

Isaiah 53 Redux

Christ Church

Fall 2025

The first aside

What was Jesus' crime?

- The original charges against Him was **Treason and Sediton** (political crime)– Read Luke 23:1,2
- Later the charge is - **Blasphemy** (religion)
 - Matthew 9:3; 26:65, 66
 - Mark 14:64
 - John 10:33, 36

“Take Him
and judge
Him
***according to
your law***”
John 18:31



John 19:7 “We have a ***law***, and by that law ***he ought to die...***”

Leviticus 24:16

¹⁶ anyone who *blasphemes* the name of the LORD is to be put to death. The entire assembly ***must stone them***.

Whether foreigner or native-born, when they *blaspheme* the Name they are to be put to death.

Was Jesus Stoned?

- During His ministry He was threatened with stoning several times
 - John 8:59
 - 10:30-33
 - 11:8



- It was common for the stoning to be done with as much humiliation upon the person as possible
 - The stones were sharp and small
 - They were hurled at the eyes and face – see Jesus' statement in Mark 12:4
 - They would break the skin
 - If this is true that the Jews stoned Him – they had six hours to do so



Mark 12:4

⁴”Then he sent another servant to them; they struck this man ***on the head*** and treated him shamefully.”



- This also explains the Suffering Servant passages in Isaiah 52:14

- *“As many were astonished at Him; His face was so marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men”*
Isaiah 52:14

- See also Isaiah 53:7 which borrows from Psalm 38



Isaiah 53:7

*⁷ He was oppressed and afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth; he
was led like a lamb to the slaughter,
and as a sheep before its shearers is
silent, so he did not open his mouth.*

Psalm 38:10-14

*¹⁰ My heart pounds, my strength fails me;
even the **light has gone from my eyes**.*

*¹¹ My friends and companions avoid me because of
my wounds; my neighbors stay far away.*

*¹² Those who want to kill me set their traps,
those who would harm me talk of my ruin;
all day long they scheme and lie.*

*¹³ I am like the **deaf**, who cannot hear,
like the **mute**, who cannot speak;*


*¹⁴ I have become like one who does not hear,
whose **mouth** can offer no reply.*

- It helps explain another passage – Matthew 26:26
 - How was Christ's body to be '*broken*'?
 - None of His bones –John 19:36



1 Corinthians 11:24 (KJV)

24 "And when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, Take, eat: this is ***my body, which is broken for you***: this do in remembrance of me."

A close-up photograph of a silver chalice filled with red wine. Several small, red, fleshy fruits, possibly strawberries or raspberries, are floating in the wine. The chalice is ornate with a fluted bowl and a decorative base. In the background, a red cloth and other ceremonial items are partially visible.

- It helps explain another passage – Matthew 26:26

- How was Christ's body to be '*broken*'?
- None of His bones –John 19:36
- Also, I Corinthians 11:24
- The hurling of sharp stones would tear away small chunks of skin
- See also Deuteronomy 21:21-23

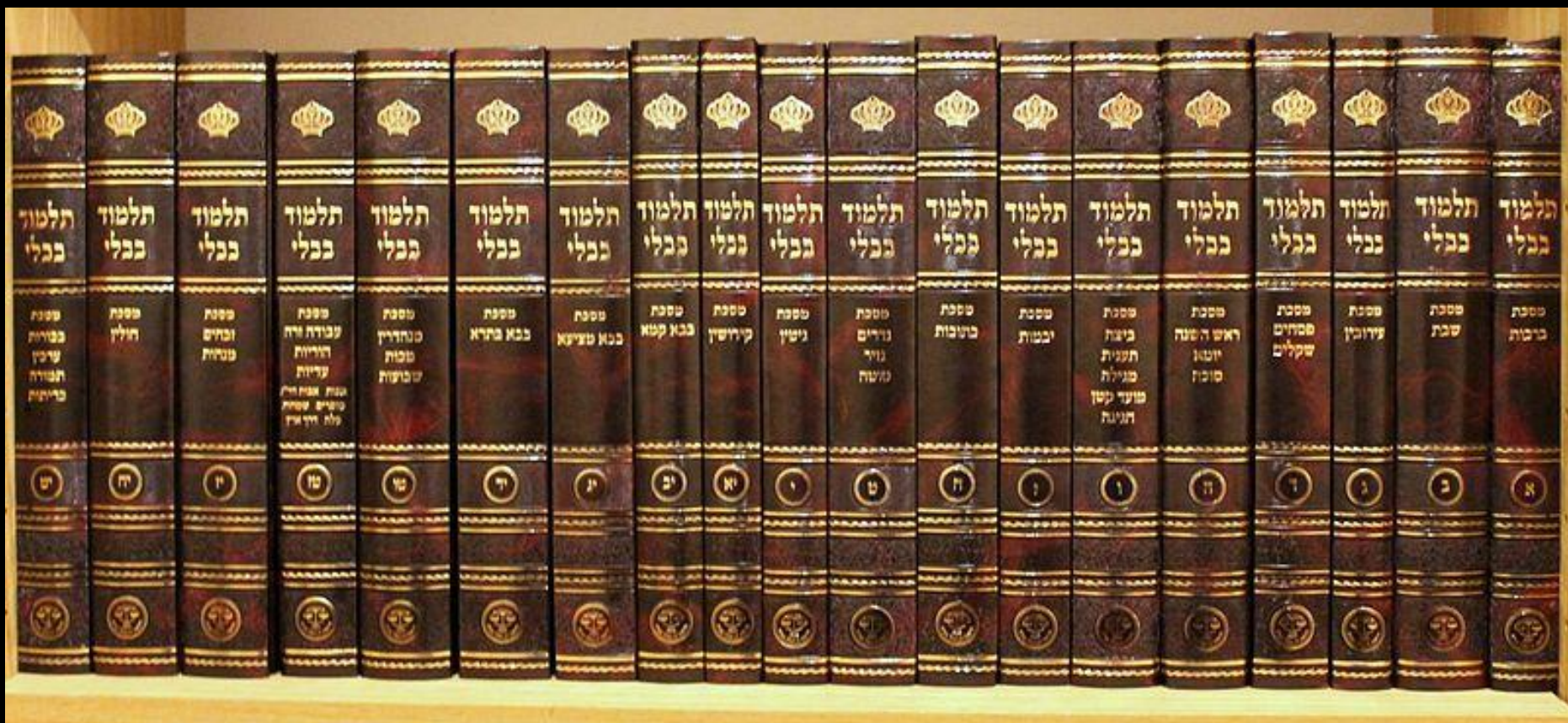
More support for stoning

- Remember that Pilate was surprised that Jesus had died so soon – Mark 15:44
- Mark 16:12; Luke 24: 16, 31; John 20:14 – post-resurrection witnesses did not initially recognize Him

More support for stoning

- How was the first martyr killed? – Acts 7:57-60
- Paul was stoned in Lystra – Acts 14:19
 - In Galatians 4:17 Paul says: *'I bear on my body the marks of Christ'*
 - Nail prints? Flogging scars? Lance wound?
 - Eye ailment in Galatia – Galatians 4:12-16
 - See also Galatians 6:11

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be the name 'Paul' in a cursive script.



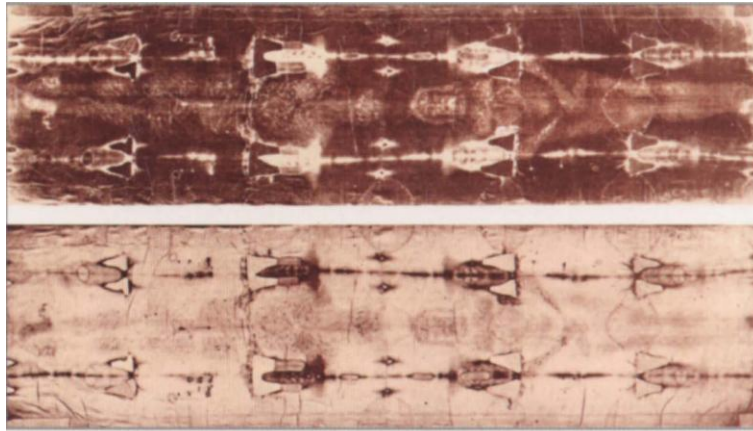
*“On the eve of the Passover , Jesus the Nazarene was **hanged** and a herald went forth before him forty days, heralding, “Jesus the Nazarene is going forth to be **stoned** because he practiced sorcery and instigated and seduced Israel to idolatry. Whoever knows anything in defense may come and state it.” But since they did not find anything in his defense, they **hanged** him on the eve of Passover.”*

Talmud, Sanhedrin, 43a

**The second,
but pertinent digression**

Tourin' The Shroud of Turin

- It is the purported burial cloth of Jesus.
- If it is authentic – what would it be?
- If it is fake – what would it be?



