

The Case for the Resurrection

Steve Hemler, President



Jesus' Divinity & Resurrection

- Over half of American adults do NOT believe Jesus is divine and rose from the dead
 - Just a great teacher
 - Other monotheistic religions (Judaism, Islam) deny the divinity and resurrection of Jesus
- How can we know that Jesus is the divine Son of God who **really rose** from the dead?
 - Why is the Resurrection so important?
Why should we care?



Why is the Resurrection Important?

- The claim that Jesus rose from the dead is central to the Christian Faith
- For as St. Paul said (1 Corinthians 15:14):
“If Christ has not been raised, then empty is our preaching; empty, too, is your faith.”



Why is the Resurrection Important?

- Lee Strobel: “The Resurrection is the linchpin of the Christian faith. After all, anyone can claim to be the Son of God. But if someone could substantiate that assertion by returning to life after being certifiably dead and buried — well, that would be a compelling confirmation that he was telling the truth.”
- ***Video: Why the Resurrection matters***



Presentation Outline

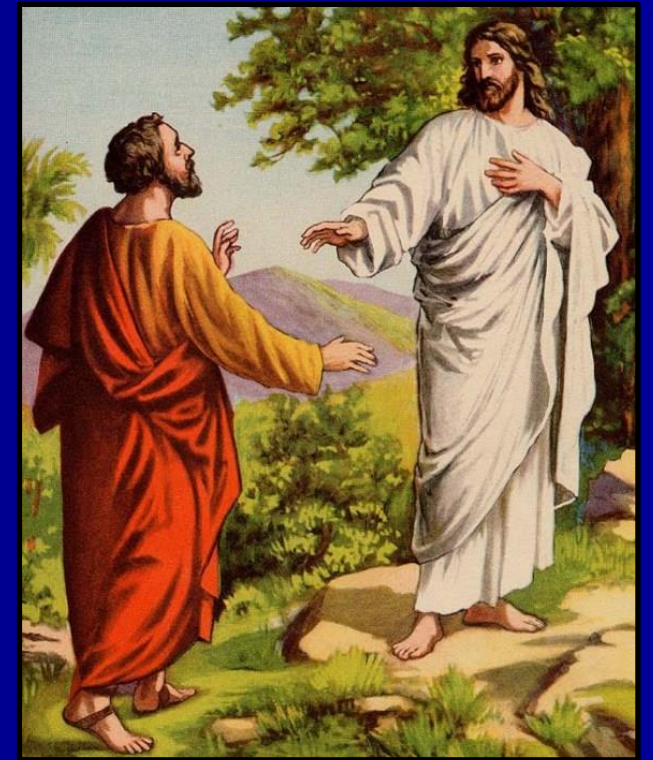
I. Evidence for the Resurrection:

1. Eyewitness Accounts
2. Transformed Lives of Apostles
3. Explosive Growth of Christianity

II. Claims of Skeptics:

1. Jesus did not really die on cross
2. Deliberate lie or conspiracy
3. Myth or legend

III. Shroud of Turin



Evidence for the Resurrection

1. Eyewitness Accounts

- **Mary & other women, outside the tomb** (John 20:11-18, Luke 24:1-12)
- **The disciples, while in hiding** (John 20:19-23)
- **“Doubting” Thomas touches his wounds** (John 20:26-28)
- **On the road to Emmaus** (Luke 24:13-35, Mark 16:12-13)
- **Showing his wounds and teaching** (Luke 24:36-49, Acts 1:3)
- **Simon Peter and disciples in Galilee** (John 21:1-14, Matthew 28:16-20)
- **The Ascension** (Luke 24:50-51)
- ***Video: Are these Gospel accounts reliable?***

