Throughout popular literature about the Shroud of Turin, σινδων (sindon) frequently is represented as the Greek word for “shroud.”¹ Σινδων is used by writers of the synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) in accounts of the burial of Jesus, and recent Bible translations render σινδων as “shroud.” (e.g., RSV) But the word actually denotes a very fine and relatively expensive cloth, not necessarily linen and not intrinsically connoting death or burial.²

Its etymological history is obscure.³ The Greek word may be related to an ancient word from India, the Sanskrit sindhu. We searched our Middle
Egyptian lexicons for several words for “linen”, “garment,” “flax,” “bandage,” “mummy cloth,” etc., and found just one, šindyt, (sindut in the older pyramid texts) that may be related. This is often translated as “apron,” referring to a type of outer garment worn over the lower torso, but not necessarily, in ancient Egypt, covering other outer clothing. The Coptic New Testament translation is no help in this case, as σινδων is carried over as a loan word from Greek.

As early as the fifth-century B.C., we find σινδων used by the playwright Sophocles and the historians Herodotus and Thucydides with reference to a very fine and expensive cloth. It is also found in the first-century A.D. geographer, Strabo, and the second-century satirist, Lucian of Samosata.

In the Septuagint, the translation of the Hebrew Bible made around 200 B.C., σινδων often translates סדין (sadin), as in this familiar passage from Proverbs, which speaks of the “good wife .. far more precious than jewels.”

(Proverbs 31:10)
The good wife of Proverbs clearly is not weaving “shrouds” to be sold in the market. Earlier English translations of the Bible, such as KJV, offer “fine linen” for σινδῶν in this passage.

Elsewhere in the Septuagint, (Judges 14: 12-13, 15,) we find σινδῶν in the story of Samson’s riddle to the Philistines. The meaning of σινδῶν is not entirely clear in the passage, but it denotes some kind of cloth so expensive that the Philistines felt they would be impoverished if they had to provide Samson with thirty lengths of them.

ΣΙΝΔΩΝ

With this background in mind, let’s look at our synoptic passages:

καὶ λαβὼν τὸ σῶμα ὁ Ἰωσήφ ἐνετύλιξεν αὐτὸ [ἐν] σινδόνι καθαρᾷ,
And taking the body, Joseph wrapped it in a clean linen cloth.... (RSV —“a clean linen shroud”) (Matthew 27:59a)

καὶ ἀγοράσας σινδόνα καὶ καθελὼν αὐτὸν ἐνείλησε τῇ σινδόνι,
And he bought fine linen, and taking him down, wrapped him in the fine linen.... (RSV —“a linen shroud”) (Mark 15:46a)

καὶ καθελὼν αὐτὸ ἐνετύλιξε σινδόνι
And he took it down, and wrapped it in linen.... (RSV —“a linen shroud”) (Luke 23:53a)
We may take the RSV translation of σινδῶν as “linen shroud” as a kind of gloss, not as an accurate representation of what the Greek word connotes—actually, “a fine and expensive cloth.” Indeed, the linguist Eugene Nida has observed, “Though a word for ‘linen’ may be borrowed, what is important in the New Testament contexts is primarily the quality of the cloth, not the material of which it was made. Accordingly, many translators have used an expression such as ‘fine cloth’ [for σινδῶν].”

There is yet another instance of σινδῶν in the New Testament: Mark’s story of the young man who ran away naked from the soldiers at Gethsemane.

Kαὶ εἷς τις νεανίσκος ἠκολούθησεν αὐτῷ, περιβεβλημένος σινδόνα ἐπὶ γυμνοῦ· καὶ κρατοῦσιν αὐτόν οἱ νεανίσκοι. Ὁ δὲ καταλιπὼν τὴν σινδόνα γυμνὸς ἔφυγεν ἀπ’ αὐτῶν.

And a young man followed him, with nothing but a linen cloth about his body; and the young men seized him. And he left the linen cloth, and ran away from them naked.

(Mark 14:51, f.)

Whether σινδῶν in Mark’s account refers to clothing, i.e., a kind of nightshirt, or to a length of cloth, depends on the interpretation here of περιβεβλημένος (perfect passive participle of περιβαλλω, “to throw around”). Possibly it represents an early example of later Christian practice, when σινδῶν refers to a fine cloth used to wrap the catechumen after baptism. In the Acts of Thomas, the word also refers to a linen altar cloth.
Another of the Greek words that have been used with specific reference to “linen” of various sorts is λίνον, which has been used from Homeric through Byzantine times not only for “linen,” but also for “flax”\(^{10}\) (\textit{i.e.,} the plant itself, or its unspun fibers).