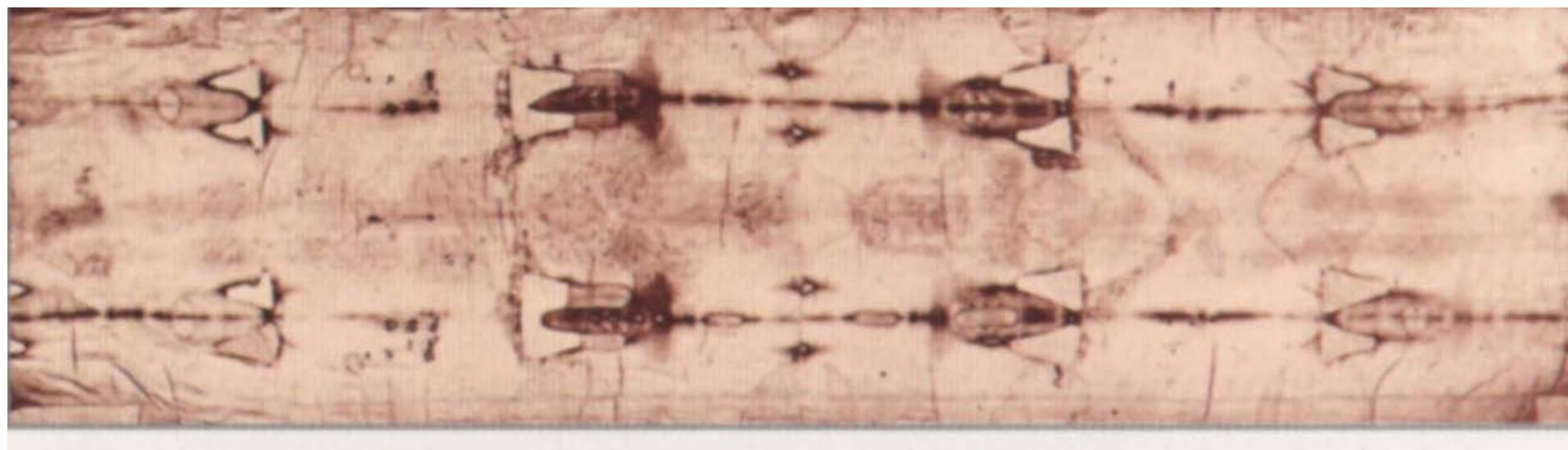


- It is a linen cloth, woven in a 3-1 herringbone twill.
- It measures 14'3" x 3'6". There is a 3½" strip that had been sewn on at a later date.
- It is a straw yellow color with a sepia-colored image of a human body. The images are arranged head-to-head/front-to-back. Calculations measure the image as a male with an approximate height of 5'11" and weighing approximately 175 pounds.



- On the figure are ‘blood marks’ that conform to expectations of the Gospel accounts of Jesus’ crucifixion.
 - Hands – Luke 24:40; John 20:25-27; Colossians 2:14
 - Back – Matthew 27:26; Mark 15:15; Luke 23:16; John 19:1
 - Right side – John 19:31-37
 - Head – Matthew 27:29; Mark 15:17; John 19:2

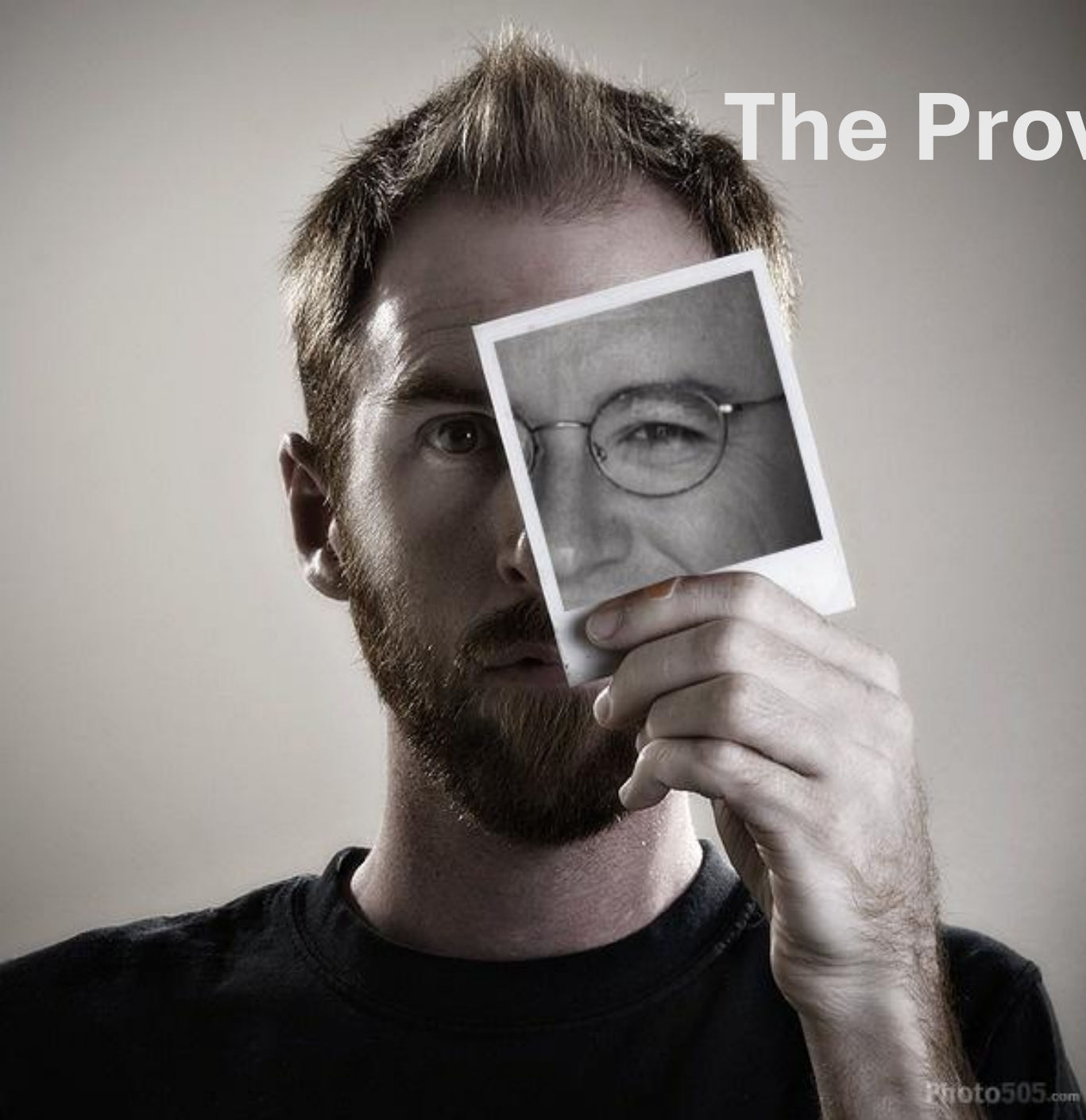
- The darkest marks/lines are scorch marks from a 1532 fire.