How The 12 Apostles Died

Peter



crucified
upside down

Andrew



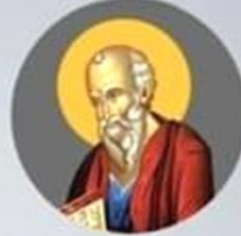
crucified on a
X-shaped cross

James



put to death with
stones and sword

John



exile

Bartholomew



crucified,
flayed and beheaded

Philip



crucified
upside down

Thomas



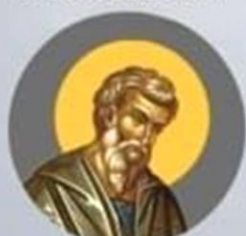
speared

James



crucified

Matthew



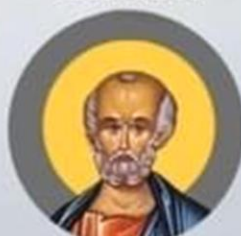
burned
at the stake

Jude



crucified and
speared

Simon



crucified

Mathias



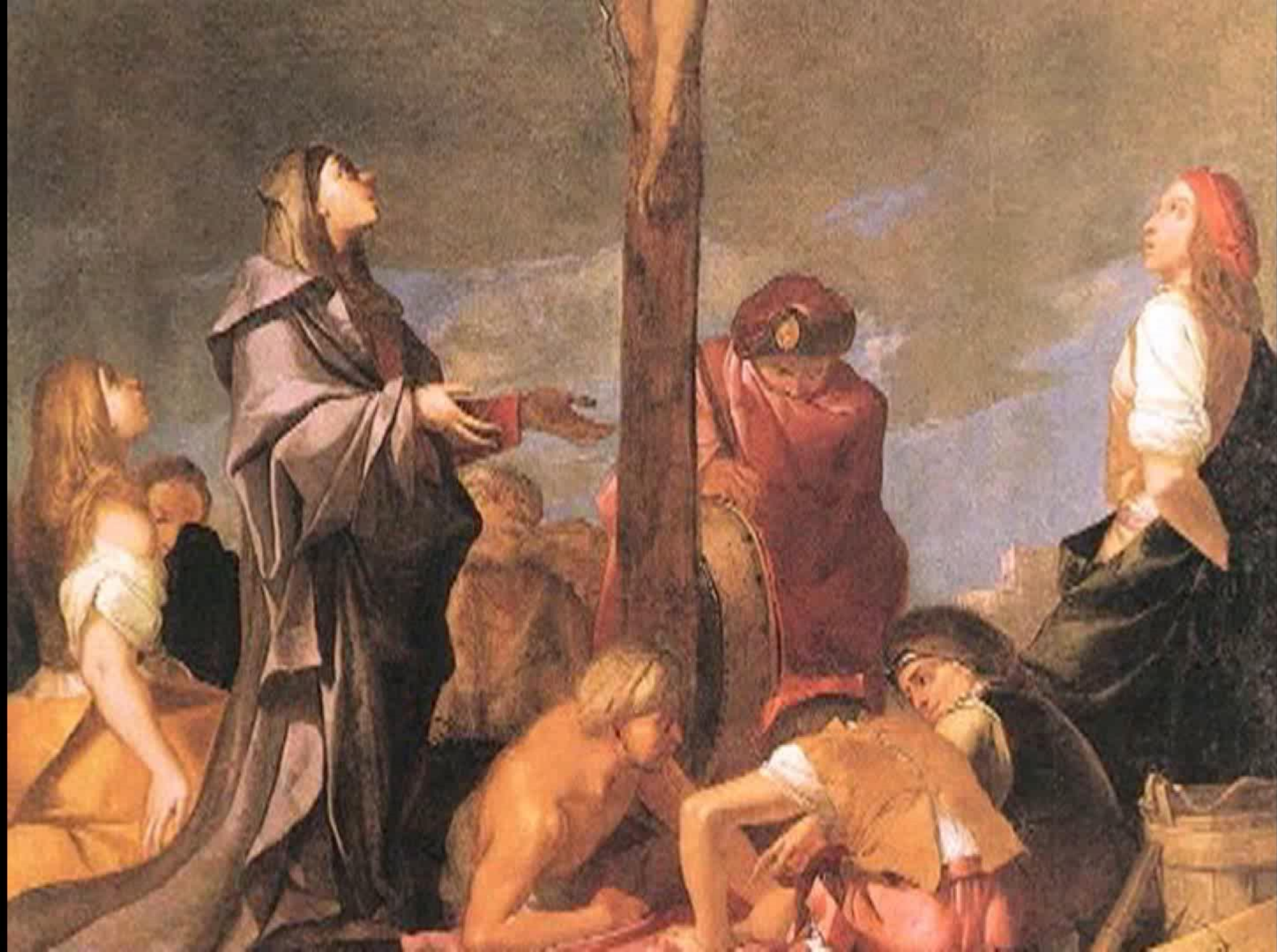
killed with
stones

Evidence for the Resurrection

2. *Transformed Lives of Jesus' Followers*

- From fear**FUL** to fear**LESS**
 - How can this radical transformation be explained if Jesus did not appear to them after he rose from the dead?
- Quote from *The Case for Easter* by Lee Strobel:

“When Jesus was crucified, his followers were discouraged and depressed. So they dispersed. The Jesus movement was all but stopped in its tracks. Then, after a short period of time, we see them abandoning their occupations, re-gathering, and committing themselves to spreading a very specific message – that Jesus Christ was the Messiah of God who died on a cross, returned to life, and was seen alive by all of them.



Evidence for the Resurrection

3. Explosive Growth of Christianity

- Roman historian Tacitus writes of Christians in Rome in 64 A.D.
- Pliny, Roman governor of Bithynia (Turkey), writes of Christians there in 112 A.D.
- St. Irenaeus of Lyon (France) wrote in 185 A.D.
- St. Clement of Alexandria (Egypt) wrote in 195 A.D.
- ***Video: Growth of Early Christianity (illegal)***

Evidence for the Resurrection

3. Explosive Growth of Christianity

- Early Christians had no military or political power
- They had no wealth or influence
- They were vigorously opposed by Jews & Romans

BUT,

- Committed followers who believed what they taught (Resurrection), even to the point of death
- Teachings confirmed by miracles (Acts)



Part II – Claims of Skeptics

- 1. Jesus did not really die on the cross**
- 2. Resurrection could have been a deliberate lie or conspiracy based on stealing body from tomb**
- 3. Resurrection just a myth or legend**

Claims of Skeptics

1. Did Jesus really die?

- **Swoon Theory: Jesus did not die on the cross, but revived while in the tomb**
- ***Video: How we can know that Jesus really died on the cross***



Claims of Skeptics

1. Did Jesus really die?

Medical and historical evidence

- Expertise of Romans and Roman law
 - Severe beating and scourging
 - Not break legs, but pierced his side with a spear
- Move large stone with pierced hands?
 - Walk on pierced feet?
- If Jesus did revive, would have been a **battered, bleeding pulp of a man** who would have been **pitied**, not worshiped

