

'THY MOST PURE IMAGE'

A Bibliography on the Turin Shroud, especially for Orthodox Christians, with annotations and brief commentary.

Featuring Orthodox Christian articles, resources, and studies focusing on Church history and tradition, plus Shroud resource sites, scientific articles, popular articles and documentaries, and much more.

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INTRODUCTORY CITATIONS:

"Numerous testimonials, both written and iconographic, confirm that in Edessa there was an impression left by Jesus on a cloth with His sweat and His blood. This sacred cloth, hidden for centuries and rediscovered in the sixth century, became the inspirational model for the iconography of Christ.

"All the legends, the traditions, the references to the existence of such an image are important for reconstructing an itinerary of the Shroud in the dark ages prior to its appearance in Europe and to understand why there are so many references to the existence of an image of Christ on a cloth."

The Shroud and the iconography of Christ, Emanuela Marinelli, 2014

"There are many proofs of this shrine's authenticity. But what is **the most important thing for us is the church Tradition which testifies that this relic has been preserved from the earliest centuries of Christianity.** The Shroud, in which the body of our Lord Jesus Christ was wrapped during the burial, is mentioned in all the four Gospels. Certainly, the Evangelists would not have mentioned this cover if it had not been kept by the faithful as a great shrine from the earliest Christian times. Later we heard a story of our Saviour's image not made with hands. It used to hang over the church gates in Edessus and later was brought to Constantinople. It disappeared subsequently without trace in the era of crusades. And some time later, already in the West, this Shroud reappeared."

Metropolitan Hilarion (Alfeyev) of the Moscow Patriarchate, 2010

NEW FOR 2021:

Articles on the Shroud in Scripture, by Larry Stalley:

<https://independent.academia.edu/LARRYSTALLEY>

As of November 17, 2021, Mr. Stalley has posted 12 articles exploring scriptural allusions and veiled references to the Burial Shroud of Christ. Titles include the following. Follow the link above to access, read and download:

- "BRING THE CLOAK THAT I LEFT AT TROAS WITH CARPUS!" Did the Apostle Paul Make Use of a Cryptonym for the Holy Shroud? (2 Timothy 4.13)

- Four Veiled References to the Shroud of Turin in the New Testament — Although both forensic science and historical research has brought to light a plethora of evidence...
- Jesus' Burial Shroud in the Four Gospels — This brief paper highlights the contribution each of the canonical Gospels makes to our understanding of the Shroud...
- Is the Image on the Shroud of Turin "The Father's Witness"? (1 John 5:5-13) — What exactly did the Biblical writer mean when he wrote: "...the testimony of God is this..." more
- The Shroud of Turin Served as a Tabernacle During the High-Priestly Ministry of Jesus! (Hebrews 9)
- Are There Veiled References to the Shroud of Turin In the New Testament? (An Exegetical Summary of Select Texts)
- The Crucified Christ Seen by the Galatians: A Literal Context for ΠΡΟΕΓΡΑΦΗ (Galatians 3.1) — Galatians 3:1 is likely the earliest reference in existence bearing witness to the striking image...
- "He Saw and Believed!" — Is the Shroud of Turin in the Background of John's Resurrection Narrative? (John 20:1-10)

NEW FOR 2019: *Including extensive Orthodox references from the 1st Millennium*

[The Shroud and the iconography of Christ, Emanuela Marinelli, 2014](#). An outstanding, painstakingly researched article of 30+ pages, with over 200 footnotes, many to primary Orthodox sources. Dozens of references to the full-length Image 'Not Made By Hands' are cited from Orthodox church writers in the latter half of the first millennium, many of whom also refer to the Image in their defense of the Holy Icons during the Iconoclast heresy.

[THE SERMON OF GREGORY REFERENDARIUS](#), by Mark Guscini, © 2004. A sermon pronounced by Gregory Referendarius, Archdeacon of Hagia Sophia in Constantinople on the occasion of the Image's arrival in the city [in 944 A.D.] survives in one known manuscript in the Vatican Archives, recently rediscovered by Italian classics scholar Gino Zaninotto. This is a remarkable document, which we referenced in our presentation at the Fall Retreat. The excellent introduction by translator and Shroud scholar Mark Guscini helps frame the text of this unique sermon, which we are very fortunate to now have in English.