λίνον (linon) -- linen, flax

פשתה (peshtah) -- linen, flax

We find λίνον in the Septuagint with this meaning, “flax,” translating פשתה or פשתה. “Flax” in this quotation from Exodus clearly refers to the plant growing in the field.

to δὲ λίνον καὶ η ἡ κριθὴ επληγή γὰρ κριθὴ παρεστηκθὰ τὸ δὲ λίνον σπερματίζον.

The flax and the barley were ruined, for the barley was in the ear and the flax was in the bud. (Exodus 9:31)

κάλαμον συντετριμμένον οὐ κατεάξει καὶ λίνον τυφόμενον οὐ σβέσει, ἐως ἀν ἐκβάλῃ εἰς νῖκος τὴν κρίσιν.

He will not break a bruised reed or quench a smoldering wick.... (Matthew 12:20)

καλαμον τεθλασμενον ου σβησται και λινον καπνιζομενον ου σβεσει αλλα εις αληθειαν εξοισει κρισιν.

A bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench. (Isaiah 42:3)
In Matthew 12:20, λίνον τυφώμενον, “smoking flax” connotes “a twisted strip of flax” used for the wick of a lamp. This passage is a reflex of Isaiah 42:3, where the same thought is expressed with λινον καπνιζομενον. Possibly Matthew followed a different version of the OT text. Λίνον also appears in non-biblical Greek texts with the meaning, “fishing-net.” Likewise, in Mark 1:18, τα λινα is a variant manuscript reading for τα δικτυα (“fishing-nets”). All in all, λίνον connotes a coarse grade of linen, or even the flax plant, distinguishing it from σινδων, which referred to a cloth of finer quality.

ΟΘΟΝΗ / ΟΘΟΝΙΟΝ

Now we turn to another pair of Greek words for ‘linen,” ὀθόνη (othonē) and οθονιον (othonion). The former refers to very strong sheets of linen such as were used for sails, as in this account of Peter’s vision in the Book of Acts.

καὶ θεωρεῖ τὸν οὐρανὸν ἀνεῳγένον καὶ καταβαίνον σκεῦός τι ὡς ὀθόνην μεγάλην τέσσαριν ἀρχαῖς καθιένον ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς,

And [Peter] saw heaven opened, and something descending, like a great sheet, let down by four corners upon the earth...


Elsewhere in Greek literature, ὀθόνη refers to “tent cloth.” and to a “ship’s sail.” Οθονιον, theoretically a diminutive of ὀθόνη, nevertheless refers to
large pieces of linen cloth -- a sheet, a sail, or cloth for a tent -- but also, interestingly, to a smaller piece of linen, such as a bandage for wounds. The plural, οθονια, seldom refers to such small pieces or strips of cloth, however. The noted New Testament philologist, Frederick W. Danker, has expressed doubt that οθονια in the New Testament refers to strips of cloth or bandages such as formerly used in Egypt as part of the mummification process. In the Septuagint, moreover, οθηονιον, like λίνον, translates פשתה, (pishtah) or פשה (peshet) -- “flax,” as in Hosea 2:9:

και αφελουμαι τα θαμα μου και τα οθονια μου...
And I will take away my wool and my flax...
Hosea 2:11, LXX (2:9, MT)


ἔλαβον οὖν τὸ σῶμα τοῦ Ἰησοῦ καὶ ἔδησαν αὐτὸ οθονίοις μετὰ τῶν ἀρωμάτων, καθὼς ἔθος ἐστίν τοῖς Ἰουδαίοις ἐνταφιάζειν.
[Then] they took the body of Jesus, and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews.
(John 19:40)

As already stated, it is doubtful that the body of Jesus would have been wrapped in strips of cloth, in the manner of Pharaonic mummies. A major consideration is the element of time on erev Shabbat, or Friday afternoon. In
present-day Jerusalem, everything closes down that afternoon a good three or four hours before sundown. Even non-observant Jews and non-Jews are well advised to be off the streets in certain neighborhoods. (In the early eighties, a woman was stoned in the “ultra-religious” quarter of Mea Shearim while on the street at 1:30 on a Friday afternoon.\textsuperscript{17}) We have no evidence that observance was more lenient in the first century.

