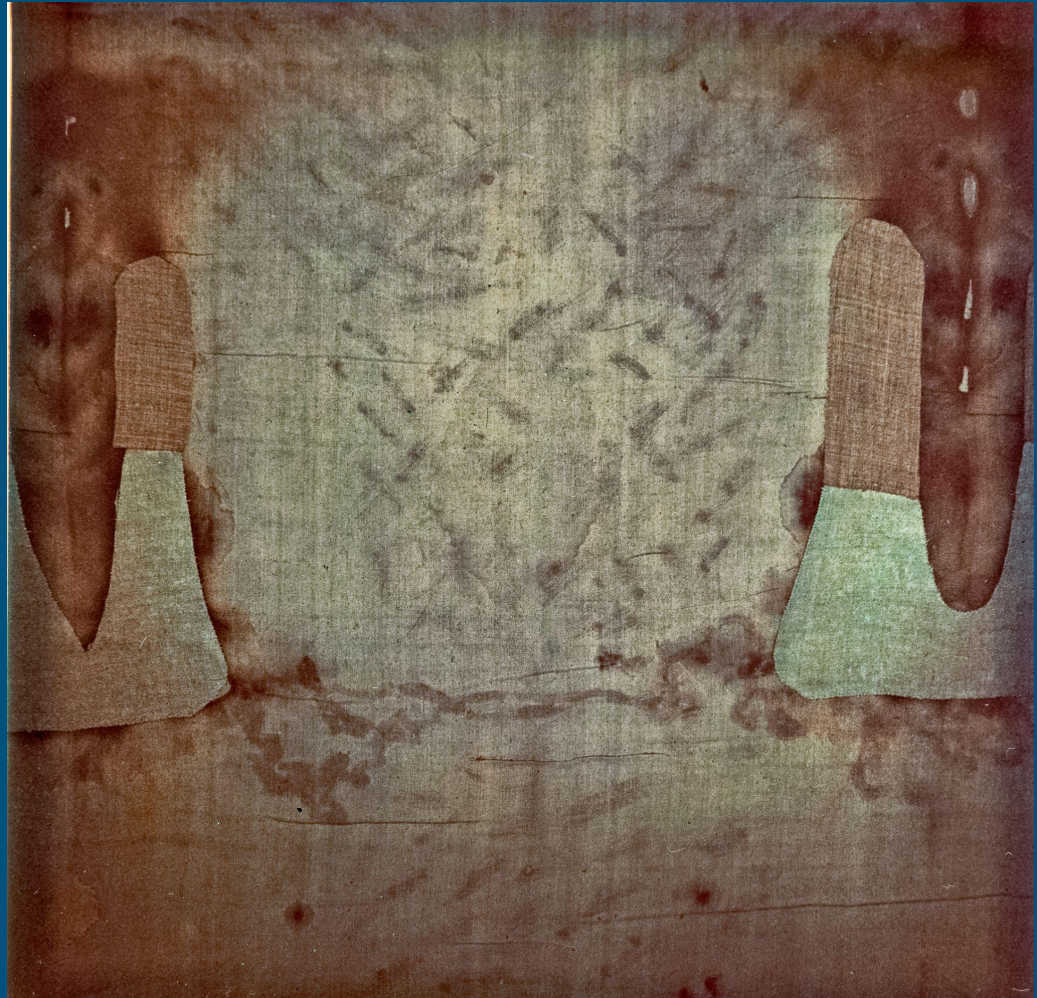
Scourging



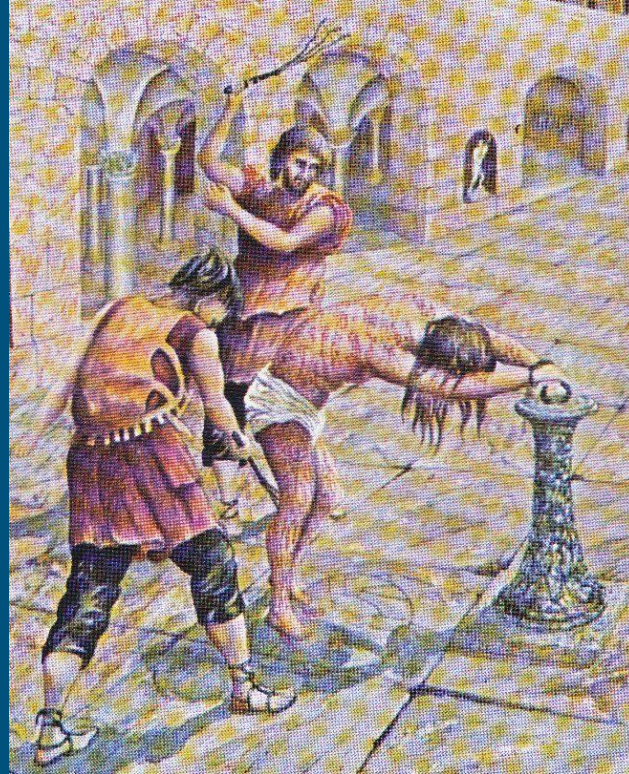
Scourging



Dumbbell shaped scourge marks



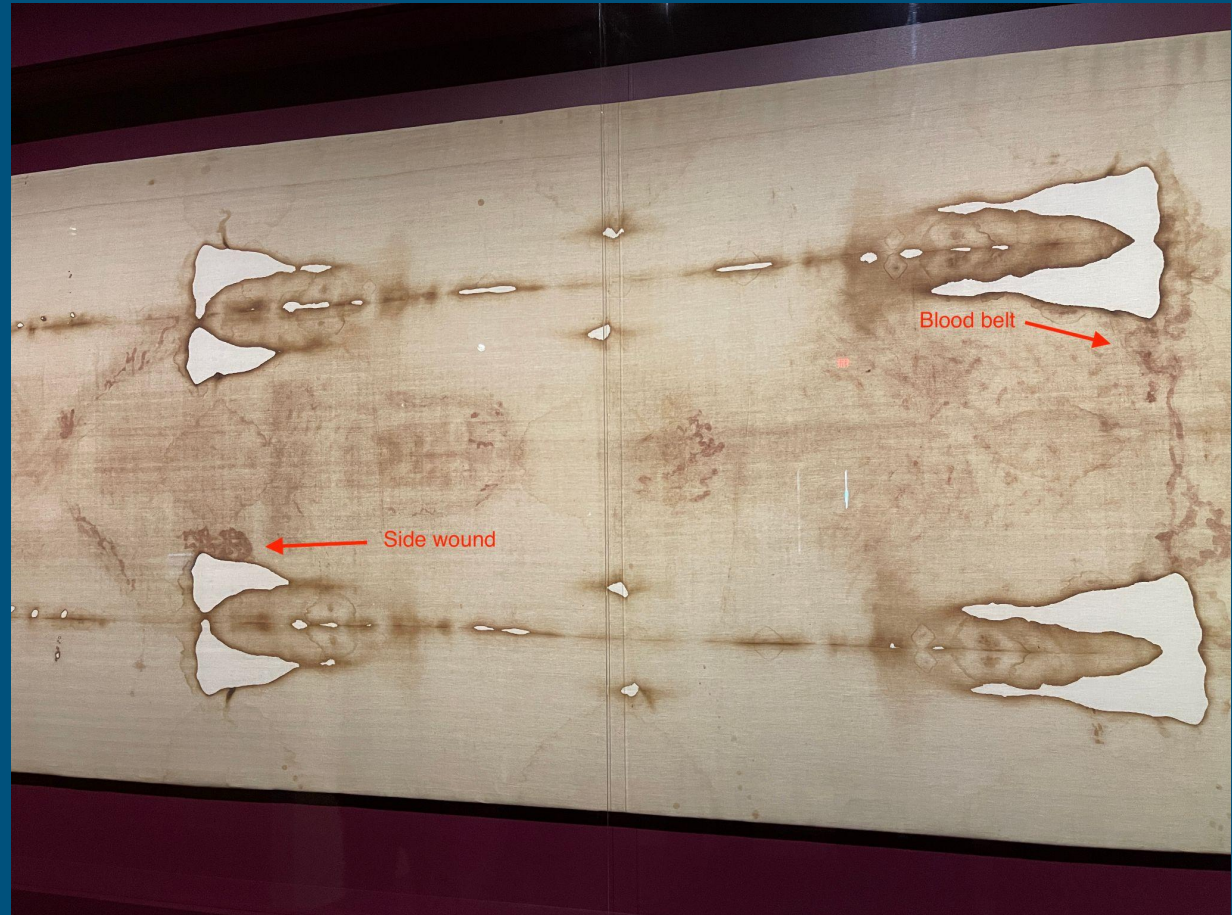
Flagrum



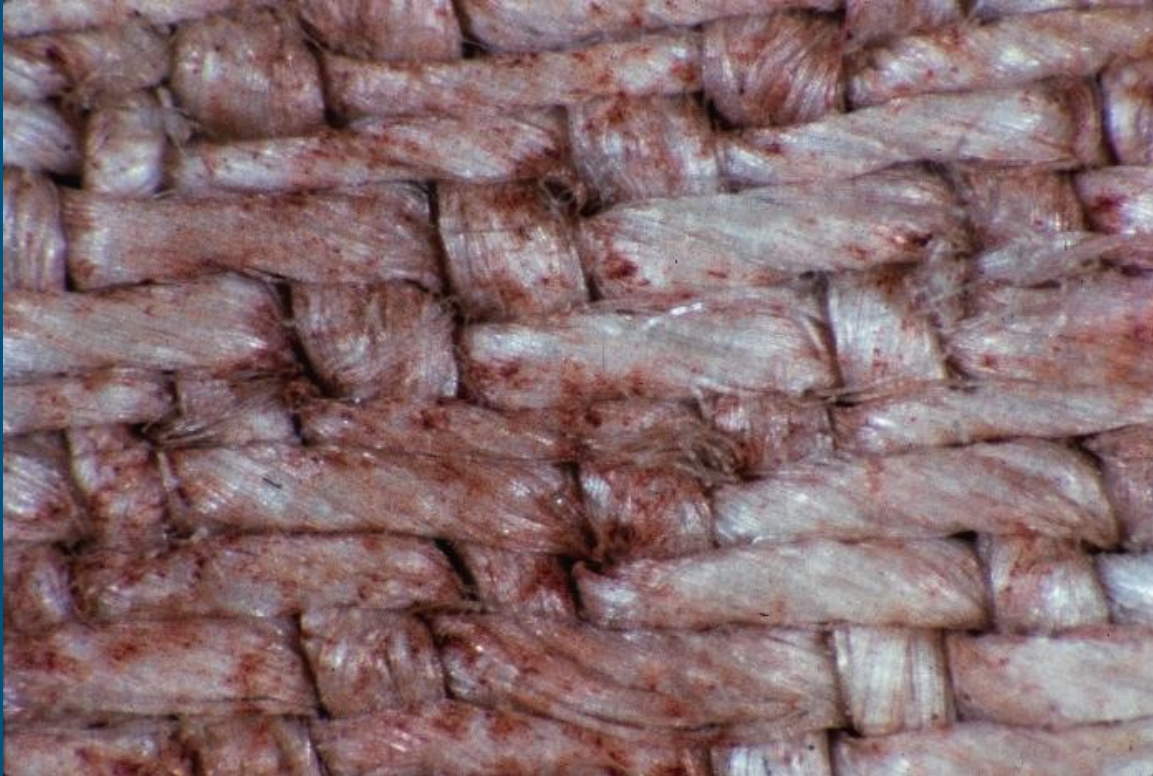
Crown of thorns



Side wound