[A Prayer from Mt. Athos for Consecrating an Iconographer:](#)

Thou Who hast so admirably imprinted Thy features on the cloth sent to King Abgar of Edessa, and hast so wonderfully inspired Luke Thy Evangelist: Enlighten my soul and that of Thy servant; Guide his hand that he may reproduce Thy features...

[The Shroud is not a fake - New research from ENEA on the sacred Linen kept in Turin](#) —

ENEA scientists warn, "it should be noted that the total power of VUV radiations required to instantly color the surface of linen that corresponds to a human of average height, body surface area = 34 thousand billion watts makes it impractical today to reproduce the entire Shroud image using a single laser excimer, since this power cannot be produced by any VUV light source built to date (the most powerful available on the market come to several billion watts)."

Books:

[The Shroud: Fresh Light on the 2,000-Year-Old Mystery](#), by Ian Wilson (2010) - Wilson cites Orthodox history and traditions in tracing the journey of the Shroud; also features extensive detailed reporting of scientific research. From the publisher's synopsis:

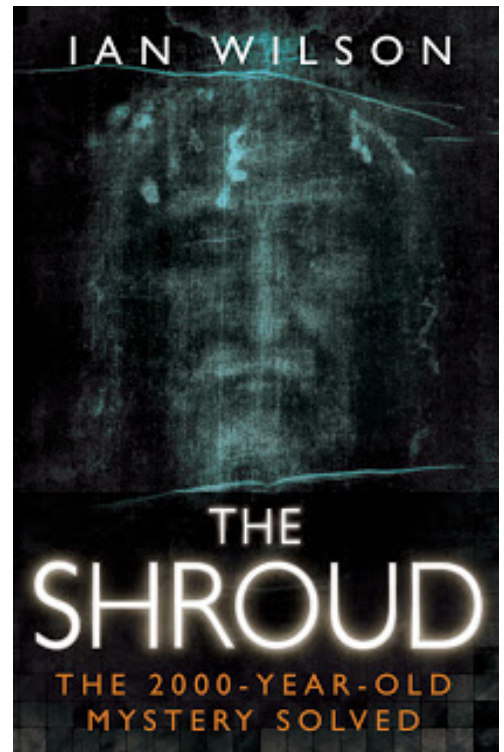
Two decades after radiocarbon dating declared the Turin Shroud a mediaeval fake, brand-new historical discoveries strongly suggest that this famous cloth, with its extraordinary photographic imprint, is genuinely Christ's shroud after all.

Shroud boldly challenges the current post-radiocarbon dating view - that it is a fake. By arguing his case brilliantly and provocatively, Ian Wilson once more throws the matter into the public arena for further debate and controversy.

Ian Wilson has been studying the Shroud and defending its authenticity for forty years, incorporating his own painstaking historical research into icons and images of Jesus Christ, including Eastern Orthodox traditions, manuscripts and references. Following the 1988 Carbon-14 dating which seemed to indicate the Shroud to be a medieval forgery, Wilson offered this assessment in 1991:

"In the shroud we have a piece of cloth that men cast lots over when they put it to the test... A piece of cloth they mocked when their instruments of destruction showed it, seemingly, as of mere human frailty. Is it not all strikingly evocative of what they did when they committed the body of Jesus himself to crucifixion and the grave? And did not something mind-blowingly unexpected happen to this, just when Jesus's followers felt at their most defeated? It all gives one the unnerving feeling that the shroud, even now, frail and discredited as it might seem, is part of a cosmic drama not yet played out." (Wilson, I., "[Holy Faces, Secret Places](#): The Quest for Jesus' True Likeness," Doubleday: London, 1991, p.189).

[The Resurrection of the Shroud - New Scientific, Medical and Archaeological Evidence](#), by Mark Antonacci (2000) - "This book scientifically challenges earlier radiocarbon testing and presents new evidence in determining the Shroud of Turin's true age."