Claims of Skeptics

2. Could the Resurrection have been a deliberate lie or conspiracy?

- **Apostles could have stolen Jesus' body from the tomb and then promoted a deliberate lie that he rose from the dead**
- ***Video: Stolen Body Theory***

Claims of Skeptics

2. Could the Resurrection have been a deliberate lie or conspiracy?

- What would Apostles have to gain?
- None ever denied Jesus' Resurrection
 - Even when faced with death
- People don't give their lives for what they know is a lie

Claims of Skeptics

3. Is the Resurrection a myth or legend?

- Did Resurrection stories evolve over time and become more elaborate as they were told and re-told?
- ***Video: Resurrection stories not a myth or legend***

EXHIBIT: N

MANUSCRIPT: CODEX SINAITICUS

ORIGIN: EGYPT

LANGUAGE: GREEK

DATE: 330-350 AD

PASSAGE: MATTHEW 27:57-61

ΕΝ ΤΗΝ ΗΜΕΡΑ
ΜΑΧΗ ΤΟΝ Η
ΑΥΤΟΥ
ΛΟΝΤΕΣ ΕΙΣ Τ
ΕΟΝΤΟΘΑΟΣ
ΕΡΑΝΙΟΥ ΤΟΥ

ΕΝ ΤΗΝ ΗΜΕΡΑ
ΜΑΧΗ ΤΟΝ Η
ΑΥΤΟΥ
ΛΟΝΤΕΣ ΕΙΣ Τ
ΕΟΝΤΟΘΑΟΣ
ΕΡΑΝΙΟΥ ΤΟΥ
ΕΝ ΤΗΝ ΗΜΕΡΑ
ΜΑΧΗ ΤΟΝ Η
ΑΥΤΟΥ
ΛΟΝΤΕΣ ΕΙΣ Τ
ΕΟΝΤΟΘΑΟΣ
ΕΡΑΝΙΟΥ ΤΟΥ

ΕΝ ΤΗΝ ΗΜΕΡΑ
ΜΑΧΗ ΤΟΝ Η
ΑΥΤΟΥ
ΛΟΝΤΕΣ ΕΙΣ Τ
ΕΟΝΤΟΘΑΟΣ
ΕΡΑΝΙΟΥ ΤΟΥ
ΕΝ ΤΗΝ ΗΜΕΡΑ
ΜΑΧΗ ΤΟΝ Η
ΑΥΤΟΥ
ΛΟΝΤΕΣ ΕΙΣ Τ
ΕΟΝΤΟΘΑΟΣ
ΕΡΑΝΙΟΥ ΤΟΥ

THERE CAME A RICH MAN FROM ARIMATH

There came a rich man from Arimath

There came a rich man from Arimath

There came a rich man from Arimath

There came a rich man from Arimath

ΚΑΙ ΕΚΕΙΝΟΣ
ΕΡΑΝΙΟΥ ΤΟΥ

ΕΡΑΝΙΟΥ ΤΟΥ
ΕΡΑΝΙΟΥ ΤΟΥ

ΕΡΑΝΙΟΥ ΤΟΥ
ΕΡΑΝΙΟΥ ΤΟΥ

Claims of Skeptics

3. Is the Resurrection a myth or legend?

- **Details distinguish Gospels from myth (heroic tale)**
 - Joseph of Arimathea buried Jesus in his tomb
 - Women first witnesses to Resurrection
 - Testimony considered unreliable at that time
- **Not enough time for myth to develop**
 - Several generations need to pass before added mythological elements can be mistaken as fact

Claims of Skeptics

Summary of alternates to Resurrection:

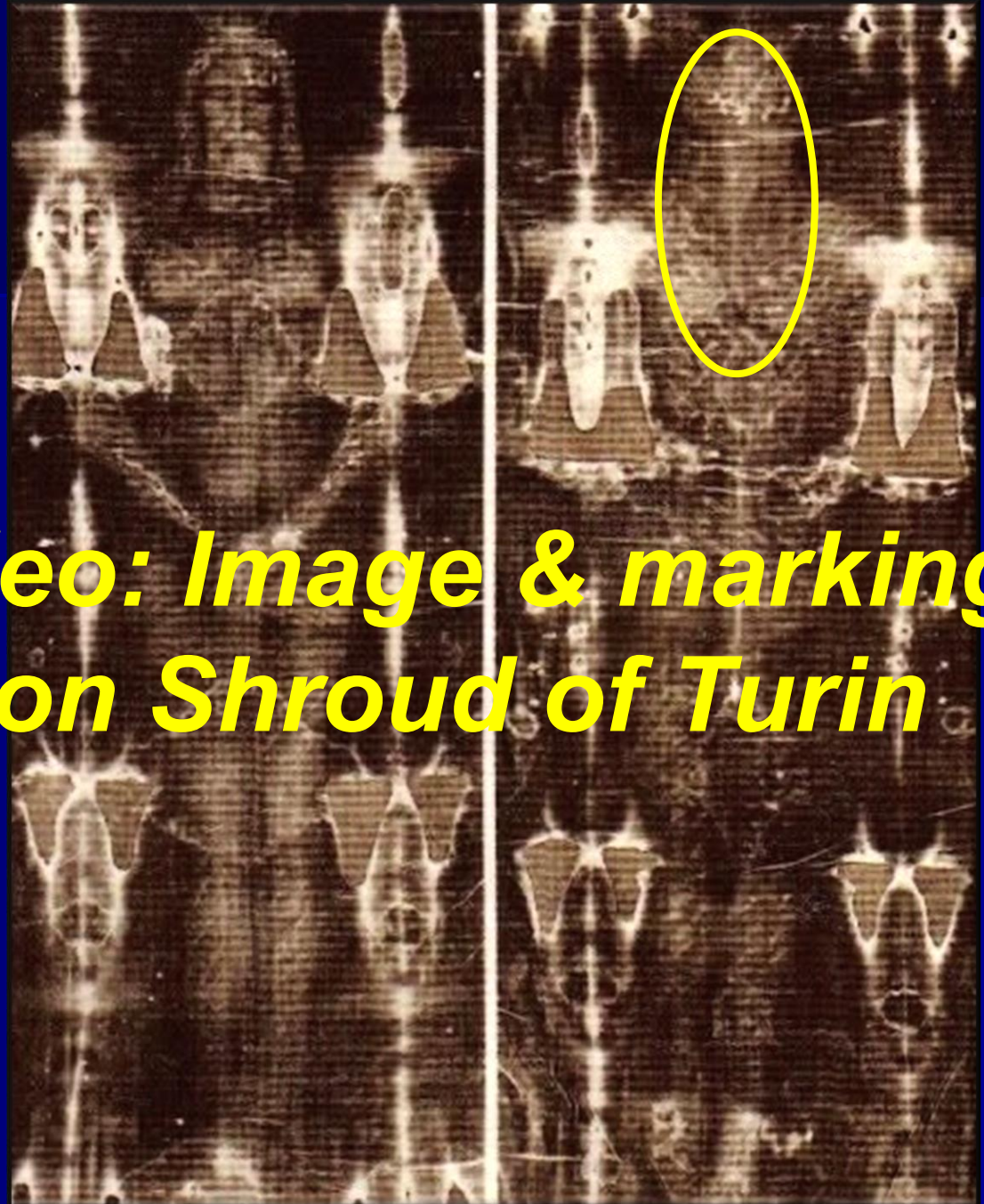
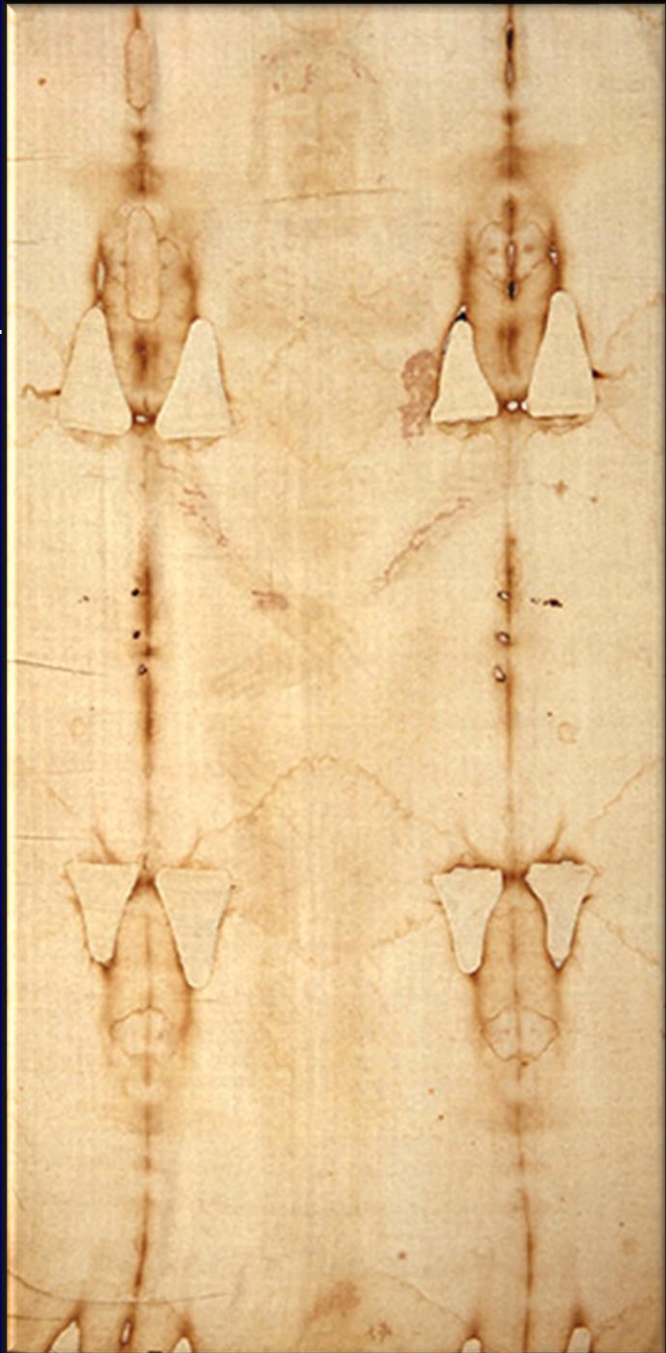
1. Jesus really died on the cross
2. Not deliberate lie or conspiracy
3. Not myth or legend