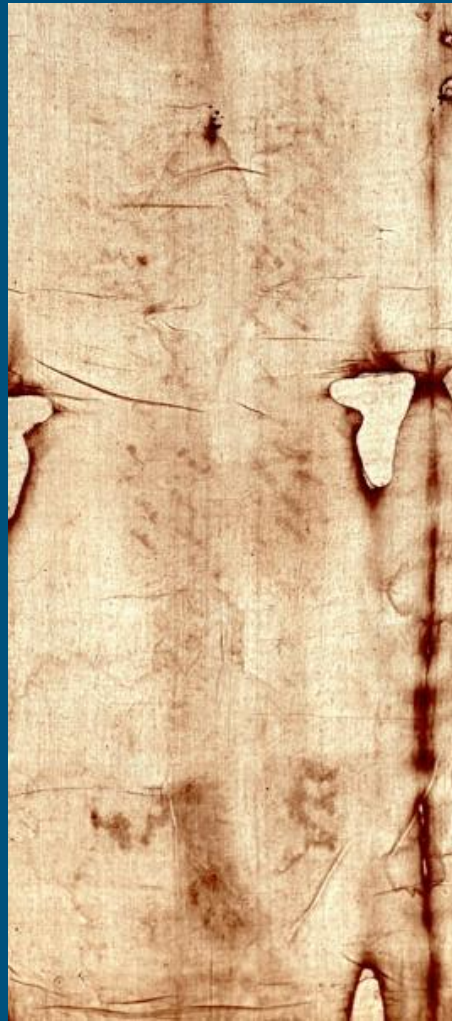
Blood has no breakage, smearing



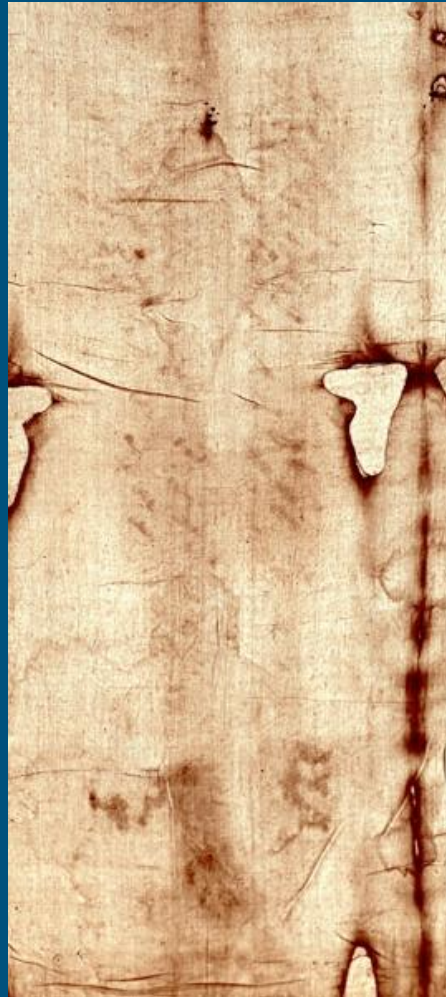
Facial wounds



No broken bones



Rigor mortis



No decomposition

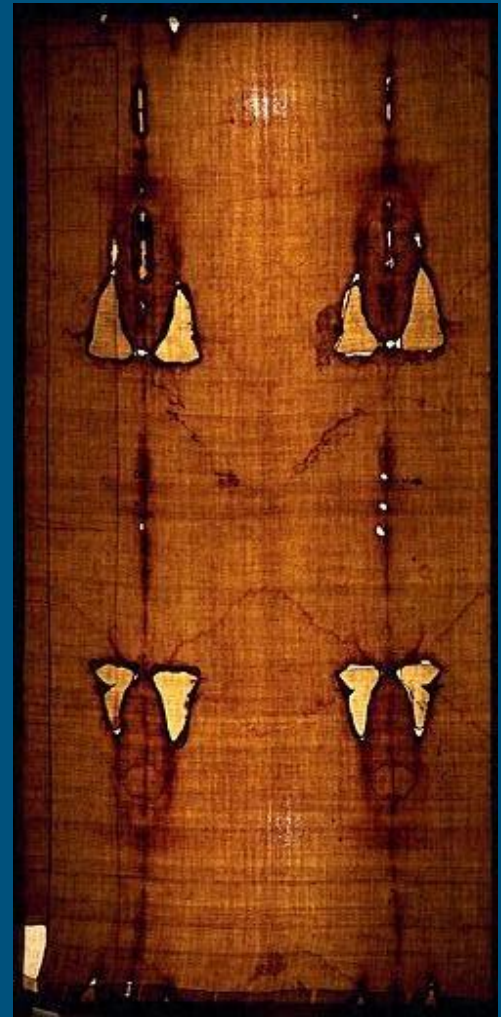
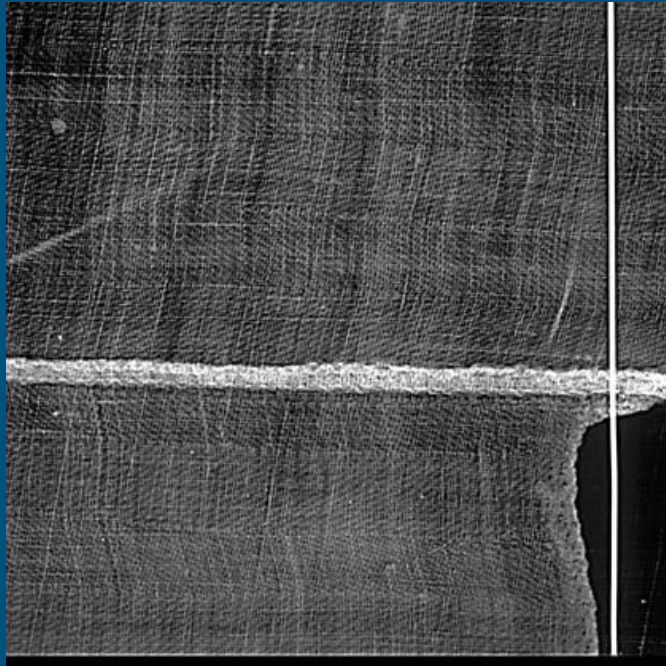
