

A Galatian Sojourn Of The Shroud Of Turin? Pollen, Paul, And A Public Portrayal Of Christ

11-Oct-2014

9:30-10:00 am

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Abstract:

The pollen trail of the Shroud of Turin passes through the Anatolian Steppe region of Turkey. This was part of the region known as Galatia in New Testament times. Southern Galatia (at least) was visited by Paul on his First Missionary Journey. He established churches there. Paul's Letter to the Galatians tells of subsequent missionaries who tried to invalidate Paul's work by insisting that new Gentile Christians undergo circumcision. In view of Paul's Greek terms and syntax in his letter, it is conceivable that we have a never-before-recognized reference to the Shroud in Galatians 3:1: "O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified." This paper will explore the possibility that the Shroud of Turin was used by early missionaries in Galatia.