Articles and Resources by Orthodox Christians:

[The Shroud of Turin: A Mystery Across the Ages](#) - by Fr. Alexey Young, Nun Michaila, Mary Mansur. Originally published in Orthodox America in the late 1980s, this article lacks information from more recent scientific studies, but is an extremely well done and comprehensive article, favorable to the Shroud's authenticity, and concludes with a stirring exhortation for us to strengthen our Faith.

[SCIENCE, ART AND THE SHROUD OF TURIN](#) - by Orthodox writer Vladimir Moss

[The Holy Mandylion \(Napkin\) of Christ \(Not-made-by-hands\)](#), an excellent gathering of articles, icons and Orthodox hymns from the Orthodox blog, 'Full of Grace and Truth' — Combines hymnography and history of the Holy Mandylion - the 'Image Not Made by Human Hands' - which is, of course, very likely the Shroud in its *Tetradiplon* folded status as it was venerated in the Christian Church from the sixth century through the sack of Constantinople in 1204. There is much Orthodox material in this collection, plus embedded links.

[Metropolitan Hilarion leads worship at Shroud of Turin](#); an official Moscow Patriarchate article relating the veneration (and brief remarks) in 2010 of the Shroud in Turin by Metropolitan Hilarion (Alfeyev), who is head of the Russian Orthodox Church Department of External Church Relations.

[Moscow Patriarchate's Position on Shroud of Turin](#), October 2009 - Interesting timing, preceding by some months the public veneration of the Shroud in Turin by Met. Hilarion Alfeyev (see above). "The attitude of the Russian Orthodox Church to the Shroud 'remained unchanged, along with its standpoint on the previous research which had proved that the Shroud of Turin is not a fake'."

From Mystagogy Blog:

[On the Possible Whereabouts of the Shroud in Post-Resurrection Times \(1 of 3\)](#)

[On the Possible Whereabouts of the Shroud in Post-Resurrection Times \(2 of 3\)](#)

[On the Possible Whereabouts of the Shroud in Post-Resurrection Times \(3 of 3\)](#)

From Ancient Faith Radio:

[Holy Image, Holy Blood](#) - Video presentation by Dcn. Stephen Muse (April 2015, 90 min.) - includes full transcript. Excellent and very edifying with great Q&A at end.

Deacon Muse references St John of Damascus:

Now St. John Damascene in 730, he mentions—this is really, except for some other oblique references, the first definite historical reference that the Shroud was the whole body. He does this [in] *On Holy Images*, he describes a long grave-cloth that he had experienced personally with— and this may be its first mention. Pope Stephen III in 752, not long after that, writes that Christ had

"...spread out his entire body on a linen cloth that was as white as snow. On this cloth, marvelous as it is to see... the glorious image of the Lord's face, and the length of his entire most-noble body, has been divinely transferred."

In 1201, Nicholas Mesarites, the sacristan of the parish chapel where the image of Edessa was kept, described the ceremony in which he says:

"Here he rises again and the sindon or shroud is clear proof: still smelling fragrant of perfumes, defying corruption because they wrapped the mysterious naked body from head to feet."

I doubt that the perfumes on the Shroud, 1200 years later, were myrrh or anything else they put on there. It was the holy relic, and so there is a different fragrance that was there.

The citation from St John of Damascus is especially important because he was the great defender of the icons during the iconoclast controversy, and theologically was the first to link icons to the Incarnation of the Word of God in the Person of Jesus Christ. Was his defense of the holy icons amplified and strengthened by his encounter with the Holy Mandylion, the Image of Edessa, the Shroud? I think we may safely say that is was.

[Not Made by Human Hands](#) - Podcast by Fr Thomas Hopko (Aug. 2008, 16:04) - A very well done, reverent discussion of the Shroud, linking it to the Three Feasts of the Savior in August, and Orthodox tradition.

[Proof of the Resurrection](#) - Podcast by Clark Carlson (Apr. 2007, 12:15) - This brief podcast begins in a seemingly conflicted manner, but Prof. Carlson uses his critique to lead us through a historical-liturgical journey linking the Shroud to the services of Great and Holy Friday, and especially of what he terms **the "bizarre" icon of Extreme Humility, which he convincingly argues is strongly linked to public presentation of the Shroud in Constantinople in the 10th and 11th centuries.** Concludes with strong lessons in faith.