"The man on the shroud shows no obvious evidence of postmortem decomposition."

Fine linen cloth

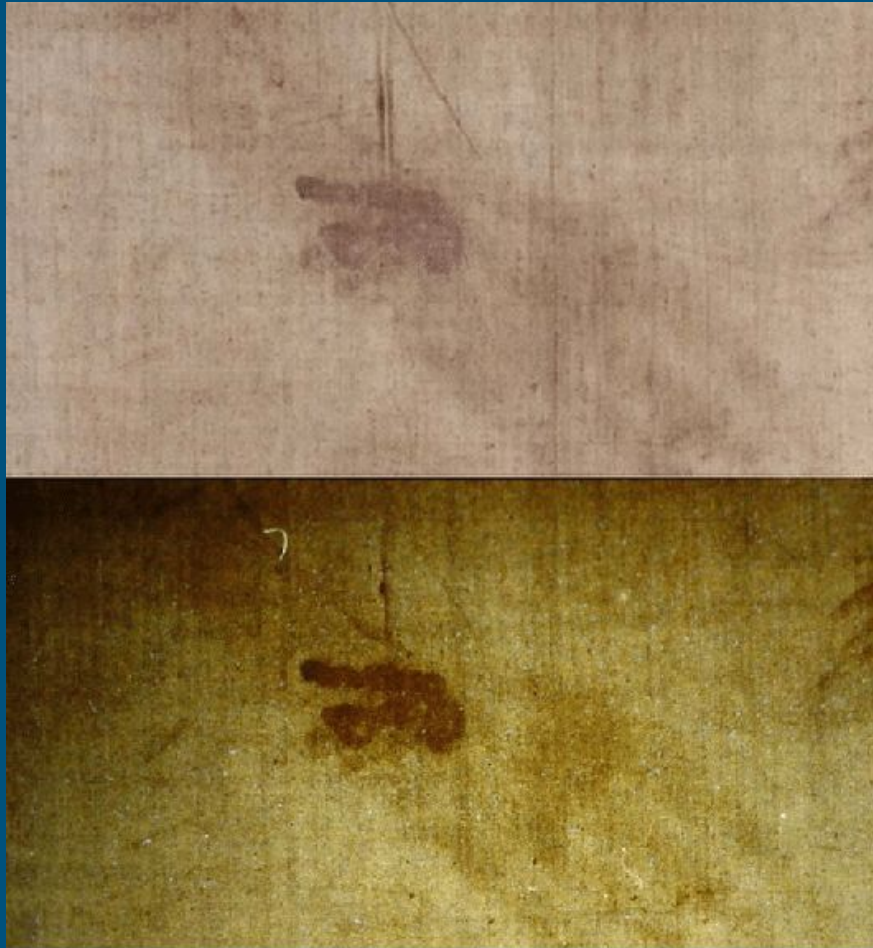
"And so Romans did not allow crucified victims – especially enemies of the state – to be buried. They left them on the crosses as their bodies rot and the scavengers went on the attack. To allow a decent burial was to cave into the desires precisely of the people who were being mocked and taught a lesson. No decency allowed. The body has to rot, and then we toss it into a grave."

