

# Scientists And Semantics

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## Authors

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## Abstract:

This paper refutes certain abstract concepts asserted by many scientists for not examining or considering important issues regarding the Shroud of Turin. These include the unresolved questions whether certain types and amounts of radiation emanated from the body of the man wrapped within the Shroud, or some other event consistent with the historical accounts of the resurrection of Jesus Christ occurred.

These abstract concepts argue that we must first provide a plausible physical mechanism or duplicate supernatural events in the laboratory before the resurrection as described in the Gospels, or events that are consistent with it, can be scientifically examined. They place their emphasis on natural phenomenon arguing to do otherwise is beyond the realm of science. This paper argues these restrictive concepts also are not applicable to certain image-forming hypotheses or to some newer technologies whose results could support these hypotheses or be consistent with a miraculous radiating event. This paper argues these abstract concepts could possibly deprive the public of objective and independent evidence of a historical event that could have relevance and significance to every human being in every generation.

This paper summarizes the scientific and medical evidence already acquired from the Shroud that is consistent with a series of events and surrounding circumstances reported to have occurred to the historical Jesus Christ in the most attested sources of ancient history. The physical evidence supporting three scientific hypotheses contending the Shroud's full-length body images were caused by UV or particle radiation emanating from a stationary or disappearing human body that was wrapped in the Shroud are also summarized.<sup>1</sup> One such hypothesis, published in *Scientific Research and Essays* in 2012, can also explain how neutron irradiated cloth can carbon date centuries younger than its actual age. This hypothesis can also explain the Shroud's excellent and flexible physical condition; its coin, flower and outer side imaging, if any; and the still-red coloration of its embedded blood marks.

Scientific technology that could be adapted and applied to the Shroud and to strategic samples at the molecular and atomic level are also summarized and recommended. These technologies, along with other forms of proposed testing, were presented as the keynote address at the international conference held in Frascati, Italy in conjunction with the last public exhibition of the Shroud in 2010.<sup>2</sup> These and other techniques could possibly provide extensive evidence for and against all proposed Shroud body image hypotheses; all proposed explanations

for its medieval carbon dating; the age of the cloth and age of its blood; whether the cloth has been irradiated; the type and amount of radiation; whether it came from the body within the cloth; where and when the irradiating event occurred; the identity of the victim; and whether a supernatural event consistent with the resurrection occurred.

This paper argues that these and other scientific techniques or technologies that could test or investigate these outstanding issues should be developed and undertaken regardless if the findings could support naturalistic, artistic or miraculous explanations for these questions.

This paper challenges the internal reasoning within certain restrictions on some forms of scientific investigation. Moreover, it reminds us that we are not trying to duplicate the resurrection, but are investigating whether it occurred. Scientists have spent decades studying the Big Bang or the creation of the universe. This event could be considered the most supernatural of all and could never be duplicated in any laboratory. A plausible physical mechanism has never been provided to explain how all of matter, energy, space and time were formed within, and released from, a tiny speck in a momentous explosion. Yet, none of these considerations have precluded scientists from investigating its occurrence, nor should they or other considerations preclude the above scientific investigation of the Shroud, even though it could possibly indicate a supernatural event consistent with the resurrection of Jesus Christ occurred.

The only real restriction placed upon science is whether an event or occurrence is within the *realm of investigation*. Actually, no event in history can ever be duplicated, but we investigate their occurrence all the time, especially if these were important events. If the resurrection of Jesus Christ occurred, it is arguably the most important event in human history. If this event occurred, it would have relevance to every human being who would ever live. The possibility that independent and corroborative evidence of such an event could be acquired from an objective investigation provides an additional reason to undertake it, as opposed to precluding it.