

# A Peculiar Number and Sign

or 13 13s

(bold superscripts denote each individual 13)

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**Abstract:** When we documented that the Shroud is surrounded by Saints (*First Photographic Revelation of the Shroud: Accidental Discovery or Divine Providence?* presented at the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Dallas Conference on the Shroud), we realized it was an important way the Creator of the cloth was speaking to His creation. In reviewing these interactions with the Saints, it became obvious that a Hand was directing events toward the first photograph of the Shroud and that the event was not an accident but occurred through Divine Providence. In this spiritual Light, we began to question what other ways the Creator of the Shroud may have spoken in the course of the cloth's history. That is when we discovered an intricate connection between dates and events that surround the Shroud; events that make the use of the word "coincidence" nothing more than a skeptic's way to say they can't see the Big Picture. These dates involve popes, Saints, miraculous apparitions, and prophecies. Most peculiar, these dates revolve around the same number recurring for more than a century. That peculiar number is 13. A number many believe is "unlucky"; an occult number. But do we not believe that God is 1 Being in 3 Persons? Perhaps mankind has been misled and 13 is a holy number; and while God is not a numerologist, He does speak in symbolic ways, such as in the well-known number 666. If, then, mankind has been misled about the number 13 by someone God Himself calls His "enemy," has the Creator used the Shroud as a centerpiece with this number to reveal the future? We believe the answer is yes and when we review that history with the number 13 as a sign, we can verify prophecies that have come to pass.

## Introduction: New Horizons for the Shroud

13.

What do most people think when seeing that number? It's unlucky? Part of the occult? But what if mankind has been deceived and 13 is not really unlucky or an occult number? What if it is a holy number? For do we not believe that God is 1 Being in 3 Persons? **1 in 3**. Has this number been used by the Creator of the Shroud as a sign to mankind and its future?

## Methods: Who, what, where, when and why?

In this, we began to realize that this number was also ingrained in the cloth.

It is a 3x1 weave, the opposite of 13 and interchangeable since it can be called a 1x3 <sup>(1)</sup> weave, and research has proven that 13 people can recline at table around the Shroud (if it were, as theorized, the tablecloth to the Last Supper).

As we began our study, we discovered that many times in the history of this cloth this number played a significant and peculiar role.

Sometimes in good; sometimes in bad events.

Sometimes blatant; sometimes hidden.

Our first historical discovery came in reviewing events that surrounded Pope John Paul II.

It was April 13, 1980 <sup>(2)</sup> when the pontiff venerated the Shroud for the first time in his role as the Vicar of Christ.

Thirteen months <sup>(3)</sup> later, he was shot in St. Peter's Square, on, oddly, May 13, 1981 <sup>(4)</sup>.

### **Three 13s.**

- The first 13 involved revealing to the world the pope's profound spiritual belief in recognizing the cloth as, he said, a "silent but eloquent witness to the Resurrection of Christ."
- The second involves the space of time between two completely opposite events which no human can control.
- And the third involves the pope blessing the faithful when he is shot in an assassination attempt.

This third time the pope was scheduled to meet with several sindonologists, including Dr. John Jackson. The pontiff never made it to that meeting.

But why, one might ask, would God use these events as a sign?

To prove to those willing to seek and knock that God has not abandoned His flock nor is He unaware of earthly events. In the anomaly of these dates, we see He is the Lord of History. Not by recognizing events minute by minute or hour by hour as we do, but over decades and centuries of time, as God does.

And by tying one of the most beloved popes to the veneration of His Shroud and then to the same man's almost martyrdom involving three 13s spoke miraculously to us as we continued our investigation.

Indeed, the conclave that elected Cardinal Wojtyla to the papacy began its deliberations on October 13, 1978 <sup>(5)</sup>, the very same day that the Shroud of Turin Research Project ended its direct examinations of the Shroud. The cardinal who would become John Paul II had venerated the Shroud for the first time in his life just three weeks prior in September.

If these four 13s aren't "coincidences," then were there other times the number 13 would play a role in the history of the Shroud?

Another October 13 was just one more odd event in the cloth's history, and this more well-known date solidified our quest.

How well we remember the infamous day when the claim was made that the Shroud is a medieval fake.



### **That date?**

October 13, 1988 <sup>(6)</sup>.

Despite this being the sixth time this number is associated with the Shroud, is it just another coincidence as the skeptic will proclaim?

Perhaps, but the dates kept piling up.

Especially when reviewing a different event that happened 71 years before the Shroud was viciously maligned by the fake carbon-dating news.

This event is known to Catholics as the "Miracle of the Sun." It's the day in which 70,000 witnesses saw the sun dance inexplicably in the sky as proof to them that the Virgin Mary had indeed been appearing to three shepherd children over the course of six months.

Seventy-one years before the carbon dating test, this miraculous last apparition and the dancing of the sun took place on October 13, 1917 <sup>(7)</sup>.