- Bart Ehrman

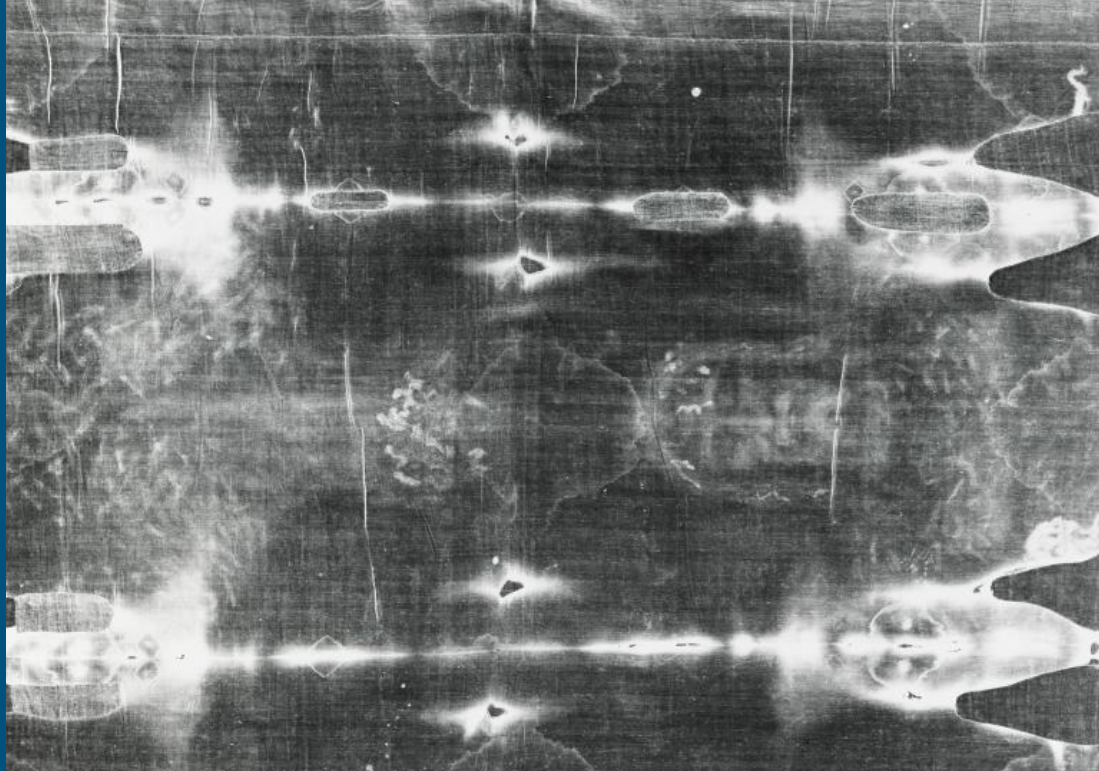
Side strip



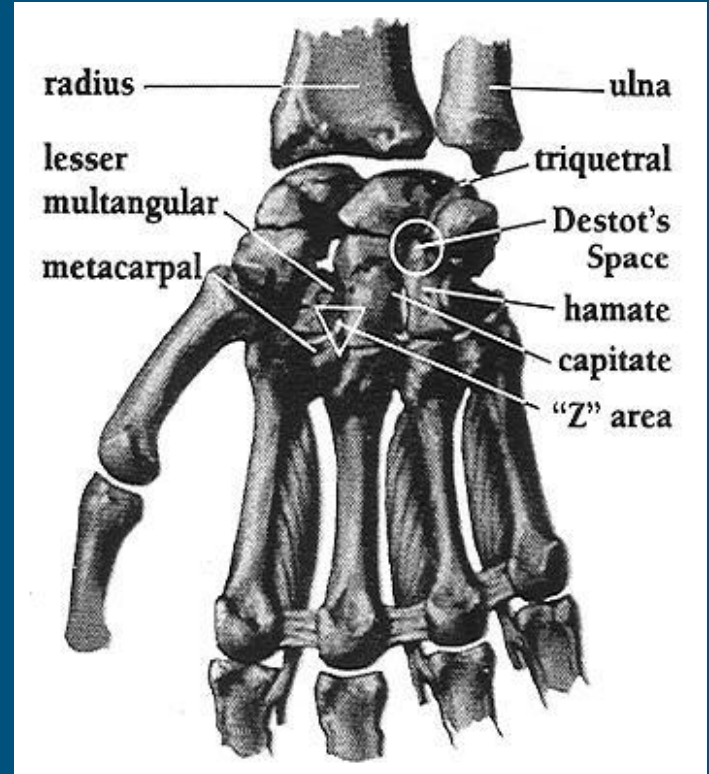
Banding



Angle encoded information



X-ray effect



X-ray effect

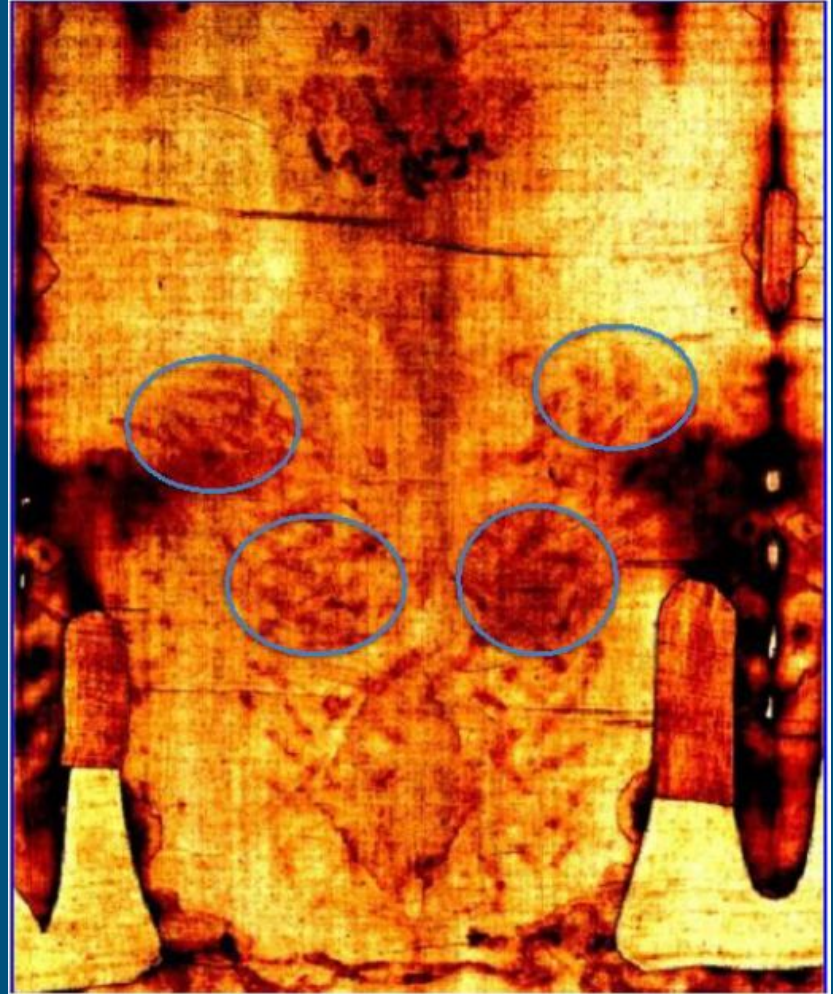


Cubit

8 x 2 cubits in dimension.

"They found the metrological value of the Assyrian cubit to be almost 21.5 inches. Other archaeologists have since calculated just over 21.6 inches. So the Assyrian cubit has been recorded as 21.6 plus or minus 0.2 inches – and this is just what the Shroud conforms to."

Shoulder abrasions



Blood serum retraction rings



Fig. 2. Ultraviolet photograph of the upper part of the frontal body image. Note the serum contraction ring easily seen about the lance wound.

Herringbone weave



Type AB blood

"We are therefore in a position to conclude that the traces of Shroud blood which we examined belong to the AB group."

