

Medical Opinion on the Turin Shroud – an English-Language Bibliography

Joseph G. Marino

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Introduction

On the face of it, it seems unlikely that the Turin Shroud, believed to be the actual burial cloth of Jesus, would have survived to our day. Although the Gospels mention burials cloths/shrouds, none of them mention an image, which the Turin Shroud contains. The cloth can only be reliably-historically-traced to the 1350s, which was also a period of many fake relics. In addition, in 1988, three labs that performed a C-14 test dated the cloth to AD 1260-1390, a range in which the 1350s falls. But there are reasons why all of that isn’t as damning as it would appear to be. It’s possible that the image on the Shroud didn’t develop for many decades after Jesus’ death. There are actually many mentions in history of Jesus’ burial cloths, some of which could actually be the Shroud known to be in Turin today. (See my academia article “[Possible Post-Biblical and Pre-1350s References in History to the Shroud of Jesus – an English-language Bibliography](#).”) Just because many relics are fakes doesn’t mean that every relic is bogus. The validity of the 1988 C-14 dating test has been questioned by many scientists and researchers. (See my 2020 book [The 1988 C-14 Dating Of The Shroud of Turin: A Stunning Exposé](#).)

If the Turin Shroud is authentic and wrapped the body of Jesus, the image contained on should accurately reflect an authentic Roman crucifixion and also the realistic anatomy and physiology of that event. Most medical people who have studied the Shroud tend to believe that it the data from the Shroud is consistent with a 1st century Roman crucifixion of a Jewish man. There are a few medical opinions that the Shroud is not consistent with an authentic burial, but they are far outweighed by the majority of persons who believe it is. Many people believe that because this is the case, it is a very strong point in favor of authenticity, asserting that it would be highly improbable for a medieval forger to be able to fool dozens of 20th and 21st century doctors, as part of a multi-disciplinary study that has made the Turin Shroud the most intensely-studied artifact in human history.

This bibliography will list sources that discuss medical aspects and/or crucifixion as it relates to the Shroud. The article will be updated in the future as needed.

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