S. to the NEWS

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THE HOLY SHROUD

The single most impressive relic of Christianity is called the Holy Shroud. It is now and has been for 400 years in the Cathedral at Turin, Italy. It is a beautifully made linen cloth fourteen feet, three inches long and three feet, seven inches wide. It bears the front and back images of a muscular man six feet tall.

The image of the face and body on the Shroud is that of a handsome, very well-built, but much tortured man in his thirties. The face has a forked beard which was distinctive to Jewish men at the time of the Crucifixion.

The images on the Shroud are made by blood and perspiration. They show in clear detail the horrible effects of the Roman crucifixion. French surgeon Pierre Barbet found that more than 50 strokes with the Roman flagrum, a leather whip with balls of metal designed to tear the skin, were inflicted on the back.

The head shows a crown of thorns. Bruise marks are on the face including a fracture of the posterior of the nose cartilage. On both wrists there are nail marks which pierced the sensory nerve trunks. There is a spear thrust wound on the front side of the chest, and nail marks through the feet.

The Shroud images are negatives, similar to the negative image on photographic film. Before the discovery of photography in the 19th century, no one understood a negative image. The images on the Shroud are clearly natural and experts all agree that they could not have been painted.

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li- Compare all the unique things tlUIIt happened. to the bocly of· iht nu1ill whose :huage is o:ra the Shroud with t.he same thin.gs th.at happened to Jesus. 'rhe crown of thorns and the EH:1ourgil1g in a crucifix:lou case were not mll1,tomary Roman procedures. 'l'he Shro\Lu1 co1..aforms to the description of the garment funlished. by Joseph of ArimEd;hea.

A seve!i...year investigation liy scientists that ended. this year m:n:10luded that owe have :not found anything to c,:nrtrad:i.(rt the belief 'that the Shroud is the Shroud of ,Jesus." This. evidei-we gives the lie to. the current blasphemous 'book alleging tha't the. death of ChriBt wa• a· hoax to support a false olaim of immortality.

To Christians, Christmas is the happiest day of the year. We believe that One Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Six yem.·m a.go, the Son of God was born to Mary in Bethlehem.. ,.,·e beU.eve that He came on earth ana diecl so that all can mer:lt eternal 1:i.fe, if we ol;iey His Commanflments.

The first Christmas, the life of Jesus, His many miracles, and Hi,:J promise of erverlast,:h1g life are beautifully .lescrihe-d i:n the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. These separately written accounts p:rovidEi htatorical evidence oi' the supernatural greatness of· .Jesus.

So, Christ's birth on Christmas and death by orucifixion or1 Good Friday do not lu1ve to be taken o:n faith alone. We have, :first., tbe prophecies in the Old Testament, then the eyewitnes• testimony in the New Testament, and now tbe aciantific examination of the robe wrapped around Christ in His tomb. All of this evidence conlirms .tmd corrolH>rates; none o,:f :it e,mtra diets ◦

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