Whip marks

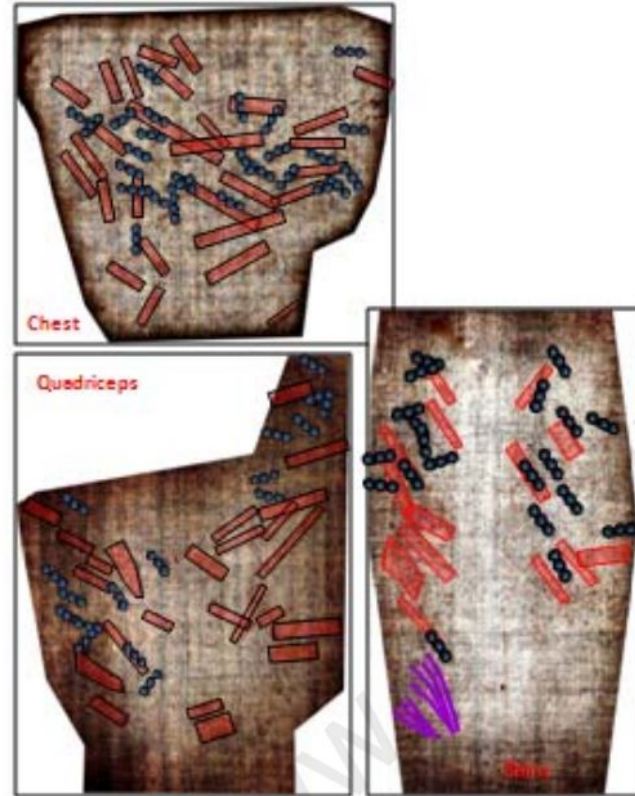
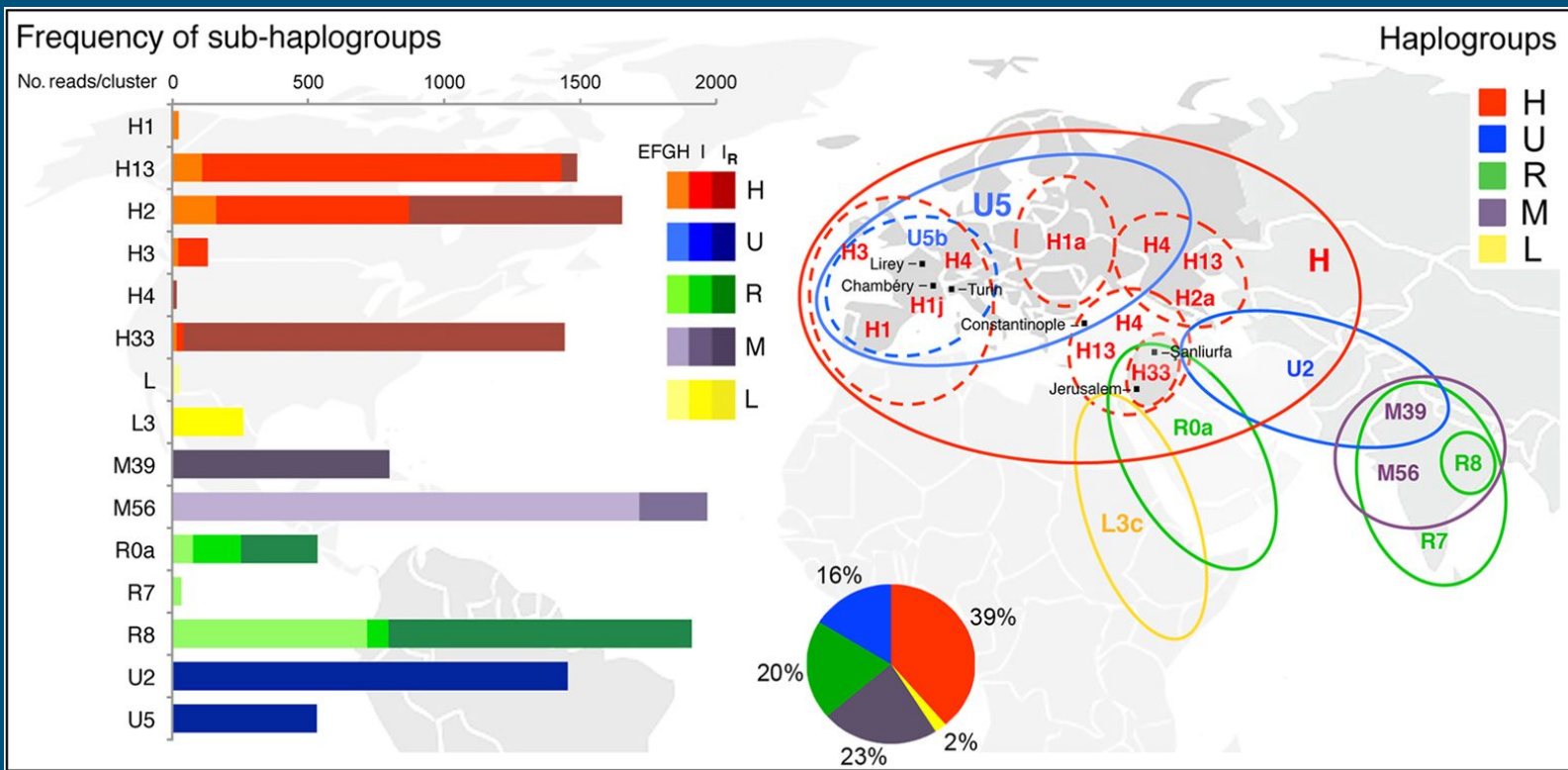


Figure 16. Type 1, Type 2 and Type 3 scourge marks in chest, quadriceps and shins.