The Investigation

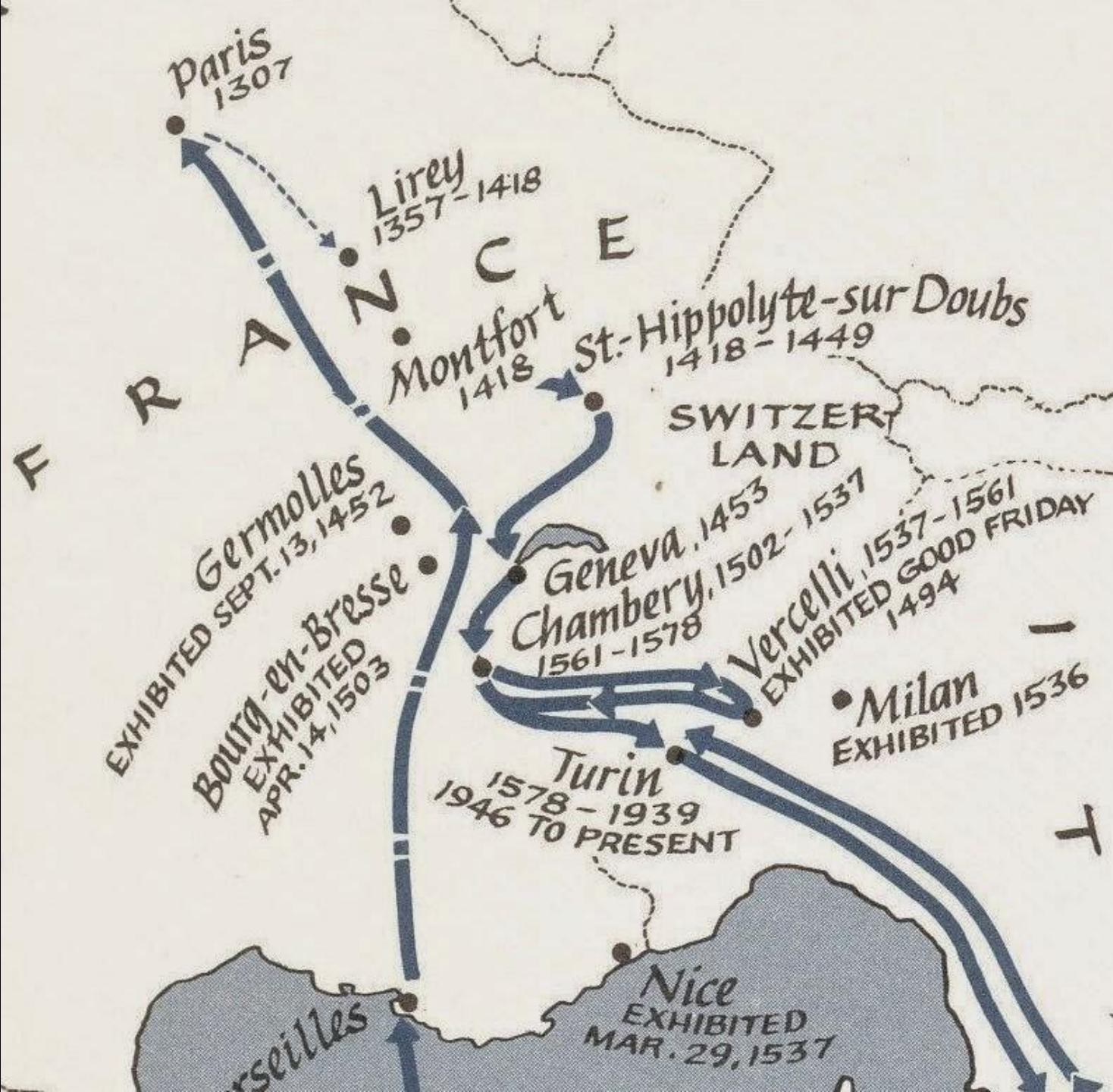


The Provenance



History

- The earliest it can be traced is to 1357. It was first exhibited in Lirey, France by the de Charnys family. They owned it. In 1460 it was passed to the House of Savoy. It was kept in a silver reliquary chest in the family chapel at Chambery.
- There in 1532, the chapel caught fire, the reliquary was engulfed in fire. Two Franciscan priests and a man named Pierre Lambert rescued it and doused it in water. Unfortunately, a drop of molten silver set fire to the edge of the Shroud. It scorched all 48 folds and left water stains.



- A small group of nuns took two years to repair the cloth.
- Circa 1580 it was taken to Turin in northern Italy. There it was enshrined in The Cathedral of St. John the Baptist.
- In the 14th – 16th centuries it was frequently exhibited.
- In the first exhibition in 1357, the Bishop Of Troyes, Henry of Poitiers, claimed that the Shroud was a fraud. He based his claim on the testimony of the artist who painted it.





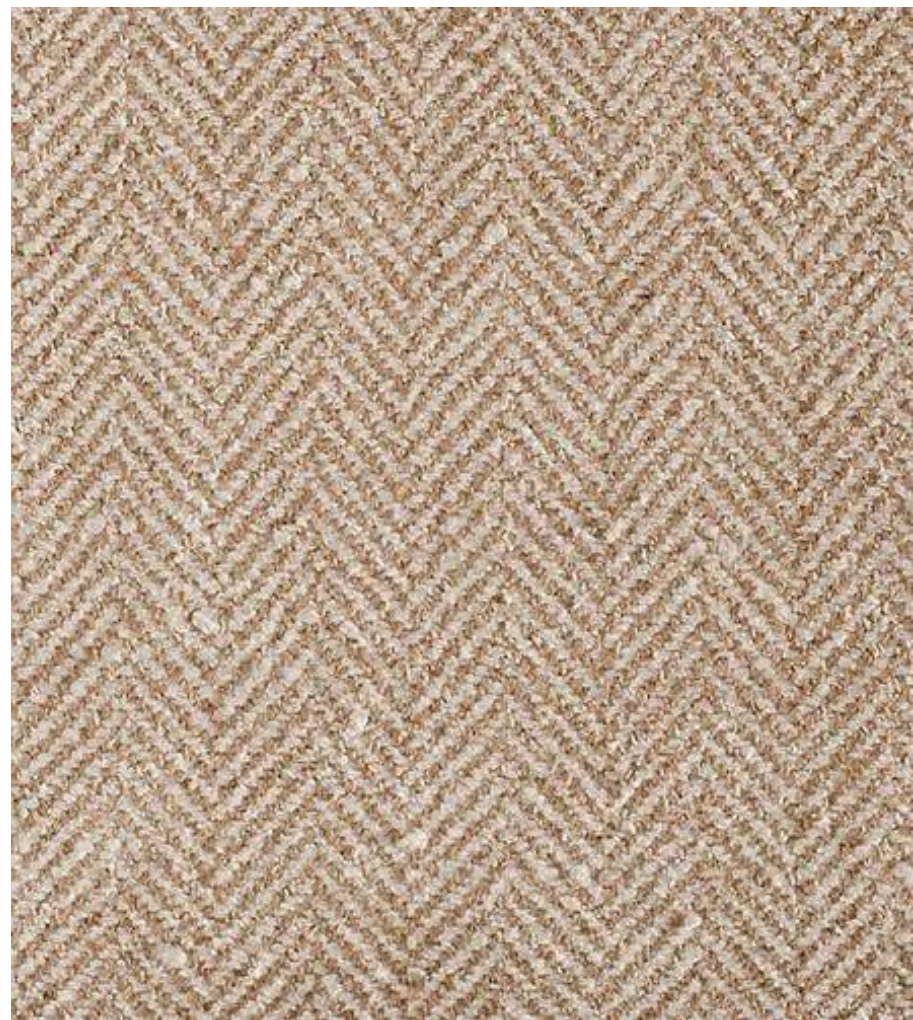
- Thirty years later, Pierre d’Arcis (Henry’s successor), wrote a long letter to Pope Clement VII (the letter still survives). The letter recalls Henry’s complaints and states that he shared Henry’s beliefs that the shroud was “...a product of human handicraft” (Latin ‘*manufactus*’). D’ Arcis also referred to it as “an artificial painting or depiction” (Latin ‘*artificialiter depictus*’).