The Shroud in the Gospel According to the Hebrews:

This tantalizing reference to Christ's burial linen come to us in a fragment of a non-canonical sub-apostolic gospel account, which was known by several of the Church Fathers:

<http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/gospelhebrews-throck.html>

The Gospel of the Hebrews - Extracts and Commentary

Taken from:

- Gospel Parallels, Ed. Burton H. Throckmorton, Jr.; ISBN 0-8407-5150-8
- The Other Bible, Ed. Willis Barnstone; ISBN 0-06-250030-904143784

(From *Gospel Parallels*) (in Jerome, On Illustrious Men, 2)

Luke 24:50-53 cf. Gospel according to the Hebrews — Also the gospel called according to the Hebrews, recently translated by me into Greek and Latin, which Origen often uses, says, after the resurrection of the Savior:

Now the Lord, when he had given the linen cloth to the servant of the priest, went to James and appeared to him (for James had sworn that he would not eat bread from that hour in which he had drunk the Lord's cup until he should see him risen from among them that sleep)." And a little further on the Lord says, "Bring a table and bread." And immediately it is added, "He took bread and blessed and broke and gave it to James the Just and said to him, "My brother, eat your bread, for the Son of man is risen from among them that sleep.'

(From *The Other Bible*) (Jerome, De viris illustribus 2):

The Gospel called according to the Hebrews which was recently translated by me into Greek and Latin, which Origen frequently uses, records after the resurrection of the Savior:

And when the Lord had given the linen cloth to the servant of the priest, he went to James and appeared to him. For James had sworn that he would not eat bread from that hour in which he had drunk the cup of the Lord until he should see him risen from among them that sleep. And shortly thereafter the Lord said: Bring a table and bread! And immediately it is added: he took the bread, blessed it and brake it and gave it to James the Just and said to him: My brother, eat your bread, for the Son of man is risen from among them that sleep.

Web Resource Sites for further research:

[The Shroud of Turin Website](#) - the website of Shroud researcher Barrie Schwartz. One of the most extensive resources on the Shroud and Shroud research. Schwartz was the documentary photographer for the STURP scientific research team which examined the Shroud in 1978, and which contributed enormously to our understanding of the Shroud to this day.

[The Shroud of Turin Blog](#) by Stephen E. Jones; an excellent and vast resource on the Shroud operated by a believing Christian. Jones writes,

MY COMMENTARY ON SHROUD OF TURIN RELATED MATTERS. I AM AN AUSTRALIAN EVANGELICAL CHRISTIAN IN MY 60S. I AM PERSUADED BY THE EVIDENCE THAT THE SHROUD OF TURIN IS THE BURIAL SHEET OF JESUS CHRIST AND BEARS HIS CRUCIFIED AND *RESURRECTED* IMAGE.

[Turin Shroud Center of Colorado](#) - Founded by physicist John Jackson, leader of the 1978 STURP team. — "The Turin Shroud Center of Colorado (TSC) is dedicated to continuing its research on the Shroud of Turin and publishing its findings. We are furthermore dedicated to educating the public on all of the important historic, forensic and scientific data concerning the Shroud... After nearly fifty (50) years of dedicated research by physicist John Jackson and his TSC associates, along with the consideration of an ever greater body of world-wide sourced research results on the Shroud, it is our firm position that the current complex of historic, forensic and scientific knowledge concerning the Shroud justifies the rational judgment that the Shroud once wrapped the body of Jesus of Nazareth in the tomb."

[Shroud Exhibit and Museum \(iSEAM\), New Mexico](#) - Excellent resource with current articles, resources on key research, and video presentations. Open to the public (not merely online), available for presentations. Operated by pious Roman Catholic team under blessing of Diocese of Las Cruces, New Mexico. Features a full sized picture of the Shroud of Turin, the [only VP8 Image Analyzer on open, interactive display](#).