Calcium deposits on feet



DNA

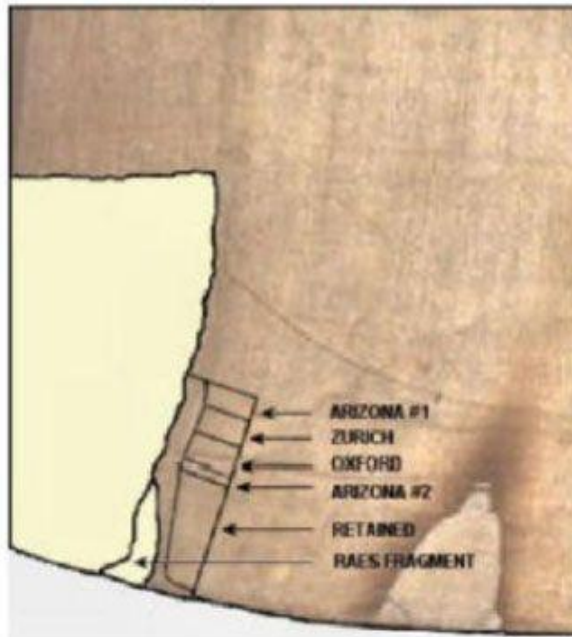


1988 C-14 testing



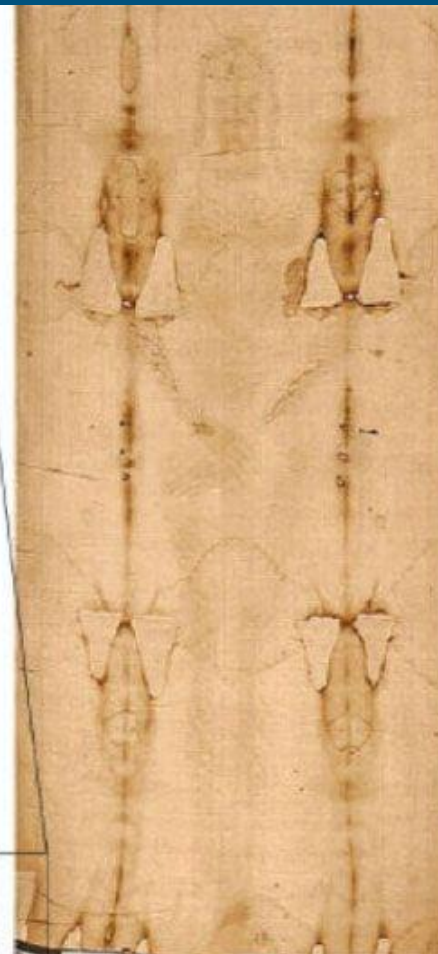
Sample site

The Raes Fragment was removed in 1973

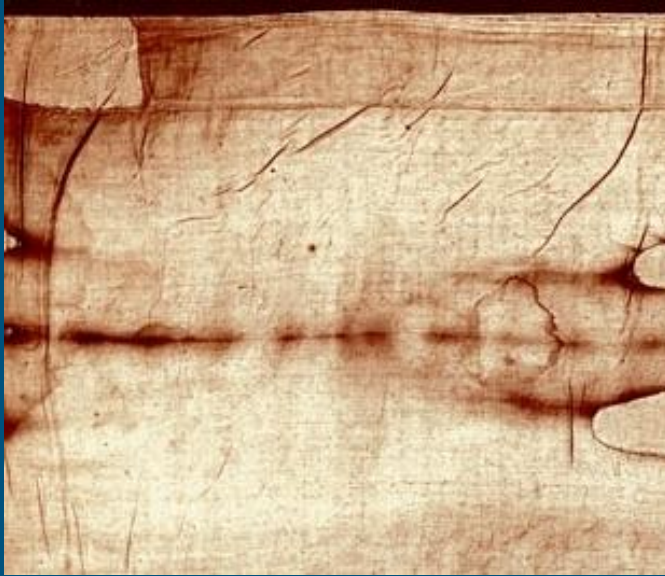


Approximate locations of questionable area
used for C-14 dating in reference to full frontal
portion of the Holy Shroud

©Barrie Schwartz Collection, STERA, Inc.



Sample site



1988 C-14 testing

"The results of radiocarbon measurements at Arizona, Oxford and Zurich yield a calibrated calendar age range with at least 95% confidence for the linen of the Shroud of Turin of AD 1260 - 1390 (rounded down/up to nearest 10 yr). **These results therefore provide conclusive evidence that the linen of the Shroud of Turin is mediaeval.**"

1988 Turin Shroud C-14 report

Summary

- Covered what is the Shroud of Turin
- Presented scientific features of the Shroud

Next week will argue why I consider the shroud to be the burial cloth of a crucified man from the 1st century, even though the 1988 C-14 test concluded it's between 1260 and 1390.

More information on the Shroud of Turin at:
DefendingChristianity.com