- Pierre d’Arcis went on to plead that the Pope end the displays.
- Pope Clement VII replied that he would not withdraw it, but he did place regulations and restrictions on its display.
 - No liturgical pomp
 - No ceremonies
- On each occasion a priest was to announce to those present:
 - *“In a loud and intelligible voice, without any trickery, that the aforesaid form or representation is not the true burial cloth of our Lord Jesus Christ but only a kind of painting or picture made as a form of representation of the burial cloth.”*

The Fabric





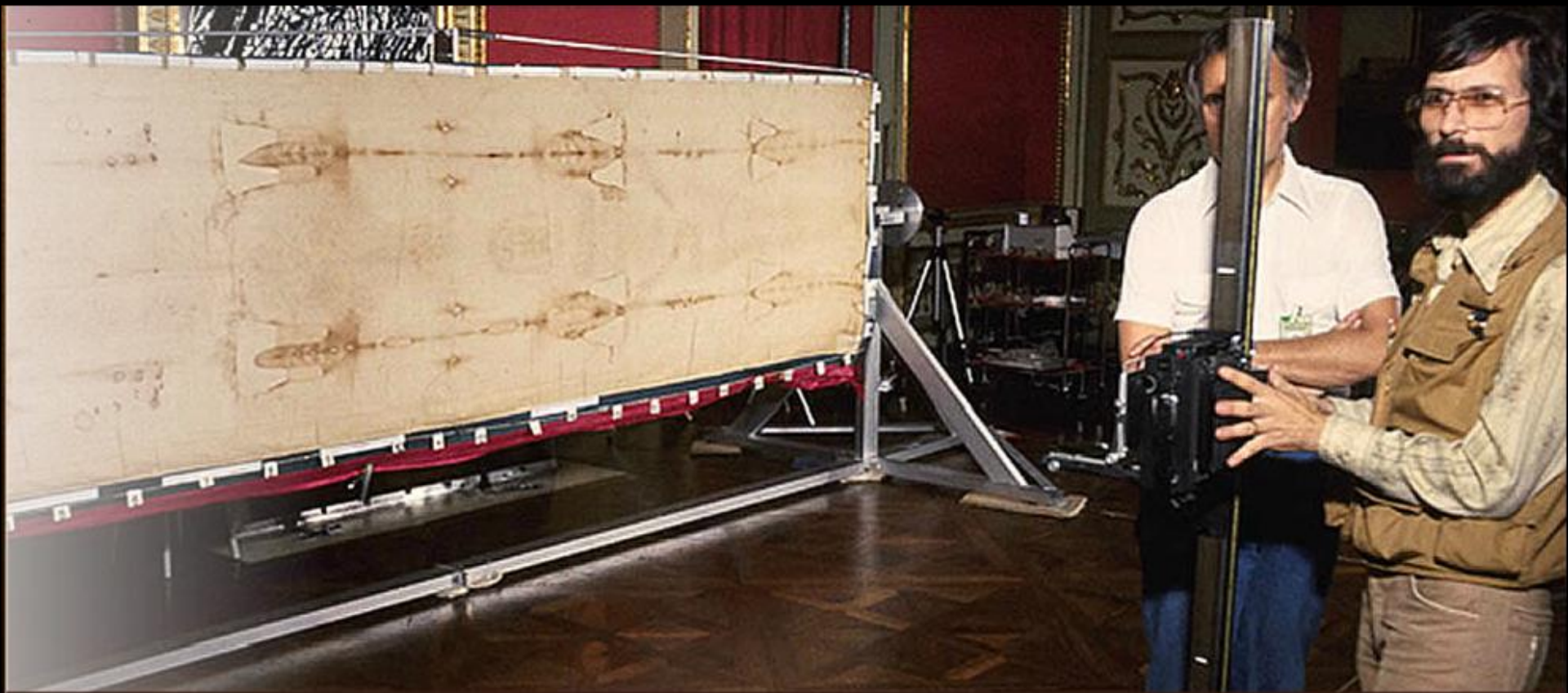
- Remember that we have an example of these Jewish burial practices in the story of Lazarus
 - Read John 11:44
 - For Jesus also 'cloths' must be accounted for – Luke 24:12; John 19:40; 20:5-7

The Blood Stains



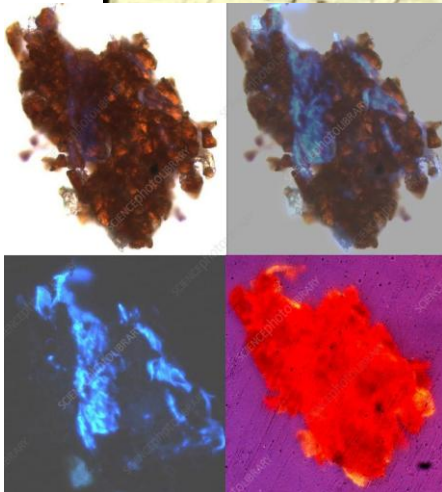
- In 1978 the Shroud was examined by **STURP** (Shroud of Turn Research Project). **STURP** was comprised of 70 physicists, chemists, biophysicists, spectroscopists, photo microscopists, computer specialists.
- STURP was led by two USAF scientists - John Jackson, Eric Jumper.



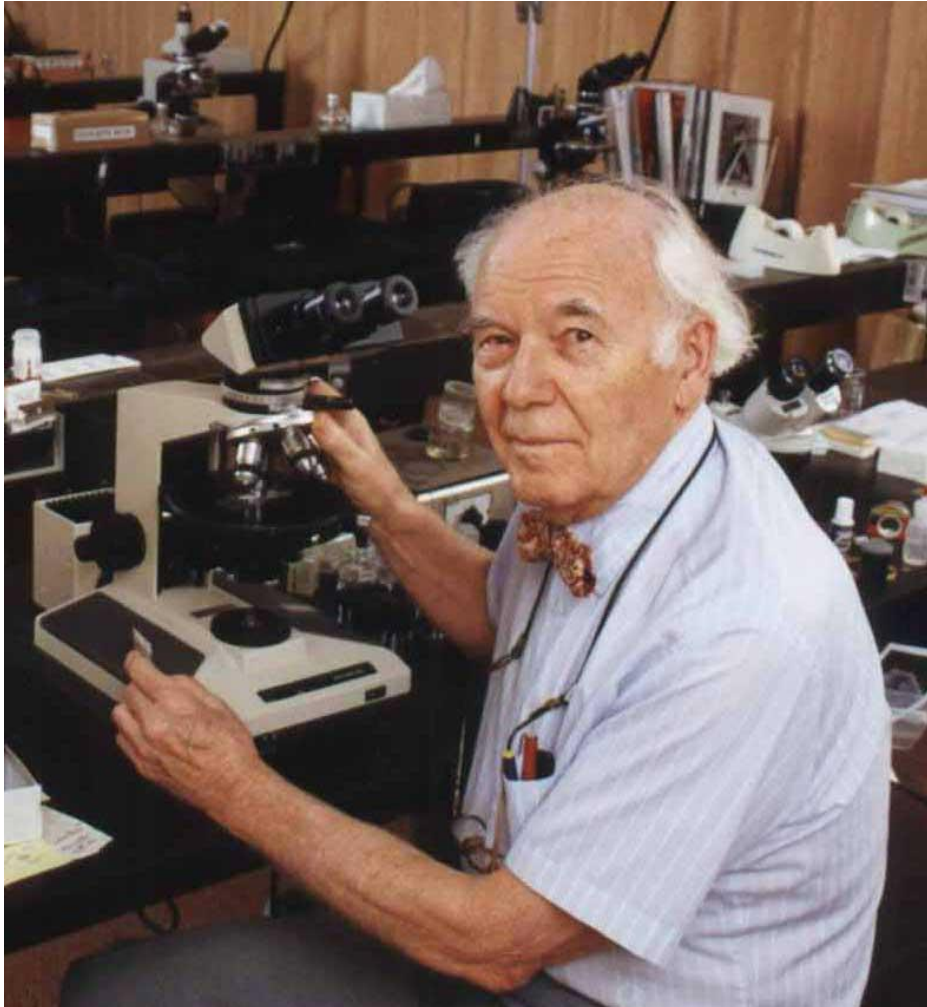




- Research conducted by John Heller and Alan Adler concluded the stains were, in fact, blood stains.



- Walter McCrone showed the stains were red iron oxide (rust) which is an earth pigment



- The serious problem with the blood stains is their sharp, clear, ‘perfect’ condition and their flow pattern



- This is not the direction of blood flow in a horizontal position, rather it is exactly what we imagine while Jesus was suspended vertically – on the cross.