Evidence for the Resurrection

Part III - Shroud of Turin

- Linen cloth believed to be the burial shroud of Jesus Christ
 - 14 ft. by 3.5 ft.
- Has a faint image on it of a crucified man with wounds like those described for Jesus' crucifixion
- First photographed in 1898 by Secondo Pio
 - Image is a photographic negative (light/dark reversed)



***Video: Image & markings
on Shroud of Turin***

Shroud of Turin

- **Findings in support of Shroud of Turin authenticity:**
 - **Shroud has marks corresponding to all four Gospel accounts of torture and crucifixion of Jesus**
 - **Nail holes (wrist), wounded side, crown of thorns, scourging**
 - **John's Gospel specifically mentions burial cloths in tomb**
 - **Image not painted, dyed, or created by heat**
 - **Shroud made of linen woven in a herringbone twill**
 - **Pattern made in Roman times but not known in Middle Ages**
 - **Has pollen produced by plants indigenous to Middle East**
 - **Blood on Shroud is real human blood**
 - **Recent tests date Shroud to around 2,000 years ago**

Shroud of Turin

- **Shroud of Turin Research Project (STURP)**
 - 26 scientists: JPL, Los Alamos, Sandia, AFA, Lockheed
 - Infrared spectroscopy, x-ray radiography, chemistry, physics, microphotography
 - 2 years preparing for the examination
 - Tests conducted in 5 days in 1978, round-the-clock shifts
 - Joined by 7 more experts in biology and medicine to examine data collected
 - Published results in 1981, after two years of study

Shroud of Turin

■ STURP Findings:

- Image on Shroud NOT the work of an artist
 - Image contains no dyes, paint, pigments, or stains
 - Made by individual strands of linen cloth being discolored
- Bloodstains are human blood, type AB
 - Bloodstains identified as post-mortem blood
- Bloodstains made before image was formed
 - Blood has high concentration of bilirubin indicating torture before death
- No known way to recreate image
 - Image has a three-dimensional quality

An aerial photograph of a rugged, rocky landscape. The terrain is composed of various shades of grey, brown, and blue, suggesting different rock types or mineral deposits. A prominent dark, irregularly shaped lake or depression is located in the upper right quadrant. A winding, light-colored path or road cuts through the rocky terrain, starting from the bottom center and moving towards the top right. The overall appearance is that of a high-altitude or mountainous region with complex geological features.

***Video: STURP scientists
discuss their findings***



Shroud of Turin

■ What Skeptics Say

- Documented history only after 1353, Lirey, France
- Carbon-14 dating in 1988 showed medieval origin

■ 1988 Carbon-14 Dating

- STURP team recommended 7 samples be cut from different places on Shroud and sent to 7 different labs
- However, only **1 sample** was cut from the cloth
 - Near **top left corner** (where repaired & often manually held)
 - 3 pieces cut from that sample and sent to 3 labs

Shroud of Turin

- **1988 Carbon-14 dating**
 - 3 labs reported results to British Museum
 - British Museum reported Shroud dates from 1260 – 1390 A.D.
 - Museum refused to release raw data for nearly 30 years
 - Legal pressure finally got raw data released in 2017
 - Study done on raw data in 2019 showed results not consistent enough to be statistically reliable (some dates outside range)
- ***Video: Raymond Rogers discusses Carbon-14 dating***
 - Chemist at Los Alamos National Laboratory, STURP team

Shroud of Turin

- **Carbon-14 testing likely in error because:**
 - **Sample taken from area nuns repaired after fire in 1532**
 - **Cotton threads interwoven into linen fabric**
 - **Sample had been dyed in 14th century to match linen color**
 - **Single sample not representative of the whole cloth**
 - **This medieval fire may have skewed C-14 test results**
 - **Sample taken at point where often manually handled**
 - **Likely **contaminated** by bacteria and body oils (skew results)**

