

Dates

Date notation is made with 4 figures starting from 0000 of the current calendar as in the slide shows and all other documents in the data base

The Middle Ages

A period of Occidental history between the 5th and 15th centuries. From the 4th century onwards, passing from the ancient world to the medieval world was done progressively through Christianisation of the Roman Empire and its division into two parts (Greek East and Latin West). The progressive hellenization of the eastern part and the occupation of the western part by the Germanic invaders.

- 0500** The monk Denys the Small, sets the starting point of the «Gregorian calendar» which should have matched Christ's birth date. He made a mistake in his calculations and Christ's birth date was about 5 years late. This mistake has not been rectified.
- 0530** Towards this period, a Christian pilgrim, Antonio, left Piacenza in Italy and arrived in Jerusalem. He wrote that he had visited the barren, frightful valley of the Dead Sea, and that he had seen a monastery there among the rocks. During this visit, it was explained to him that according to tradition, Christ's Shroud had found there a safe shelter, but it was not there any longer.
- 0531** Under the reign of Chosroes 1st Nurshirwan called «the Great», the power of the Persians increased. Chosroès extended the limits of his kingdom to Yemen, then turned back West against his old enemy, the Roman Empire.
- 0540** Death of the monk Denys the Small
- 0544** Chosroes arrives with his Persian army under the Edessa ramparts and besieges the city. He surrounded the city with war machines and put fire to the ramparts. It is probably when they hastily reinforced their fortifications that the Edessians found, on top of the city's very high gate, the forgotten hiding place and the Mandyliion was found there, carefully folded over three centuries before.

The wind blowing on the Edessa plateau then changed direction and soon after the fire set to the ramparts set by the Persians spread to their camp and destroyed their war machines. Chosroes ended the siege.

This extraordinary story was told by a contemporary historian, Evragre, born in Syria around 530, a lawyer and imperial prefect of Antiochus. In his work, very well informed on the events and daily life at that time, he tells of a picture made by God and which he calls "theoteuktos eikon".

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- 0614** The Persians invade and sack Jerusalem. The sudarium of «Oviedo» leaves Palestine and is secretly taken to Alexandria.
- 0630** The sudarium of «Oviedo» arrives in Spain. It has been kept since the 9th century in a cedar cabinet in the Oviedo cathedral.
- 0787** The second Nicaea synod restores the cult of images and the meaning of the cult of veneration for the images. This cult had been prohibited as idolatrous (iconoclast) since 0730 by different emperors of the Byzantine Empire.
- 0944** The Edessa image is transferred to Constantinople where it is unfolded. And then appears the entire Shroud whereas previously, one could only see the head due to the folding.
- 1070** Birth of Hugues de Payns that will become the first Great Master of the Order of the Temple, from 1118 (creation date of the Order) until 1137.
- 1118** Creation of the Temple Military Order by Hugues de Payns (or de Payens), born in Champagne and by Geoffroy de Saint-Hilaire, a Flemish knight.
- 1147** Louis VII, King of France, visiting Constantinople, venerates the Shroud.
- 1150** Emperor Manuel 1st Comnene receives a Hungarian ambassador and shows them his treasures, among which was the «sydoine».
- 1201** Nicolas Mesarites, keeper of the relics of the chapel Sainte-Marie-du-Phare, mentions the presence of the Shroud in Constantinople.
- 1204** Conquest and havoc in Constantinople by the army of the 4th Crusade. Boniface de Montferrat and Othon de la Roche, two of the leaders of this Crusade, enter the Blachernes complex and take hold of different treasures, among which is the Shroud.

In his recount of events, the Flemish knight Robert de Clary notes the Shroud has disappeared, whereas previously it could be seen «every Good Friday».