A red wax seal on a parchment document, featuring a stylized figure or monogram.

Handwritten text in Arabic script, likely a religious or historical document, featuring large, stylized letters and some marginalia. The text is written on aged, yellowed paper with visible binding holes on the left side.

Flogging

- Roman law recognized three types of flogging, each ascending in severity
 - ***Fustigatio*** – the lowest form, reserved for troublemakers who need to be warned and punished. This is the John 19:1
 - ***Flagellatio*** – a flogging which was referred to as ‘half-death’.
 - ***Verberatio*** – The most severe and it served as a part of a capital sentence. This is the level at John 19:16
- Whips with small pieces of metal or bone at the tips were commonly used.

The Crown of Thorns

- The Shroud suggests the ‘cap’ version
- Matthew 27:29 uses the word ‘*stephanon*’ which means ‘to twist, twine, wreath’
- Also the blood would be matted in the hair and, therefore, not visible on the cloth



- The crucial question is: “If Jesus’ burial was according to Jewish burial procedures, (see John 19:40) how can the Shroud be authentic?”



According to Mishnah, Sabbath 23:5

One may perform all of the needs of the dead on Shabbat. One may smear oil on the body and rinse it with water, and all of this is permitted provided that one does not move any of its limbs, which would constitute a violation of the laws of set-aside objects. When necessary, **one may also remove a pillow from beneath it and thereby place it on cold sand in order to delay** its decomposition. Similarly, **one may tie the jaw** of a corpse that is in the process of opening. One may **not** move it directly so **that it will rise** back to its original position, **but so that it will not continue** to open. **And similarly,** if one has a roof beam that has broken on Shabbat, **one may support it with a bench or with long poles from a bed.** One may **not** move it so **that the beam will rise** back to its original place, **but so that it will not continue** to fall. **One may not shut the eyes of the dead on Shabbat** because the body is set-aside. **And one may not shut the eyes even on a weekday while the soul departs.** One must wait until the person has died. **And one who shuts the eyes while the soul departs is a murderer** because he has hastened the person's death.

- In Jewish burial practices:
 - The body would be moved by more than one person
 - Placed on a board
 - The feet would be pointed toward the door
 - The front of the corpse would be washed in warm water
 - The body is next rolled to the right side and washed, repeated for the left
 - The finger and toenails would be cleaned and clipped, with a special tool
 - While these preparations are being done, certain Old Testament verses were chanted. After the washings Ezekiel 36:25 was quoted

Ezekiel 36:25-27

“I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols.”

- Then 8” x 11” pieces of linen cloth would be sewn in a continuous strip (symbol of the continuity of life)
- The body would be wrapped in these linen strips, beginning at the feet. Between the folds were placed aromatic spices. The strips were then wrapped to the armpits, arms then placed at the sides and then wrapped from fingertips to wrists.
- Then a separate wrapping was wrapped around the head.
- Some scholars estimate Jesus’ body was encased in approximately 120 pounds of cloth and spices.

Moreover –

“But even if we accept as a fact that Jesus’ dead body remained unwashed when He laid in the tomb, we must then also suppose, given the fact that the blood stains are precisely defined, that the nails were pulled from Jesus’ hands and feet and His body was then taken down from the cross, carried some distance to the tomb and laid upon the linen shroud, all without smearing or rubbing the bloodstains! This, it seems to me, stretches credulity to the breaking point.”

Robert A. Wild, S.J., “The Shroud of Turin”, Biblical Archaeology Review, March/April 1994, p. 40.

Also -

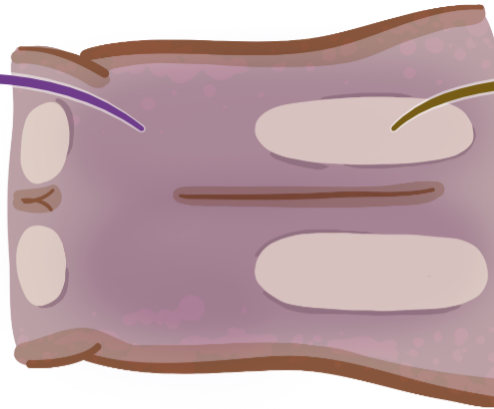
- How do you account for 'pristine' blood lines while 75 pounds of burial spices were used on His body (John 19:39).
- If you want to suggest that the blood flow was postmortem, then the wet blood would have detached the cloth, further deforming the image. Think of what happens with a band aid.
- Do superficial wounds bleed postmortem?



LIVIDITY

BLUISH-PURPLE DISCOLORATION of SKIN AFTER DEATH

↳ CAUSED by BLOOD POOLING at LOWEST POINT



BLANCHING

WHITISH DISCOLORATION of SKIN

↳ CAUSED by APPLIED PRESSURE



LIVOR MORTIS vs. RIGOR MORTIS

**POOLING BLOOD & DISCOLORATION *
BEGINS 30 mins after DEATH ***

*** STIFFENED MUSCLES
* BEGINS 2-4 hrs after DEATH**

* The TWO OTHER POST-MORTEM SIGNS are **PALLOR MORTIS** and **ALGOR MORTIS**

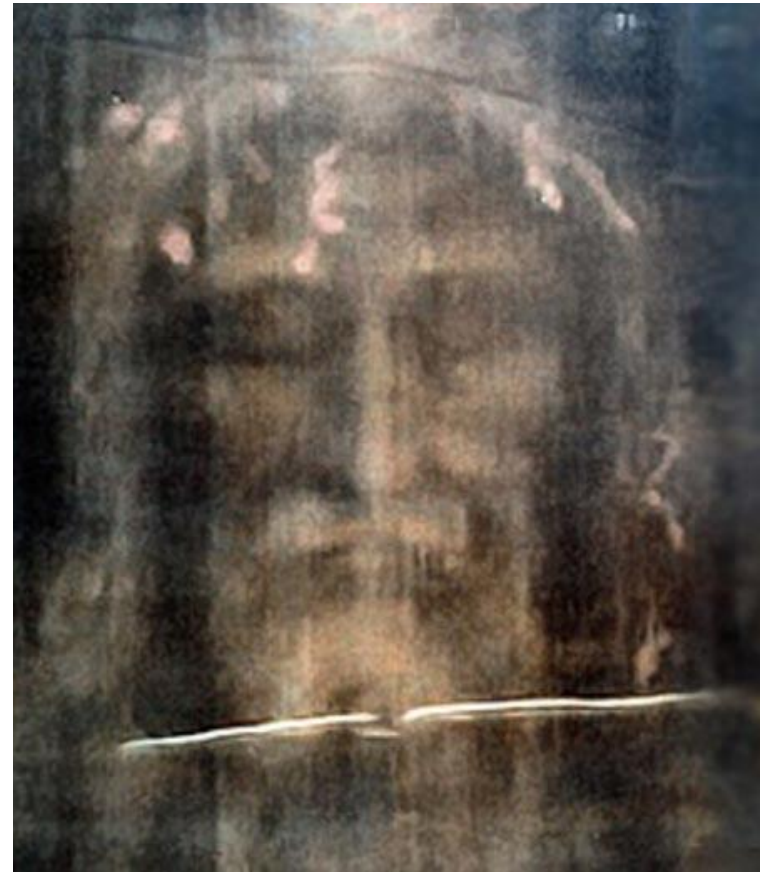
- Also, how much blood would be still in His body? How much blood loss occurred in the prior two days?
- Factors to consider
 - Flogged at least twice
 - Repeated beaten by guards and soldiers
 - Beard plucked
 - Crown of thorns
 - At least four nail wounds on extremities
 - Lance wound
 - Perhaps also stoning

- Average male has 10-12 pints of blood
- Loss of two pints is a life-threatening emergency – called *hypovolemic shock*
- A loss of 40% is typically fatal