We are told that Jesus died at the “ninth hour,”\textsuperscript{18} \textit{i.e.}, around 3 p.m. It would have taken time for authorities to ascertain that he was indeed dead, and time to obtain Pilate’s permission for release of the body. More time to take down the body from the cross and remove it to the sepulcher. We infer that those who laid to rest the body of Jesus would have been in immense danger – greater danger than they already were for associating with him – had they been found outside home as the hour of sunset approached. This has implications for the washing and anointing of the body as well, and on this one point, I am in agreement with Ian Wilson that the hundred-pounds’ weight of spices brought by Nicodemus (John 19:39) actually constituted aromatic sand to be packed around the body as an antiputrefacient.\textsuperscript{19}

\textbf{Figure 1.} Body wrapped “according to the custom of the Jews.” (Based on forensic analysis of the image on the Turin Shroud.)\textsuperscript{20}
The body of Jesus – as a Jew of a religious family – would have been wrapped in a long sheet and tied with strips of cloth at the neck, at the wrists and feet, and at the torso, and as here, at the knees. (Figure 1)

Here, as elsewhere, context is crucial to our understanding of οθονια. In this passage, it is informed by the meaning of the verb, εδησαν, from δεω, “tie,” “bind,” or “fasten,” but not “wind,” as given in some translations. This seemingly small point is important because skeptics have suggested that a shroud such as we have would not have been used in first century Judea, because Jesus, it is claimed, would have been wrapped in strips of cloth. But there is no evidence for this ancient Egyptian custom among Jews living in Roman Palestine. Quite the opposite: Long shrouds wrapped under and over the body have in fact been excavated. (Figure 2) I think it likely that the plural form οθονια in John and Luke refers to both the σινδων and the κειριαι, the strips which tied the hands and feet, etc. (See below.)
Moreover, mummies of the Hellenistic period in Egypt were not wrapped in strips of cloth as in more ancient times. Instead, extraordinary lengths of coarse linen were wrapped around a small coffin encasing the body in an intricate “rhomboid” pattern.\(^\text{22}\) (Figure 3)

**KEIPIA**

With regard to this notion of winding linen about a Jewish corpse, we also must consider the pericope of Lazarus raised from the dead in John 11:44, where κειρια, (keiria) not οθονια, refers, with σοθαριον, (soudarion) to the burial cloths.

και ἐξῆλθεν ὁ τεθνηκὼς δεδεμένος τοὺς πόδας καὶ τὰς χεῖρας κειρίαις καὶ ἡ ὄψις αὐτοῦ σουδαρίῳ περιεδέδετο.

And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with bandages: and his face wrapped with a cloth.

John 11:44a

Very likely, Lazarus would have been wrapped in the same manner as shown in Figure 1 above, for the text recounts that he was “bound hand and
foot.” If the κειριαι cloths had been wrapped around Lazarus, mummy-style, the σουδαριον covering his face would not have been visible.

It might appear from our English translations that κειρια was also used for linen in general. An example would appear to be Proverbs 7:16, where the Septuagint uses κειρια to translate ποῦ (linen) said to be from Egypt – an exotic touch. But probably it does not connote "yardage" or sheets of cloth. In Targumic literature, ποῦ denotes “flax-rope,” suggestive of strips.23

κειφαις τετακα την κλινην μου
αμφιταιος δε εστρωκα τοις απ' Αιγυπτου

I have decked my couch with coverings, colored spreads of Egyptian linens. (Proverbs 7:16)

(Hebrew singular, Greek plural.)

ΒΥΣΣΟΣ / ΒΥΣΣΙΝΟΣ

Another pair of words denoting a special type of linen are βυσσος and its diminutive, βυσσινος. These refer to extraordinarily fine linen, worn in our literature by the very richest people on earth and by heavenly beings.

Βυσσος is described as “a species of Egyptian flax... or linen made from it – very costly, delicate, soft, either white or pale yellow.”24 It is the clothing, for example, of the rich man in Luke’s pericope of the suffering Lazarus. The
story was written to pointedly contrast extremes of suffering and poverty on the one hand, and self-indulgence and wealth on the other.

In the Book of Revelation, βυσσινος appears in many passages in which the raiment of extraordinary, often heavenly, beings is described. When recounting earthly wealth, it is mentioned along with “purple,” “gold,” “precious stones and pearls,” etc. (Cf. Revelation 18:12, 18:16, 19:8, 19:14.)

The garment Pharaoh bestowed on Joseph in Genesis 41:42 was also of this extraordinary cloth. He was arrayed “in garments of fine linen”
King David also was royally clothed thus -- στολὴν βυσσινῆν, “in garments of fine linen,” as described in 1 Chronicles 15:27.

Why do the gospels not use the word, βυσσος, rarer and richer than σινδων, for the cloth purchased by Joseph of Arimathea for the burial of his Master? One consideration may be the proscription pertaining to extravagant burials by Gamaliel. Perhaps even more telling, however, is the note of fantasy and imagination that attaches to these stories. They tell of Joseph, legendary Chancellor of Egypt; of the renowned David, the ideal king; of a certain rich man’s sumptuous life; and of beings of the heavenly realm. Such a cloth, then, may not only have been too rich and costly, but too idealized for the burial of a God-fearing Jew in Roman Palestine.

ΛΕΝΤΙΟΝ

Yet another word associated with “linen” – λεντιον (lention) -- occurs in the New Testament. This is the cloth Jesus wrapped around himself when he washed his disciples’ feet at the Last Supper (John 13:4, f.) and which he also

έγειρεται ἐκ τοῦ δείπνου καὶ τίθησιν τὰ ἱμάτια, καὶ λαβὼν λέντιον διέζωσεν ἑαυτὸν. εἶτα βάλλει ὕδωρ εἰς τὸν νιπτῆρα καὶ ἔρχετο νιπτεῖν τοὺς πόδας τῶν μαθητῶν καὶ ἐκμάζειν τῷ λέντιῳ ὃ ἦν διεζωσμένος.

[Jesus] rose from supper, laid aside his garments, and girded himself with a towel. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which he was wrapped.... (John 13:4,5)
used to dry their feet.

This common cloth could be made of cotton or linen. In other texts of the Hellenistic period, λεντιον refers to the cloth covering a person about to undergo crucifixion. It also refers to an “apron” worn by servants.\textsuperscript{26} Λεντιον, like λινον, would have been a rough, coarse cloth, not at all like σινδων.

\textbf{ΣΟΥΔΑΡΙΟΝ}

Finally, we should mention the σουδαριον (soudarion) which covered the face of the risen Lazarus (John 11:44, quoted above) and which the author of the fourth gospel elsewhere describes as “the napkin, which had been on his head, not with the linen cloths, but rolled up in a place by itself.” (John 20:7)

\begin{quote}
καὶ τὸ σουδάριον, ὃ ἦν ἐπὶ τῆς κεφαλῆς αὐτοῦ, οὐ μετὰ τῶν οθονίων κείμενον ἀλλὰ χωρὶς ἐντετυλιγμένον εἰς ἕνα τόπον.
\end{quote}

And the napkin, which had been on his head, not lying with the linen cloths, but rolled up in a place by itself.

(John 20:7)

The origin of this word is the Latin sudarium, which in turn derives from the Latin word for “sweat,” sudor. Thus it originally referred to a cloth for wiping perspiration. As may be inferred from Luke 19:20 and Acts 19:12, this cloth was in common use, more or less as a handkerchief. Wilson gives consideration to the possibility that John’s σουδαριον, rolled up in the tomb,
could be the shroud of Christ. Rather, it reflects the long-standing Jewish custom, described in the *Mishnah*, of covering the face of a corpse. Far from referring to a cloth that covered the entire body, it was a smaller cloth which covered the face and in some instances, was wrapped around the head. These texts, considered carefully, do in fact support the validity of the cloth known as the Sudarium of Oviedo.

ΚΑΘΑΡΟΣ, ΚΑΘΑΡΙΖΩ

Taking another look at Matthew’s account of the cloth bought by Joseph of Arimathea, we wonder: Why should it not be “clean,” since it was newly purchased? Καθαρός, in fact, has several connotations in Biblical literature.

καὶ λαβὼν τὸ σῶμα ὁ Ἰωσήφ ἐνετύλιξεν αὐτὸ [ἐν] σινδόνι καθαρᾷ. And taking the body, Joseph wrapped it in a clean linen cloth...

(Matthew 27:59a)

Not often, however, does it have the meaning, “clean,” as opposed to “dirty,” as in Jesus’s admonition to the Pharisees in Matthew 23:26:

καθάρισον πρῶτον τὸ ἐντὸς τοῦ ποτηρίου, ἵνα γένηται καὶ τὸ ἐκτὸς αὐτοῦ καθαρόν. First clean the inside of the cup, so that the outside may also be clean!

(Matthew 23:26)
But even here the use is metaphorical, and the significance is internal purity – the meaning most often found in the New Testament, as in this familiar promise from the Beatitudes, and in Paul’s teaching to Titus.

μακάριοι οἱ καθαροὶ τῇ καρδίᾳ, ὅτι αὐτοὶ τὸν θεὸν ὄψονται.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
(Matthew 5:8)

πάντα καθαρὰ τοῖς καθαροῖς: τοῖς δὲ μημαμμένοις καὶ ἀπίστοις οὐδὲν καθαρὸν.

To the pure, all things are pure, but to the corrupt and unbelieving, nothing is pure.
(Titus 1:15a)

Frequently, καθαρός and its verbal form, καθαρίζω, are used in the New Testament with clearly Levitical sense: Here, the author of Hebrews uses the verb to refer directly to Jewish law:

καὶ σχεδὸν ἐν αἷμα πάντα καθαρίζεται κατὰ τὸν νόμον, καὶ χωρὶς αἵματεκχυσίας οὐ γίνεται ἀφεσις.

Under the Law, almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness.
(Hebrews 9:22)

The author of Acts reflects the division over Levitical purity in his story of Peter’s quandary over breaking the כשרות (kashrut, “keeping kosher”) which he had honored his whole life.
ὁ δὲ Πέτρος εἶπεν, Μηδαµῶς, κύριε, ὅτι οὐδέποτε ἐφαγόν πᾶν κοινὸν καὶ ἀκάθαρτον.

But Peter said, “No, Lord, for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean.”

(Acts 10:14, cf., 11:8)

The Coptic text may shed additional light here, for the cloth in Matthew 27:59 is described as ou sindwn esraxe – “a linen cloth (being) clean.” The Egyptian word raxe, “be clean” (from rwxe) is used in some Sahidic texts for ouaab, “holy.” The most frequent occurrence of ouaab in the New Testament is in the phrase, tpneuma etouaab, “the Holy Spirit..” Thus raxe, in Christian contexts, developed a connotation of spiritual cleanliness analogous to Levitical purity or cleanliness.

Although these words, καθαρός and καθαρίζω, occur in the Greek Bible with connotations of varying nuances, I think it is indisputable that καθαρός in Matthew 27:59 is a reference to Levitical purity.

CONCLUSION:

Science, that is to say, forensic analysis, has in some instances verified the New Testament text. For example, the statement, “at once there came out blood and water,”29 once scoffed at, has been vindicated by forensic analysis. I would not go so far as to claim that a text can in any way verify the Shroud. But the words of the New Testament, considered carefully in context, fully
support the physical characteristics of the cloth: Σινδων, unlike some other words that might have been used -- λινον, λεντιον, κειρια -- to describe the cloth that wrapped the body of Jesus, suggests material such as that of the Shroud of Turin – very high quality linen that is “soft to the touch.” Its description as καθαρος implies its Levitical purity required by “the burial custom of the Jews,” and directly connects the burial cloth of Jesus to ritual requirements of early Judaism.

ΤΕΤΡΑΔΙΠΛΟΣ / ΤΕΤΡΑΔΙΠΛΟΥΣ

As a final consideration, I would like to share some of my thoughts about the seemingly inscrutable τετράδιπλον (“tetradiplon”). Its use in the Apocryphal Acts of Thaddaeus (Figure 4) has been thought to be the only occurrence “in all literature.” Τετραδιπλον also occurs in the Byzantine Historical Writings compiled by Georgius Cedrenus, in a later and somewhat embellished version of the same story—Abgar and the Image of Edessa.

Figure 4. Passage from Acts of Thaddeus, describing a fourfold [cloth] (τετραδιπλον).... his [Christ’s] image (εικων) having been impressed on the linen (σινδων)....
In this passage, (Figure 5) the Lord, seeking to wash [himself], was given a shred of cloth or rag (ρακος) [folded] as “four doubled” (τετραδιπλον,) which might be taken to mean a cloth customarily folded several times for personal transport (as we today might fold something to be put in a pocket) yielding eight layers.\(^{36}\) Left impressed on the linen cloth was a miracle – the copy of his form (μορφη). The cloth is referred to as σινδων in both texts.

While Lampe\(^{37}\) has suggested “fourfold,” and Sophocles,\(^{38}\) whom translators have often followed, has offered “a kind of towel,” I question whether this was the fundamental, underlying meaning of τετραδιπλον. (No lexicon can be the last word; the text is always the last word, as the lexicon is based on the text.) Τετραδιπλον is a composite of two Greek words – the prefix τετρα- from τεσσαρες, “four,” and διπλος, “double.” Its primary meaning, then, denotes simply “four doubled,” or “eight,” although it appears to have gained common usage as a small, handy cloth. The underlying meaning of “eight” supports the idea of the Turin Shroud having been folded in a way
consistent with Wilson’s reconstruction.\textsuperscript{39} (Figure 6.)

The cloth folded in this manner – three times – yields eight layers, as we can see from Wilson’s diagram and from simple mathematics. (Folded in half once yields two layers; folded in half a second time doubles this to four layers; folded in half a third time doubles this to eight layers.)

From ancient historical evidence, the Shroud also might have been folded in an accordion-like pattern, as Aldo Guerreschi proposes.\textsuperscript{40} (Figure 7)

\textbf{Figure 6.} Diagram of Shroud folded in half, in half again, and in half again — three times, yielding eight layers,= “four doubled.”

\textbf{Figure 7.} Diagram of manner in which the Turin Shroud might have been folded, first lengthwise, then in accordion-like pleats.
That would be similar to the folded cloth depicted on this Etruscan sarcophagus from the fourth century, A.D. (Figure 8)

![Etruscan sarcophagus](image)

**Figure 8.** Etruscan sarcophagus, fourth century, A.D.  

I believe Guerreschi’s suggestion to be very plausible, and it in no way contradicts the hypothesis of the Shroud as η Εικων Αχιεροποιητη Εδεσσας, “the Image of Edessa Not Made by Hand.”

ENDNOTES:


4. But distinct from dain, “loin-cloth.”


5. **Herodotus, 1.200.1**: ἐσβάλλουσι εἰς ολίβων καὶ λεηναντες υπεροισι σωσὶ διὰ σύνδονος.... **Herodotus, 1.295.3**: οἱ δὲ κανωπες, ἵνα μεν ἐν ματιω ενελιξαμενος εὐθη ἡ σύνδονι.... Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War, 1.6.3*. See further, Thayer, p. 576a.


11. In the Book of Revelation (15:6) there is one example of λινον used for “linen,” with respect to seven angels whose garments are described as “linen, clean and white.” (λινον καθαρον λαµπρον) But this is an atypical usage in the Apocalypse, where βυσσος or its variant most often describes the raiment of the heavenly host and other such beings.

12. From Qumran, especially, we know of several different recensions of the LXX. “The translations of the books of the OT differ in style, accuracy, and substance, indicating that there was no single original translation into Greek. Manuscripts found at Qumran... and other early manuscripts and quotations from the Septuagint in ancient writings all indicate that revisions were constantly being made to the Septuagint. In addition, Hebrew manuscripts found at Qumran differ from the standard Hebrew (Masoretic) text, but agree with some of the Greek renderings in the Septuagint. Thus the Septuagint often witnesses to a Hebrew manuscript tradition different from and earlier than the Masoretic Text and so is valuable in solving textual difficulties.” See Paul J. Achtemier, *Harper's Bible Dictionary* (San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1985)


Erwin Nestle (Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelstiftung, 26 neu bearbeitete Auflage, 1979) p. 89 n.


17. Ironically, she was there to buy a religious book for her husband. She was only slightly injured in the stoning.


22. See my paper, “Hellenistic Portraiture, Christological Iconography and the Shroud of Turin,” in *Proceedings of Sindone 2000*, conference convened by *Collegamento Pro Sindone* in Orvieto, Italy, August, 2000, for examples of such mummies, wrapped in many yards of coarse linen in a “rhomboid” pattern.

23. See Jastrow, op. cit., p 42. The ד in סֵסְכִּי may be a scribal error centuries old. Elsewhere in MT, the word is spelled כְּסִי, I have found no other instance of the spelling כְּסִי in MT.


25. φαραώ... ενεδυσεν αυτον στολην βυσσινην.... Then Pharaoh... arrayed him in garments of fine linen.... (Genesis 41:42) *Herodotus, 2.86*, wrote of the Egyptians, κατειλισσουσι παν το σωµα σινδονος βυσσινης. (They wrapped the whole body in the very finest linen.)


27. Wilson, op. cit., p. 42. Ghiberti, *op. cit.*, disagrees: “Some have suggested that the soundarion is the sindon, but I do not think the context allows this” (p. 280). He suggests
the soudarion may have been a chin band (p. 277).


29. John 19:34.

30. Personal comment to me from Mechthild Flury-Lemberg, 2005, confirming a similar statement to me by Vernon Miller in Santa Barbara, 1981.


35. Cedrenus, *op. cit.* Photo by the author.

36. Cedrenus translates “plannum quadruplicem.”