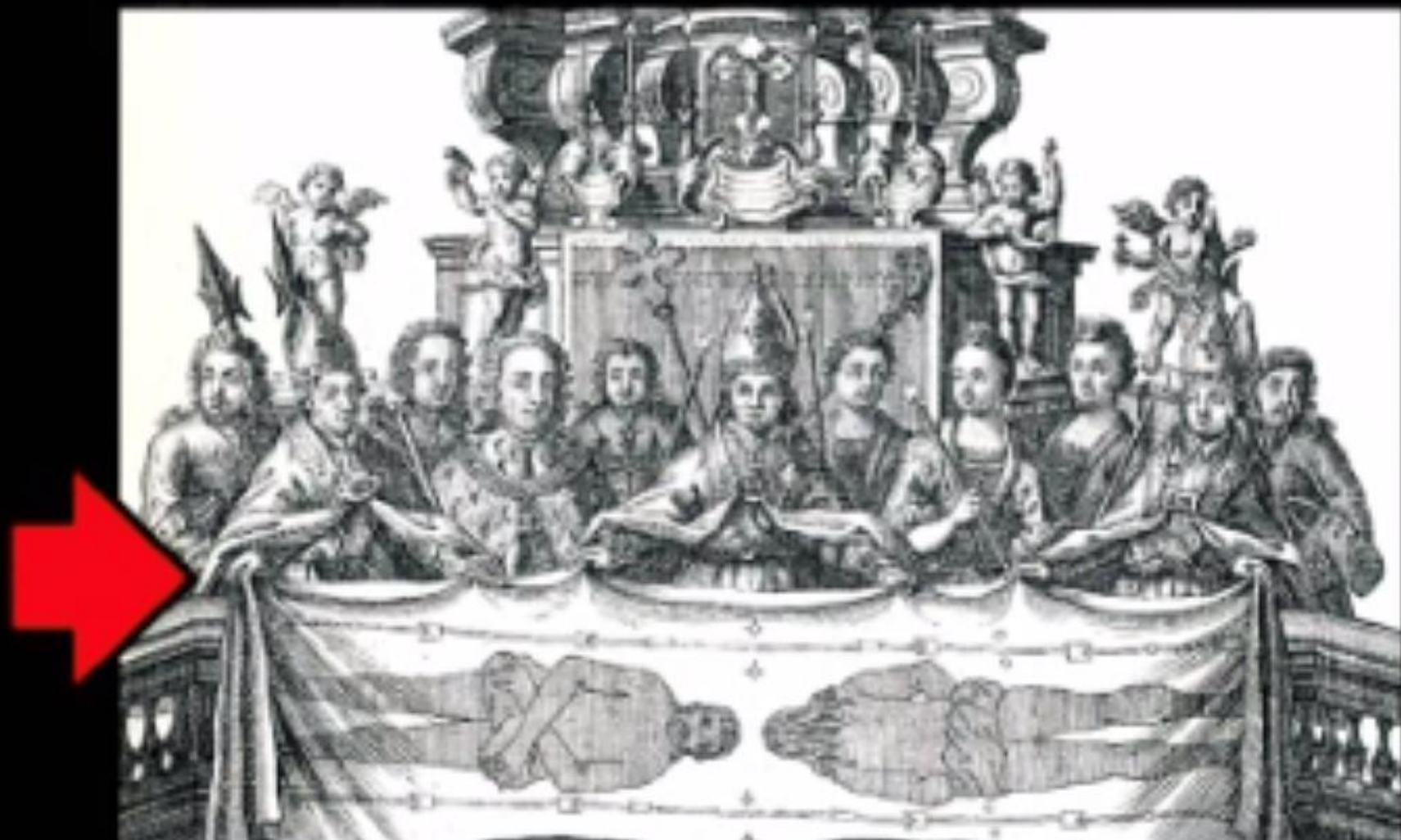
Celebrating the Shroud's Arrival in Turin in 1578



Exhibited to bless special occasions.
In 1684 it was exhibited on April 10th for a
royal wedding



May 31, 1750: Another Royal Wedding



In every instance, the officials are holding or grabbing the Shroud precisely where it was cut for C-14 dating





Thermal Chemist Ray Rogers
Peer Reviewed Scientific Journal
Thermochimica Acta Jan 20, 2005

Part Three

“The radiocarbon sample was not part of the original cloth of the Shroud of Turin.

The radiocarbon date was thus not valid for determining the true age of the shroud.”

Shroud of Turin

- Recent dating techniques point to first century date
 - Tests on decay of vanillin content in the linen flax
 - Shroud age between 1,300 and 3,000 years ago
 - 2 kinds of spectroscopy testing dated Shroud from 300 B.C. to 400 A.D.
 - Peer-reviewed study using Wide-Angle X-ray Scattering (WAXS) in 2022
 - Natural aging of linen fibers consistent with age of 2,000 years
- More evidence than not that Shroud is authentic
 - **Only** evidence otherwise is **discredited** C-14 dating

Shroud of Turin

- How was the image formed?
 - Scientists have suggested a burst of **ultraviolet radiation**
 - **Strong** enough to discolor the linen fibers
 - **Short** enough to discolor only outermost fibers and not burn the cloth
 - 6 to 8 **billion** watts of light energy
- ***Video: Fr. Robert Spitzer, Ph.D., S.J., and Chris Stefanick discuss how formation of image on Shroud is proof of the Resurrection***







Shroud of Turin reveals how much Jesus suffered for us

Presentation Summary

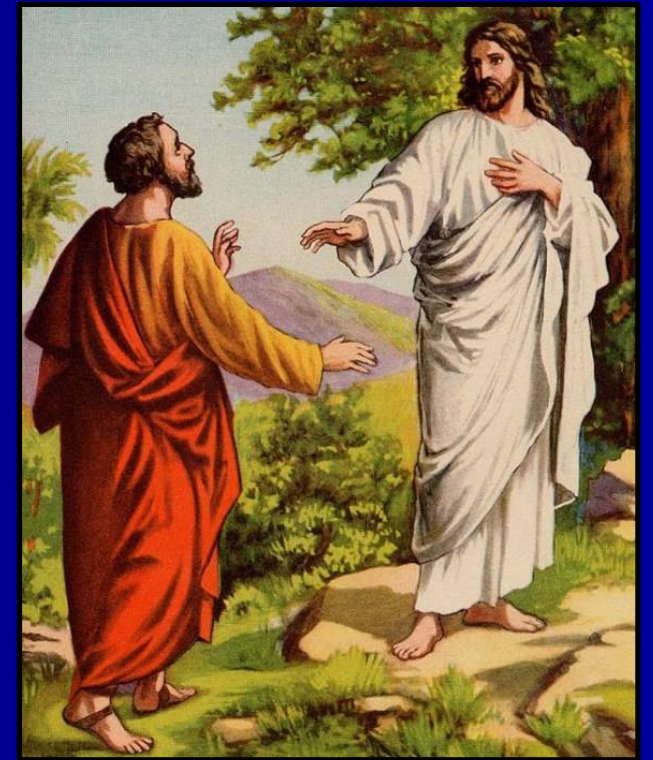
I. Evidence for the Resurrection:

1. Eyewitness Accounts
2. Transformed Lives of Apostles
3. Explosive Growth of Christianity

II. Claims of Skeptics:

1. Jesus really died on the cross
2. Not deliberate lie or conspiracy
3. Not myth or legend

III. Shroud of Turin



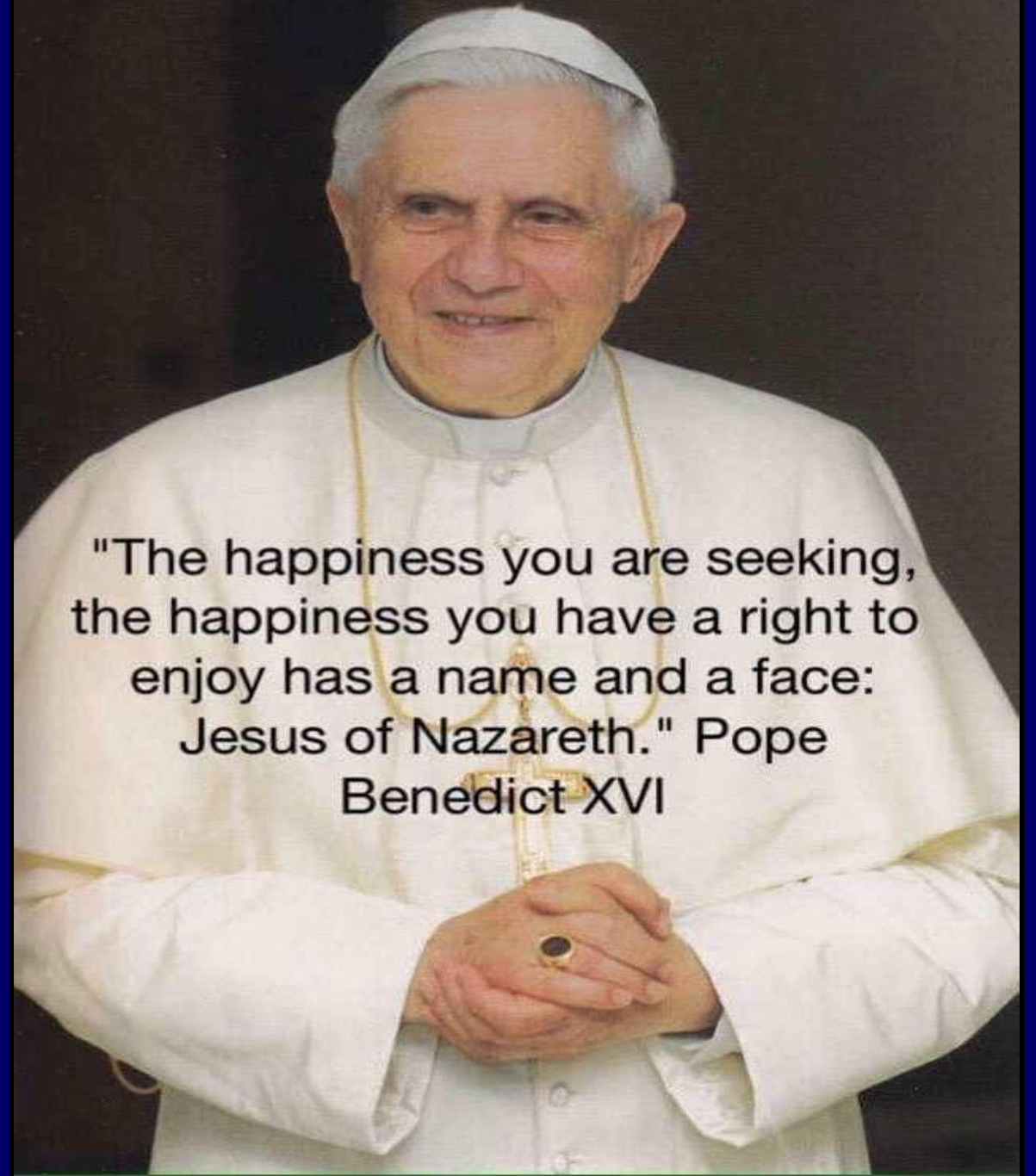


Resurrection Real

Over 2,000 years...
***personal encounters with
risen Jesus Christ have
transformed many lives***



“It is Jesus that you seek when you dream of happiness; He is waiting for you when nothing else you find satisfies you.” -Pope St. John Paul II



"The happiness you are seeking, the happiness you have a right to enjoy has a name and a face: Jesus of Nazareth." Pope Benedict XVI

Resurrection for Catholics

- **Foundation of our hope**
 - Provides assurance that with God, nothing is beyond redemption
 - Gives confidence for future and courage to endure hardship
- **New life in Christ**
 - Through Baptism, we are united with Christ's death and resurrection
 - Empowers us to live a new life free from the bondage of sin
- **Transformation and glorification**
 - The Resurrection is a promise of a future bodily resurrection, where believers will be with God in a glorified state

Internet: cainaweb.org



CAINA

Catholic Apologetics Institute of North America

[HOME](#)

[PRESENTATIONS](#) ▾

[VIDEOS](#) ▾

[ARTICLES](#)

[FACEBOOK](#)

[ABOUT](#) ▾



CAINVA[®]

Catholic Apologetics Institute of North America



It Just Makes Sense

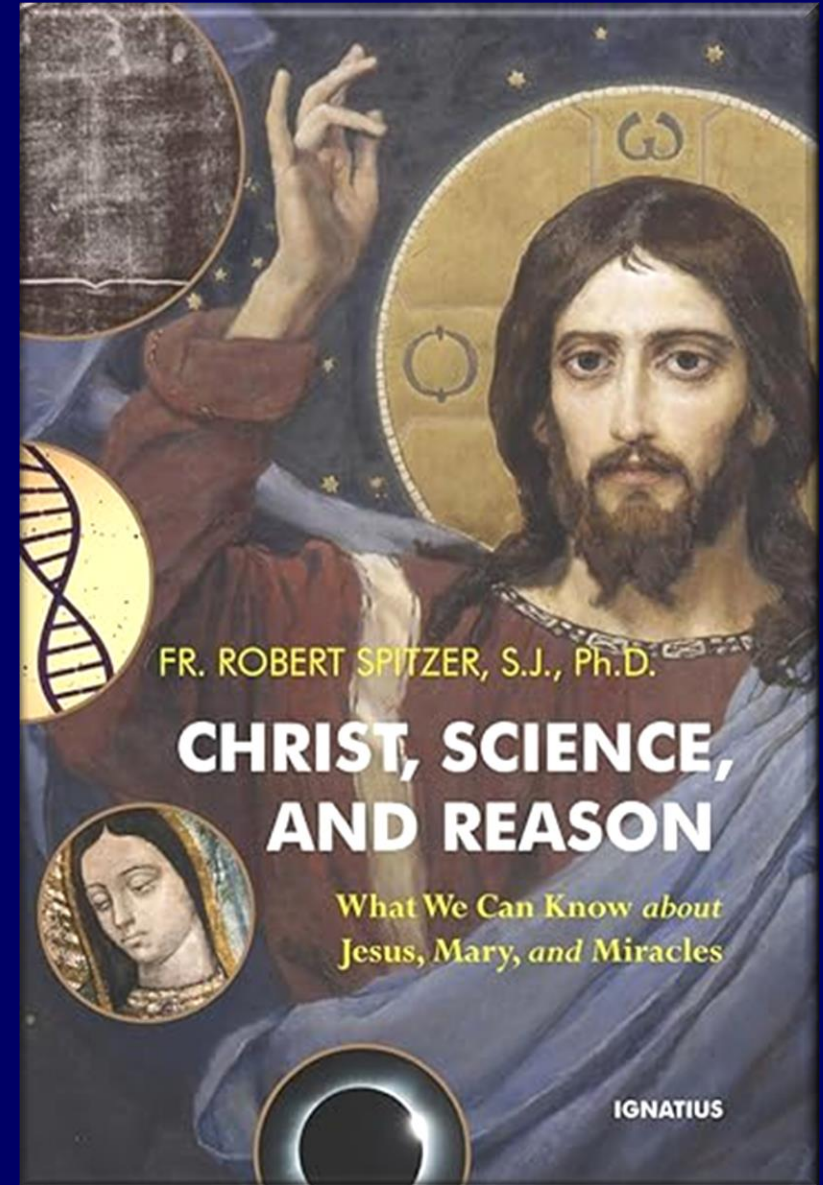


A Logical Basis for the
Catholic Faith

Lee J. Granger

— A —
**CATHOLIC
SCIENTIST
CHAMPIONS**
— THE —
**SHROUD
OF TURIN**

GERARD VERSCHUUREN



THE REALITY OF GOD

The Layman's Guide to Scientific Evidence for the Creator

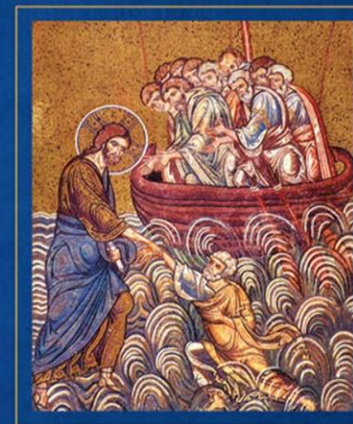
Steven R. Hemler

SEARCH NO MORE

📍 THE KEYS TO
TRUTH AND HAPPINESS

STEVEN R. HEMLER

Catholic Stories *of Faith and Hope*



How God Brings Good Out of Suffering

AUTHORED AND COMPILED BY

Steven R. Hemler

THE BUSY
PARENT'S GUIDE
TO THE
CATHOLIC FAITH



SHORT ANSWERS TO
THE BIG QUESTIONS

STEVEN R. HEMLER

- New book published by Scepter Publishers
- Clear, concise, and compelling answers to basic questions about the Catholic Faith that young people are likely to ask
 - Parents, grandparents, godparents, Confirmation sponsors, catechists, teachers...
- Imprimatur from Bishop Burbidge

Questions?

Comments?

The Case for the Resurrection

Steve Hemler, President