Anatomical Considerations

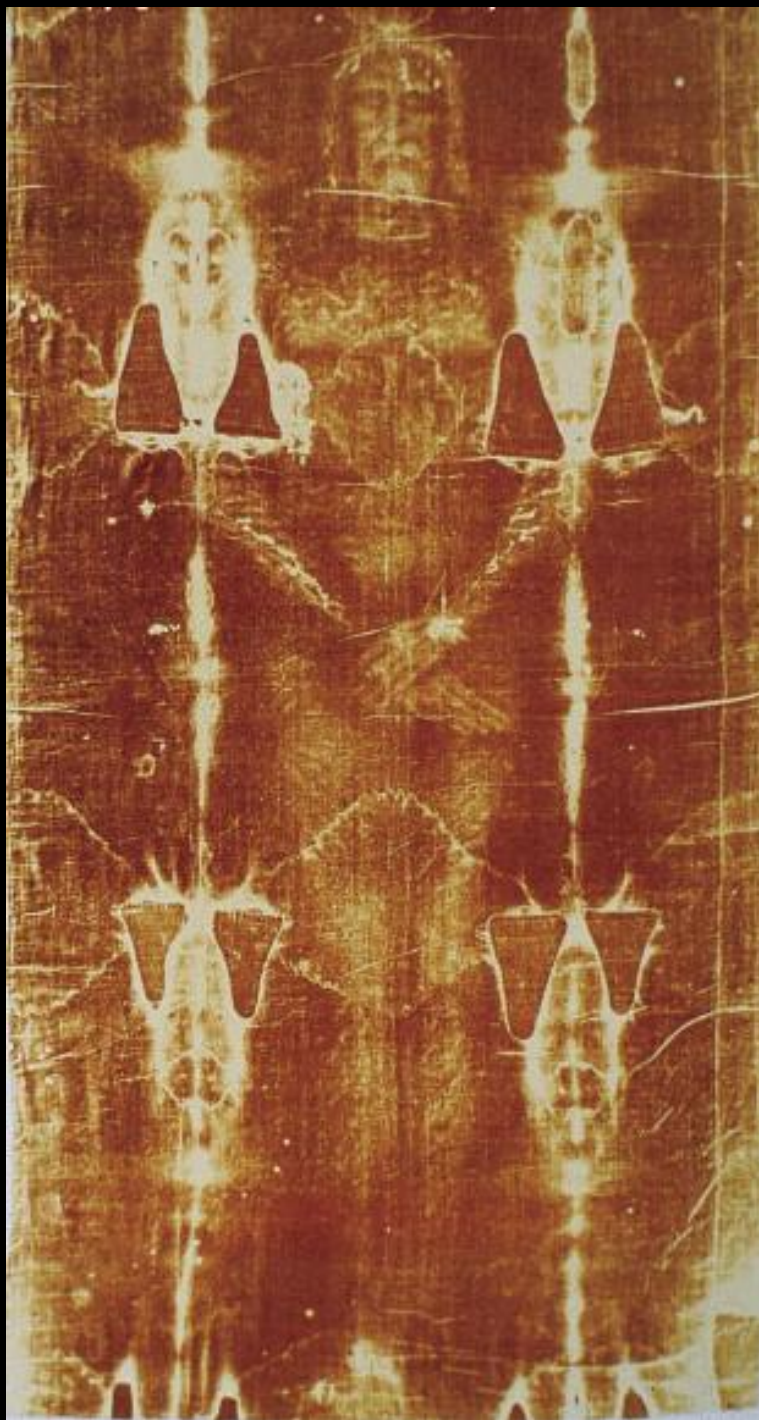


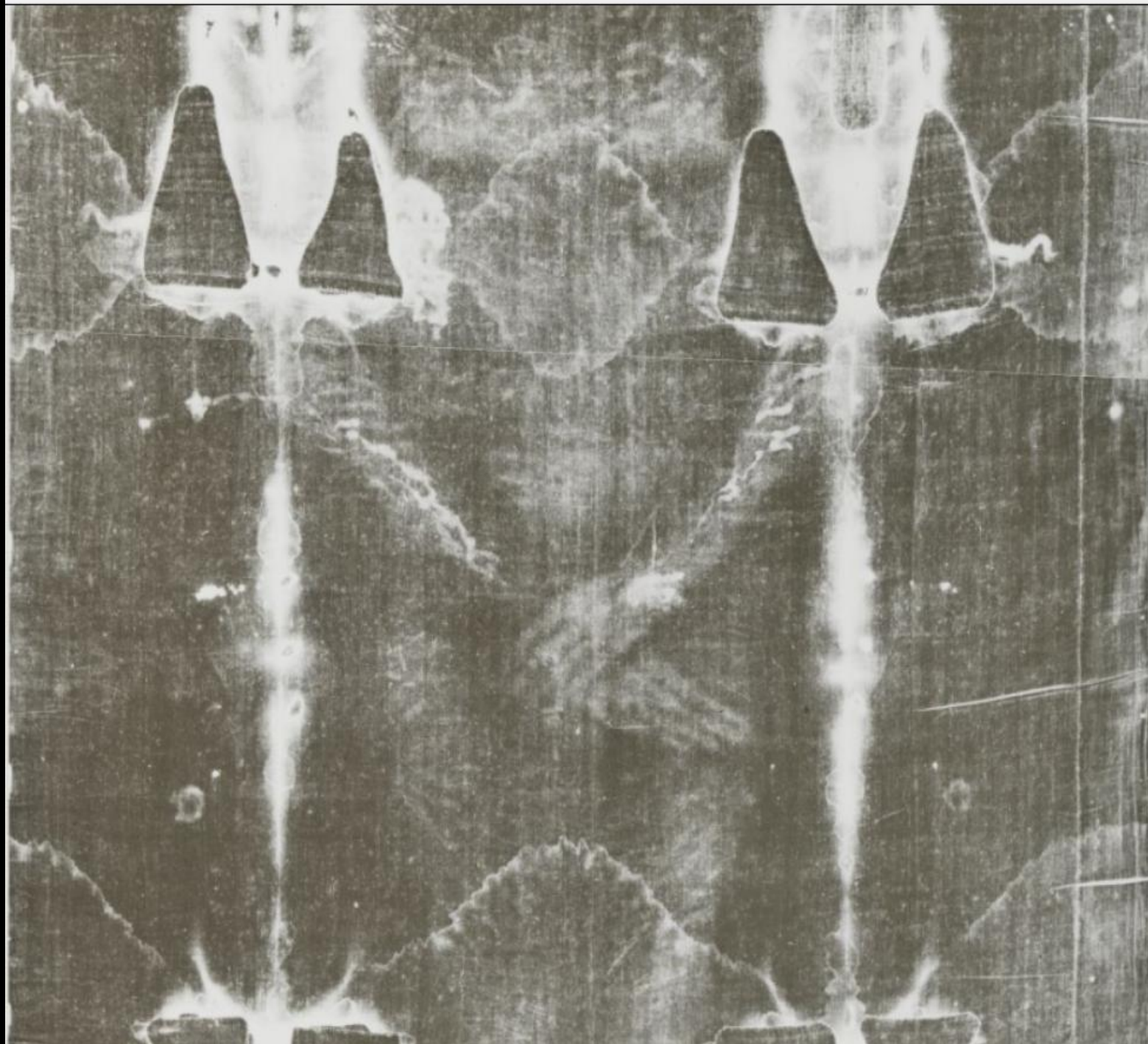
- One from Harrah –
 - Why is the beard and mustache so clearly in place? What of the prophecy in Isaiah 50:6?



- Notice on the Shroud that the face and hands are emphasized.
- Other anatomical features are missing.
 - No navel (should have been a small 'pool' of blood).
 - No genitals.
 - Buttocks faintly outlined.