[Shroud Encounter, by Russ Breault](#) - "A big screen experience and in-depth exploration into the mysteries of the Shroud of Turin. Using a CSI approach, audiences are taken on a thought provoking adventure through early church history, ancient art, modern science, and medical forensics... International lecturer and researcher Russ Breault has presented to hundreds of audiences over the past 25 years. He is recognized as a leading expert and an engaging speaker able to captivate audiences with both skillful delivery and depth of knowledge." Features DVDs for sale, and on the main page, a 15 minute YouTube video providing a good overview on the Shroud.

[Shroud of Turin Blog](#) - Blog by Dan Porter. Mr. Porter ceased blogging in Dec. 2015, but promises to leave the blog online as a resource.

Web Articles:

[Shroud of Turin - Evidence it is Authentic](#) - by J. Michael Fischer, adapted by John C. Iannone, 2016; [PDF version](#). Discusses most recent scientific findings, refutes the false reading of the 1988 Carbon-14 dating; much more.

[The Shroud of Turin: Evidence for Everything?](#) - Dwight Longenecker, The Imaginative Conservative, August 9, 2015. "After my visit [to see the Shroud of Turin] I am more convinced than ever not only that the Shroud of Turin is the burial cloth of Christ, but that the mysterious image was produced by a blast of radiance from the resurrection."

[Shroud a 'radiation photo' of resurrection?](#)

[Scientists: Shroud of Turin-genuine / OrthoChristian.Com](#)

[34 Thousand Billion Watts - YouTube](#) - **Excellent 3 min. video** discussing the recent (2011) findings of five years of study on the Shroud by [ENEA](#).

[The Holy Shroud in High Definition](#) - Offers Hi-Res images and details for personal investigation. Uses video footage and images from the 2008 HD videography of the Shroud.

- [Available as an iOS app](#) for iPhone and iPad (requires iOS 6.0, but not yet updated to work with iOS 11 and up).

[Does This Finding Prove Jesus' Resurrection? New Book Offers Stunning Alleged Details About the Shroud | TheBlaze.com](#)

[Science Shines New Light on Shroud of Turin's Age / OrthoChristian.Com](#) - Excellent article from the ncregister.com, basically a review of the recent Italian book (cited above), with consultation of Shroud experts and skeptics.

[Turin shroud makes rare appearance on TV amid claims that it is not a forgery | World news | The Guardian](#) (March 2013)

[Researchers from the University of Padua Date the Shroud of Turin to the First Century / OrthoChristian.Com](#) - Article based on findings of the new Italian book, [The Mystery of the Shroud](#).

[Shroud Skeptics Bump against Science](#), by Mary Jo Anderson, CatholiCity, April 15, 2010 - An excellent article responding to a Shroud skeptic.

[Finding Jesus: Faith Fact Forgery - CNN.com](#) - This link is included because this was a major documentary special in 2015. However, it ignores a large body of recent scientific studies, and, like most popular Shroud documentaries, is rather superficial. See Barrie Schwartz's in-depth review immediately below:

- [Review of CNN Special](#) by researcher/photographer Barrie Schwartz of Shroud.com

[Mystery Engulfs Shroud of Turin: DNA Found From All Over World / OrthoChristian.Com](#)

[Uncovering the Sources of DNA on the Shroud](#), by Stephen E. Jones; see also [Part 2](#) and [Part 3](#) of this excellent analysis of how the DNA findings support the tradition of the Shroud dating to the 1st century, and its subsequent providential movements to Edessa, Constantinople, and elsewhere. Jones writes this in [Part 3](#):

[The DNA findings] have *not* "added to the mystery." They have *reduced* what mystery there may have been, by adding to the already [overwhelming evidence that the Shroud is authentic](#). It is only a "mystery" to those who *don't want* the Shroud to be authentic because they would then have to answer for themselves [Pontius Pilate's](#) question: "*Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?*" ([Mt 27:22](#)).

[The DNA article refers to the Shroud of Turin as] **the supposed burial cloth of Jesus**. [Again](#) it is *not* "supposed." The [evidence is overwhelming that the Shroud of Turin is authentic](#), the very burial sheet of Jesus, bearing the imprint of His crucified and *resurrected* body!