### **71, a reversal of the event that happened in the year '17.**

A year in which the apparitions of the Virgin began on May 13, 1917 <sup>(8)</sup>.

The same monthly date on which John Paul II will be shot on his way to discuss one of his favorite topics: the Shroud.

In this, we look to the Scriptures for further explanation and understand that when God describes His "enemy," we learn this fallen angel only has the power to mimic God.

The enemy is unable to create.

And would the enemy certainly not attack a cloth that has the power to convince people of the miraculous Resurrection of Christ?

On October 13, 1917, God created a miraculous sign for believers to have faith and hope in the future. Seventy-one years later, the enemy mimics God in a negative way by trying to extinguish the Shroud's light, burying it in a misleading dating test.

There's more to this connection as well in what we believe can be seen in the spiritual battle between the forces of Light and darkness that surrounds this cloth.

- May 13, 1917, Mary appears for the first time to three shepherd children. Among Her prophecies, the Virgin states the "pope will have much to suffer."
- This pope, according to the shepherdess who has passed away and is now known as Saint Lucia, was St. John Paul II.
- May 13, 1981, he is shot, suffering much, as he was on his way to a Shroud meeting, but miraculously survives and gives credit to the Virgin for saving his life.

This peculiar number and its signs do not stop here as our research into the first photograph of the Shroud showed that the beginning of this modern spiritual battle that surrounds the cloth began even earlier on October 13, 1884 <sup>(9)</sup>.

October 13, 1884, 104 years before the carbon test results were announced, Pope Leo XIII <sup>(10)</sup> has an end-times vision of the final battle between God and His enemy. In the vision, the pontiff, with the peculiar number 13 after his name, sees the future destruction of the Catholic Church.

It is this vision, we discovered, which set the stage for what occurred 13 years <sup>(11)</sup> and seven months later when the first photograph of the Shroud is taken revealing its miraculous nature (the connection to this vision and the photograph are another paper).

Again, the number 13 appears a pivotal sign in this battle between the Creator of the cloth and the Shroud's nemesis, the fallen angel.

- October 13, 1884, a final battle vision where the enemy of God asks the Lord for "more time and power over those who will give themselves in service to me."
- Thirteen years later, the first revelation of the Shroud's miraculous nature becomes apparent: was this not God's return salvo as His enemy begins his moves to try to destroy the Catholic Church?
- October 13, 1988, the Shroud is viciously maligned as a "medieval fake."

Since that vision, the attacks, even from within the Church from "those who will give themselves in service" to the enemy, cannot be denied; in return and to bolster the faithful and challenge the Doubting Thomas, the Creator of the Shroud responds with miraculous proofs of His Existence embedded in His burial cloth.

For those who find it hard to believe that God would grant His enemy such power, one only need refer to the Book of Job and the interaction between God and His enemy to see that this vision is scripturally sound.

## Results

As humans, time to us is fleeting.

Remembering one event to another becomes overwhelming, especially as the media keeps changing faster and faster. Little does God's creation – especially those in the media – review and look back at these important events, hidden from most and not to be found in secular history.

As a result of this final battle that began 104 years ago and after the first photo of the Shroud, the enemy of God has continually tried to convince the world it is not a miraculous cloth, eventually succeeding with a false dating test.

Can we really say, then, it is a "coincidence" when major events in the Shroud's history involve this same peculiar number over the course of more than a century? Or shall we understand, with childlike faith, that these events revolving around the number 13 are an emphatic sign to us that there is a spiritual battle going on around the Shroud.

While the believer states correctly that God is not a numerologist, He, as we know from another infamous number, 666, does speak to us in symbolic ways.

Think we're way out there?

Well, here's a story for all creation:

Jesus vs. satan. Is that not way out there already?

The reason we even mention this is because our next two 13s are, as with all spiritual realities, way out there.

Most, even in the sindonological community choose not to remember or take much stock in remarks made by one Michael Tite (among the orchestrators of the false dating of the Shroud).

When asked to state how he thought the Shroud was created since he professed the cloth to be a medieval "fake," Tite shockingly stated that he believed a knight of the 14<sup>th</sup> century was crucified and his vapors became the image we see today.

Isn't that a clandestine reference to well-known claims in masonic lore about Jacques de Molay, the infamous Knights Templar?

And is he not among the saints of masonry?

As a saint, masonry has propagated a superstitious belief that Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> <sup>(12)</sup> is an "unlucky day" because this combination of day and numbers corresponds to the knight's arrest in 1307.

Many in masonry have also argued the cloth is the image of its persecuted knight while misrepresenting evidence that the Shroud bears the Image of the Crucified Savior of the world.

Perhaps, then, this battle goes back, even, to very first day of the Shroud's creation and may be amongst the principal reasons the number 13 occurs so often in its history.