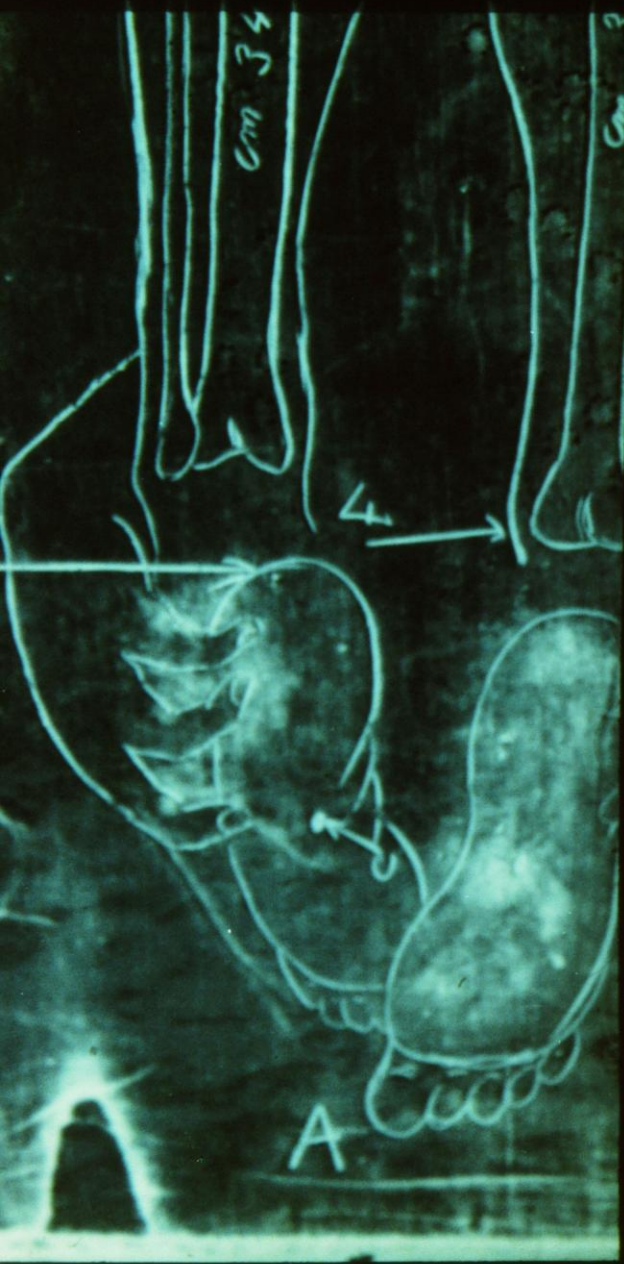






- Also, the anatomical proportions are bizarre. In a relaxed position, a man's joined hands will not cover the genitals if he is on his back.
- This is how the pro-Shroud crowd explain it...



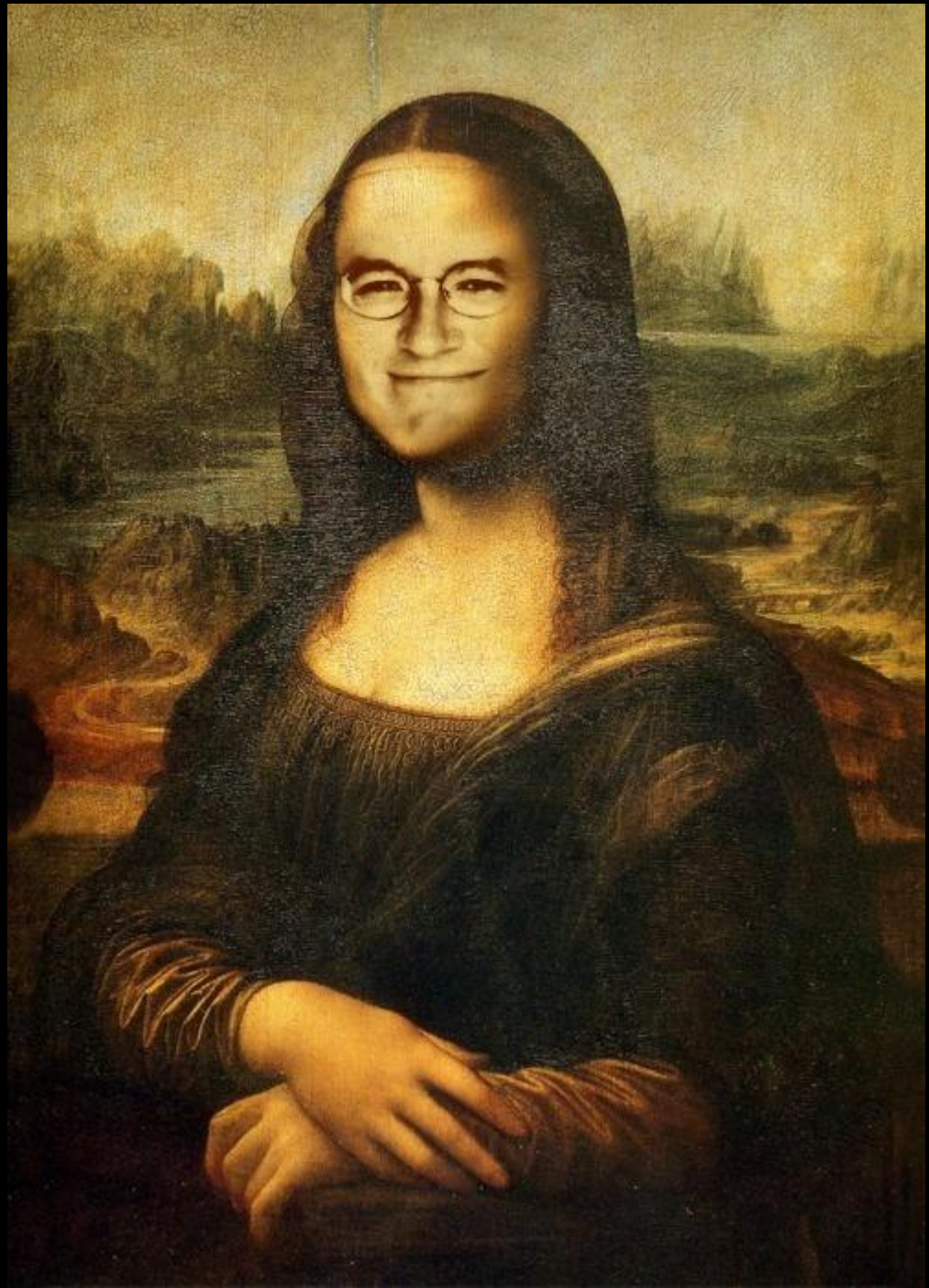


- This position would require rigor mortis to set in. How long did Joseph and Nicodemus allow Jesus to stay on the cross?
 - Rigor mortis begins 2-4 hours after death.

- Notice what was done to ensure Jesus' 'privates' remained private
 - The fingers on the right hand were anatomically odd. The index finger is 7" long.
 - While the right forearm is several inches longer than the left.