Resources on the Sudarium of Oviedo as confirmation of the Shroud

From [The 'Other' Shroud of Christ](#), by Mary Jo Anderson, Catholic Report, 2015:

"A little-known relic in Oviedo, Spain, called the Sudarium, the cloth said to have covered Jesus' face after He was crucified, may be the key to unveiling the mystery of the Shroud of Turin... The Sudarium of Oviedo is by most accounts the best validation of the Shroud of Turin as the true burial cloth of Jesus of Nazareth... The history and the scientific studies on the Sudarium pose a fascinating question that leaps over the confusion of carbon dating: *How can the Shroud date*

from the Medieval period if the face in the image is identical to the face that was covered by the first century Sudarium?"

[The Sudarium of Oviedo: Its History and Relationship to the Shroud of Turin](#), by Mark Guscini, B.A. M.Phil.; 1997.

[Stains on the Sudarium of Oviedo coincide with those on the Shroud](#) - Vatican Insider, 2015.

[THE SUDARIUM OF OVIEDO AND THE SHROUD OF TURIN](#), by: Jim Dunning, 2010.

Reproductions of the Shroud for purchase:

[The Shroud of Turin Website](#) - the website of Shroud researcher Barrie Schwartz. High-quality lifesize canvas prints of the Shroud, lithos and other Shroud items.

[Shroud of Turin Replica on ebay](#) - This is the same source from which we procured our replica for the recent 2019 Fall Retreat. Ships from Thailand; excellent quality, modest cost.

[Shroud of Turin Replica - Face Image only](#) - From the same company as the full size replica immediately above.

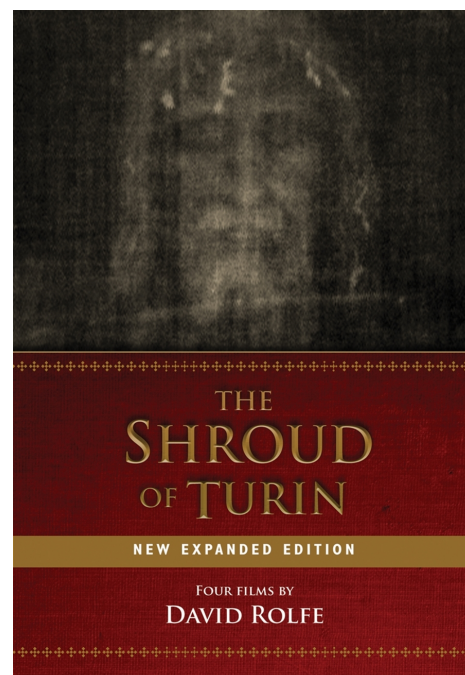
Films & Videos on the Shroud:

[The Shroud of Turin - Four Films by David Rolfe](#)

(2 DVDs, New Expanded Edition)

Includes four important film productions exploring the Shroud, from 1978 (just before the first serious scientific examination of the Shroud done by the STURP team that same year), 2008, 2010, and 2015. Produced and Directed by David Rolfe, with significant contributions by historical author and investigator Ian Wilson. Includes a special booklet with excerpts from Pope Benedict XVI's writings and sermons on the Shroud.

- **The Silent Witness** (1978)
- **Shroud** (written by Ian Wilson) (2008)
- **The Shroud of Turin - Material Evidence** (BBC, 2010) - Features the first HD footage of the Shroud from the 2008 videography project.
- **Shroud Enigma - A Grave Injustice** (2015) - Refutes the 1988 Carbon-14 dating. Odd post-Christian statement at the 24 minute mark, but otherwise a good overview.



[34 Thousand Billion Watts - YouTube](#) - **Excellent 3 min. video** discussing the recent (2011) findings of five years of study on the Shroud by [ENEA](#).

[The Real Face of Jesus from the Shroud of Turin](#) - VIDEO - History Channel (90 minutes)

Mysterious Man of the Shroud: A fairly well done TV documentary with Hector Elizondo as host/narrator. 46 min.; [Part 1 on YouTube](#) -- DVD from Amazon [here](#).

[Shroud Enigma: A Grave Injustice](#) - website of a 25 minute film giving a fine overview of the Shroud, its history, scientific research, and refutes the 1988 Carbon-14 dating. Included in the David Rolfe 4-film/2-DVD set (above).