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- 1205** Boniface de Montferrat and Othon de la Roche invade Greece and ransack Athens. Othon de la Roche takes the title of duke of Athens and settles in the Acropolis where he hides the Shroud.
In August of this same year, one of the parents of the deposed Constantinople Emperor, Theodore Ange Comnène, comes to Rome to tell Pope Innocent III about the sack of Constantinople and the theft of the Shroud, which is in Athens.
- The same year, Nicolas d'Otrente who accompanied the Papal Legate through the main cities of the Byzantine Empire visited Constantinople and Athens. In his accounts of his travels, Nicolas d'Otrente writes that he had been secretly allowed to see the Shroud
- 1208** As the Pope threatened to excommunicate him, Othon de la Roche tried to get rid of the Shroud. It seems he then trusted it with the Temple Knights who were very present in Greece at the time
- There remain traces of the strange journey of the Shroud with the Temple Knights to Saint Jean d'Acre, and then to Cyprus which was then owned by the Order. In the chapel of Nicosia museum, one can see a small icon, dating from this period. The icon, painted above a door represents the Mandyllion held by an angel.
- 1300** Defeat of the Knights of the Temple in Tortosa, in Aragon. Some of them are taken as prisoners in Egypt. Jacques de Molay returns to Cyprus and plans to withdraw in Europe.
- 1306** Pope Clement V urges the Masters of the Knights of the Temple and the Knights of the Hospitals to merge the two orders. Jacques de Molay refuses. The Knights of the Hospitals capture Rhodes.
- 1307** The Knights of the Temple are arrested and tried under Philippe le Bel 's order. Among the charges, the Knights of the Temple were accused of having worshipped a "mysterious face". One of the knights, Raoul de Gizy admitted, under torture, that he had worshipped an awesome, bearded head.
- 1312** Pope Clement V dissolves the Order of the Temple.
- 1314** Jacques de Molay et Geoffroy de Charney (or de Charny) are condemned to the stake and executed. The same year, Philippe le Bel and Clement V die.

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- 1348** The Black Plague appears in Marseilles and spreads in France. In 1350, a third of the French population died from the epidemic.
- 1349** Fire in St Etienne cathedral in Besançon . The « Besançon fake Shroud » disappears
- 1353** Geoffroy 1st de Charny (or de Charney), a descendant of the Knights of the Temple who died at the stake with Jacques de Molay, is allowed to build a church in Lirey.
- 1356** Death of Geoffroy 1st de Charny (or de Charney). His wife Jeanne de Vergy gives the Shroud to the Canons of Lirey who keep it in their collegiate church.
- 1357** First public exhibition of the Shroud in Lirey collegiate church. A pilgrimage medal, dating from that time, shows the image of the Shroud with very precise indications in spite of its small dimensions. On this medal one can see a frontal and dorsal view of the body, the linen herring patterns, four marks of burns as well as the coats of arms of the Charny (Charney) and Vergy families.
This « pilgrimage medal » is exhibited at the Cluny museum in Paris.
- 1378** Clement VII, Jeanne de Charny (or de Charney)'s nephew is elected Pope.
- 1389** The bishop of Troyes, Pierre d'Arcis accuses the canons of Lirey of presenting a fake Shroud to the crowd of pilgrims. Basing on the statements of Henri de Poitiers, his predecessor, who claimed that an artist had painted the imprint of Christ on his Shroud, (he probably thought of "Besançon fake Shroud»), he requested from Pope Clement VII that the exhibitions and the pilgrimage cease .
- 1390** Clément VII decides the exhibitions will be maintained. On Geoffroy 2 de Charny (or de Charney)'s initiative, public exhibition of the Shroud is resumed in Lirey.
- 1418** France is devastated by the 100 years' war against Britain. The canons of Lirey entrust Humbert de Villersexel, Count of la Roche, with the care of the Shroud. The relic is kept in the chapel of the Buessards in Saint Hippolyte-sur-le-Doubs. The same year Humbert has just married Marguerite de Charny, granddaughter of Geoffroy 1st de Charny (or de Charney) and Jeanne de Vergy.

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- 1438** Death of Humbert de la Roche. Marguerite refuses to give back the Shroud to the canons of Lirey. In spite of numerous trials, she keeps the relic.
- 1449** As she needs money, Marguerite de Charny has the Shroud exhibited in Chimay in Belgium in 1449, in Paris in 1450, in Germolles, near Mâcon in 1452.