

NAME: Jim Bertrand / Shroud presenter

Questions:

1. When and how did you first hear about the Shroud? Back around 1980 I recall reading the National Geographic article which documented the STURP Study of 1978.
2. What interested you about the Shroud? There were so many consistencies between what we see on the Shroud and what is reported in the Gospels. If we have relics from St. Peter and countless other saints then it seems logical that such a significant artifact as the burial shroud of Christ would also be something which would be preserved.
3. Do you believe the Shroud is likely the burial cloth of Jesus Christ, a fake relic, or are you uncertain what to believe? After reading volumes of scientific data over the past 30+ years the question is no longer 'Is the Shroud Authentic?', but, rather, 'How could it not be?' The honus of proof is on the skeptics.
4. What, if any, actions did you take after you first encountered the Shroud (e.g., conduct research, contact people involved with it, etc.)? In 1996 I invited Dr John Jackson and his wife Rebecca, to come to my parish in Lincoln, Nebraska and give a presentation on the Shroud.
5. Have you ever seen the Shroud at any of the exhibitions? If yes, which years? No, not yet.
6. What did you experience when you were in the presence of the Shroud?
7. Have you ever been involved in any scientific study of the Shroud? If yes, please describe what motivated your work and why. No.
8. Have you ever written anything about the Shroud, either factual or fictitious? If yes, please describe what motivated your work and why. The engineer, Robert Siefker, published a summary of Dr. Jackson's research called *The Critical Summary*. I was privileged to help proofread it and offer a few suggestions. Bob spent thousands of hours writing that book and I was able to participate in a very small way. Bob & I ended up composing a power point which gives an overview of the book. I have shared this across 10 states now to thousands of people.

9. Do you favor or believe any of the current theories on how the image got onto the cloth? If so please name the theory. God's ways are not our ways, so I don't think we'll ever be able to definitively understand how the Resurrection event left this image. But I do believe that radiation was the physical mechanism which bridged this supernatural event to the natural image we observe on the Shroud. What does a resurrected glorified body look like? In the Transfiguration, the vision which Peter, John, and James saw made reference to a bright light – 'His face shone like the sun". So it's entirely possible that light was involved. The Fall Through Hypothesis accomplishes this.

10. Do you feel that you have a calling or vocation to be involved somehow with the Shroud? If yes, please describe what motivated you to make a commitment to the Shroud and why. Yes. My area of specialty is "How do you teach things in such a way so that people can understand it?" Four decades of teaching have provided me with the experience to do this.

My calling occurred in 2014 when I was invited to attend the International Shroud Conference in St. Louis. I have profound hear loss as a result of doing construction work for two summers when I was in college. Without my hearing aids I can't hear anything under 50 decibels. This has been my situation for some 30+ years. I frequently have to ask people to repeat themselves, and I use closed caption when watching TV, etc . . .

During those 4 days of observing 42 presentations from scientists from Italy, Spain, France, Germany, England, and the USA there were indeed many presenters with strong accents. As I was driving home from that conference it occurred to me that **I had understood every word they said** during those 4 days. This had never happened to me in the 30 years prior to this, and it has never happened since. But during those 4 days evidently God wanted me to understand what was going on. So when Bob Siefker asked me if I'd be willing to give Shroud presentations that summarized *The Critical Summary* I said yes.

Please describe below any other personal reflections, experiences, insights, or thoughts about the Shroud of Turin that you would like to share.

The Shroud, like the Resurrection, is a sign of hope for all of us. The Resurrection is for everyone, so the Shroud is for everyone. Science cannot 'prove' the Resurrection because it cannot duplicate the Resurrection in a test. But that is a shortcoming of science, and not the Resurrection. Reality consists of the natural world and the supernatural things which science cannot quantify (such as - God exists as the Trinity, the existence of heaven and hell, the existence of angels, we have an immortal soul). And the Shroud serves as a

visual reminder to us of the reality of our eternal destiny. One day we will each step into eternity, one which God desires us to share united with Him. We should never be afraid of the truth.