Alternative Solutions

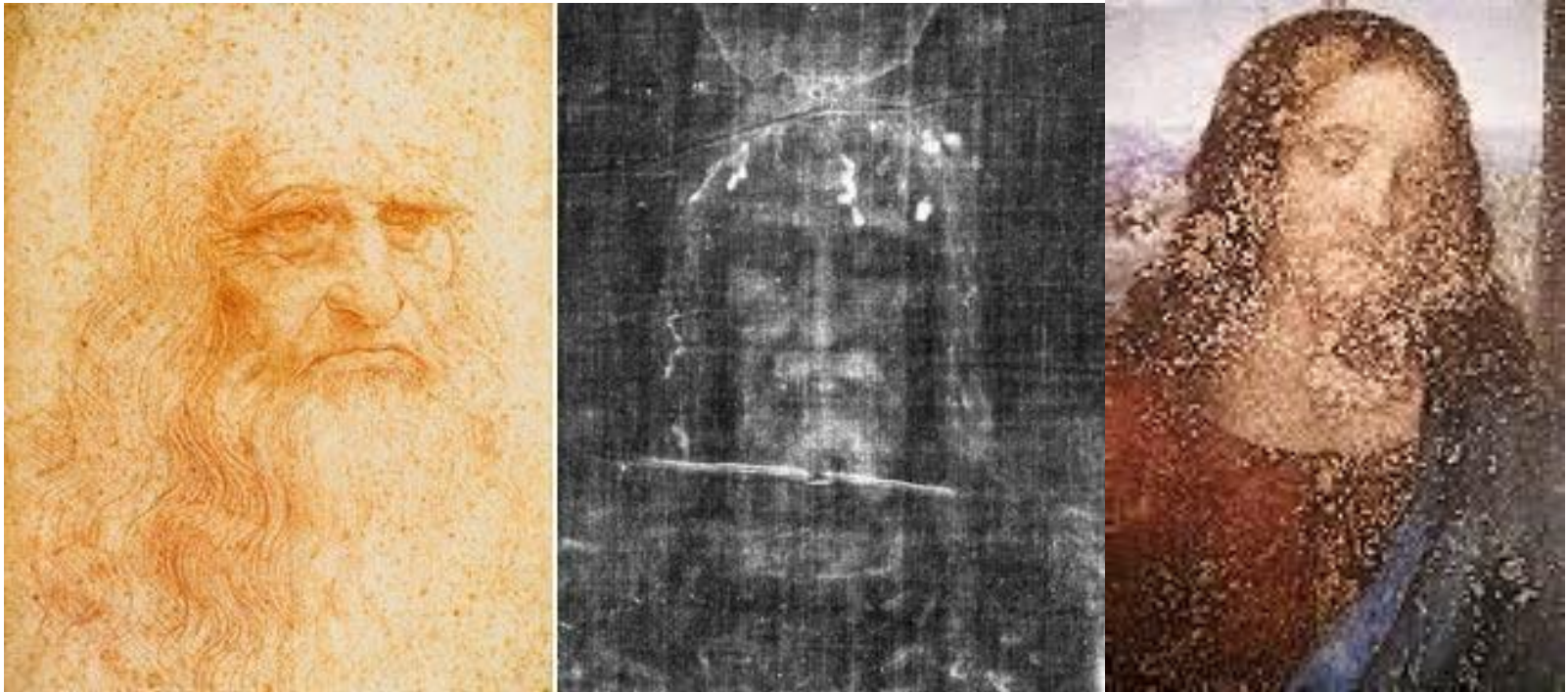


If the Shroud isn't genuine, where did it come from?

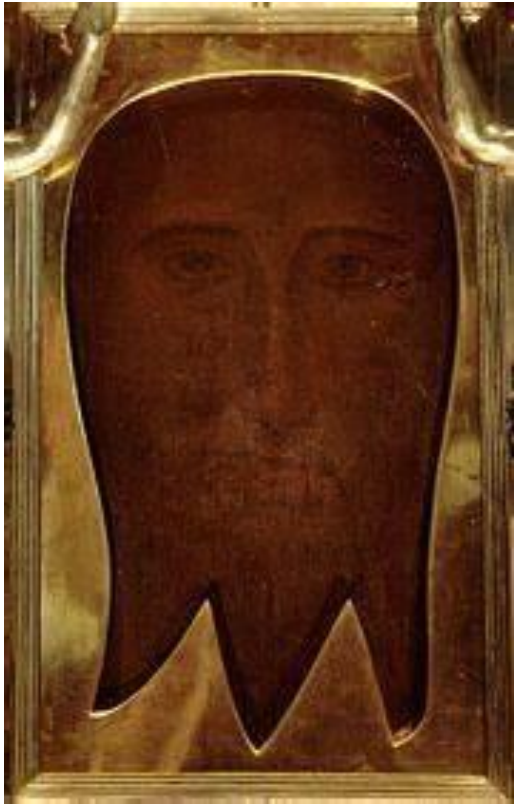
- Some have suggested that it was accomplished by a primitive box camera and a 'film' made of the linen and an emulsion of silver salts, egg whites and lemon.
- Others believe it is a statue, with a rub of myrrh over the features on wet linen.

- Some state it was made as the result of a Maillard reaction. A Maillard reaction occurs when certain carbohydrates and amines “color” things (brown crust on bread)
- The theory is the amines that a decomposing body exudes, like putrescine and cadaverine would ‘brown’ the linen cloth
- The problem with this is found in Acts 2:27

- Another theory -



- Lastly – there are other shrouds



FOLD: AXIS OF
SYMMETRY OF THE
PRINCIPLE STAINS

DIAGONAL
FOLDS

FUNDAMENTAL STAIN

STAINS FROM
PUNCTURE
WOUNDS

CENTRAL
STAINS

STAIN IN THE
SHAPE OF AN
ACCORDIAN

ORIFICES

"BUTTERFLY
WINGS" STAIN

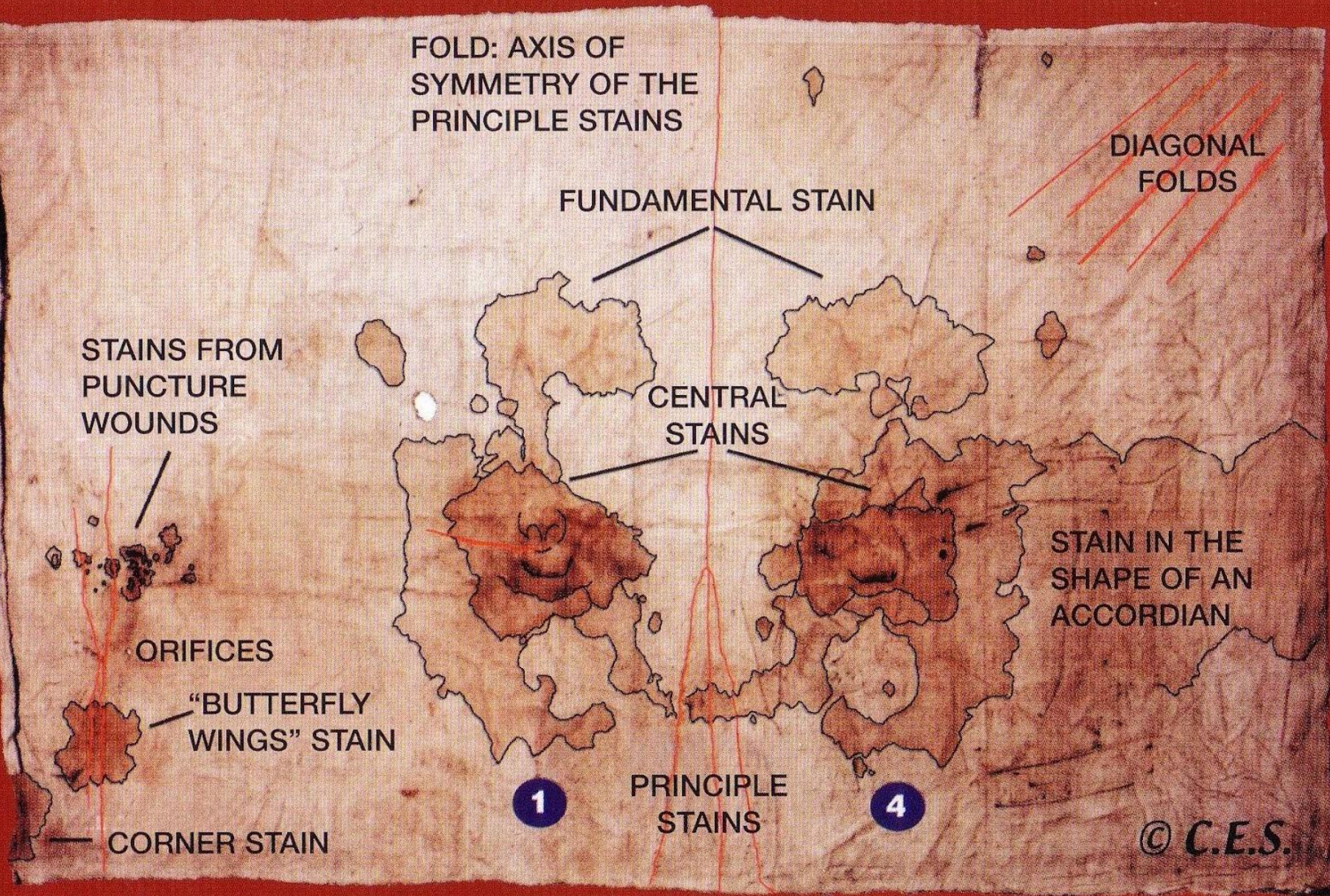
CORNER STAIN

PRINCIPLE
STAINS

1

4

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SPECIAL WIDESCREEN EDITION

THE FIRST SEASON

CSI:

CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION



