

A brief history of the Shroud of Turin



1st century AD: Legends tell of cloth called the **Mandylion** – allegedly showing imprint of Jesus' face – seen in Edessa, eastern Turkey

944: Mandylion moved to Constantinople (now Istanbul)

1204: Relic seized and transported to Europe when **Crusaders** sack city

1349: Shroud first recorded in possession of French knight **Geoffrey de Charny**

1453: Cloth becomes property of **House of Savoy**, Italy's royal family

1502: Shroud deposited in Chapel of Chambéry Castle for safekeeping

1532: Fire at Chambéry Chapel damages Shroud

1534: Chambéry's **Poor Clare** nuns repair Shroud, sewing it onto backing cloth, the **Holland cloth**, and patching over damage

1535: Shroud is moved to Turin

1898: First photograph of Shroud marks era of scientific examination

1902: Anatomy professor **Yves Delage** argues relic genuinely wrapped body of Christ – **New York Herald** carries headline **Photographs of Christ's Body found by Science**

1931: Two million visitors flock to Shroud of Turin exhibition

1973: Fabric and sticky tape samples of pollen and surface dust taken in first scientific examination

1976: Swiss criminologist **Dr. Max Frei** identifies pollen grains from extinct plants indigenous to Palestine

1978: Shroud of Turin Research Project – **STURP** – members perform 120 hours of examination

1979: One STURP member claims Shroud as work of medieval artist

1986: Cloth bequeathed to Pope **John Paul II** and his successors upon death of **Umberto II of Savoy**

1988: Carbon-14 dating techniques conclude relic is medieval fake, originating between 1260 and 1390

1997: Shroud survives fire in Turin's Guarini Chapel

1999: Israeli botanists identify pollen samples as bean caper, **Zygophyllum dumosum**, which grows only in Israel, Jordan and Egypt's Sinai desert and **Goundelia tournefortii** tumbleweed, believed by some Christians to be material of **Crown of Thorns**

2005: New microchemical tests – performed by former STURP member **Dr. Raymond Rogers** of University of California's Los Alamos Laboratory – suggest Shroud is 1,300 to 3,000 years old