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POSTER ABSTRACT

Light and Love: Old and New Testament passages in relation to the Shroud of Turin

For the last 12 years I have run an organization called the Shroud of Turin Exhibition. I have taken beautiful life-sized Shroud replicas (from Barrie Schwortz) to venues such as Westminster Cathedral and the Ahmadiyya Muslim event, the Jalsa Salana. The exhibition tells the biblical story of the Passion and resurrection of Jesus, using the Shroud as a visual aid. This paper may help people hoping to do their own presentations on the Shroud. It will look at the scriptures which directly relate to the Passion, such as, "Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged" (John 19:1) which introduces the flagrum marks. Old and New Testament scriptures illuminate multiple injuries which are visible on the Shroud. From Johannine texts I will argue that there is a missing cloth from the tomb. This ties in with medical evidence which suggests that Jesus' hands were bound together with a strip of linen. That linen strip could survive today as the Holy Blood of Bruges. I visited Bruges and saw that the relic is a bandage, soaked in red blood. It is housed in crystal, surrounded with the beautiful enamel work of Constantinople. The Holy Blood is associated historically with Joseph of Arimathea, and it has been venerated as the blood of Jesus for 800 years. It is not formally associated with the Shroud of Turin or the Sudarium of Oviedo. There will be a brief reflection on wider concepts from the Old and New Testament, for example biblical teaching on light, the mechanism for image creation on the Shroud. Finally, the paper will look at a way in which the Shroud speaks the message of Jesus to the modern world.