It is the day when the cloth was first soaked in the Savior's Blood.

When, as John testifies, the Blood and Water gushed forth as a Fountain of Mercy for us.

Many have claimed various dates for His Crucifixion.

But are any of them correct?

For many of the proposed dates ignore or are oblivious to the realities of Jewish burial rites and Mosaic Law in the time of Christ.

In taking stock of these realities, as we know from the Scriptures, the Apostle John clearly documents in his Gospel that the Lord was Crucified on the *Parasceve*, a special day – the preparation day – before Passover in the Jewish calendar. This special day can only occur when the feast falls on the Saturday sabbath.

In the time of Christ, the Passover date by Mosaic Law must be celebrated on the 14<sup>th</sup> in the Jewish month of Nisan.

Also from Jewish tradition the Lamb, prepared for ritual the day before, if not fully consumed, must be immolated by the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> of Nisan.

Therefore, Jesus' Body, by Mosaic Law, must be immolated by the end of the 14<sup>th</sup>, not on the day of His Crucifixion and burial, ruling out this date.

In the Gospel regarding the time of His Crucifixion, the Apostle John clearly tells us that Jesus died the day before the Passover celebration.

We also know the day of the Crucifixion was the day before the Jewish Sabbath, and since that day is obviously a Saturday, the Apostle's Gospel documents that Jesus died on a Friday, as we well know from the tradition of Good Friday.

Since Passover at the time of the Crucifixion was being observed on a Saturday, that day must, by law, be Nisan the 14<sup>th</sup>.

The fact that the Shroud is created and stained with the Blood of Jesus on Friday leaves no other possibility but that that day is the 13<sup>th</sup> in the Jewish month of Nisan. On Saturday, His Body will be miraculously immolated, leaving its unmistakable Image.

## Conclusion

This, then, may be among one of the greatest deceptions ever perpetuated on mankind by the evil one, the enemy of God, in the ultimate battle between the forces of Light and those who knowingly or unknowingly follow darkness, with the Shroud as a centerpiece between the two in this war.

For Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> is not the unluckiest day in which bad luck can befall individuals at a moment's notice, nor a day for black cats and other occult lore, as perpetuated by those who hate this miraculous cloth.

In reality, it is the day of days in which the Savior of the world left us a memorial of His Passion, Death, Resurrection, and a sign of His Mercy on the cloth we now call the Shroud of Turin.

A day that is none other than the luckiest of days for mankind – the most blessed.

For that day is Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>, 33 <sup>(13)</sup> Anno Domini, the day the Shroud first wrapped Christ's Crucified body and became the enigmatic burial cloth that continues to confound science.

While some may use science to make another mistaken claim that God is dead, the Shroud, 2000 years later, continues to prove otherwise.

In these 13 13s, we have been given the historical reality that there is a connection between *Our Lady of Fatima*, the Shroud and John Paul II, proving that God *is* the Lord of time and history.

**And He has used His Shroud as His centerpiece in His final battle for souls.**

## The 13 13s in chronological order:

1. In the year of the Crucifixion, perhaps on the *Parasceve* or earlier, an expensive linen cloth is purchased. It will unwittingly be prepared for what will become known as the Last Supper. The cloth is capable of seating 13 people around it for a Passover celebration and is a 1x3 weave.
2. **Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>, 33 AD**, this cloth becomes a winding sheet for a quick and unexpected burial.
3. **Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>, 1307**, the date Jacques de Molay is arrested and a superstitious belief is born, burying the reality in the modern world of the true Crucifixion date.
4. **October 13, 1884**, a final vision of the destruction of the Catholic Church is given to:
5. **Pope Leo XIII**, who will compose a prayer against the enemy of God after his apocalyptic vision.
6. **Thirteen years later**, the first photograph of the Shroud is taken in 1898.
7. On **May 13, 1917** and 33 years after Leo XIII's apocalyptic vision, the first apparition of Mary as *Our Lady of Fatima* occurs. Six months later, on
8. **October 13, 1917**, the Miracle of the Sun is experienced by 70,000 witnesses.
9. **October 13, 1978**, another Friday, a conclave begins deliberations to elect a pope (John Paul II). It is the same day that the Shroud of Turin Research Project concluded its direct examinations of the cloth with the definitive discovery that the Image is "not a painting."
10. **April 13, 1980**, John Paul II venerates the Shroud for the first time as pontiff.
11. **Thirteen months later**, he is shot,
12. on **May 13, 1981**, in St. Peter's Square, as he bends over to kiss a young lady wearing an icon pin of *Our Lady of Fatima*. In this assassination attempt, at that moment, a bullet misses his head and instead, according to the surgeons who operate on him at that time, another bullet bypasses his vital organs as if "a hand directed" it away.
13. **October 13, 1988**, the misleading carbon-dating test claims the Shroud is a medieval fake.

