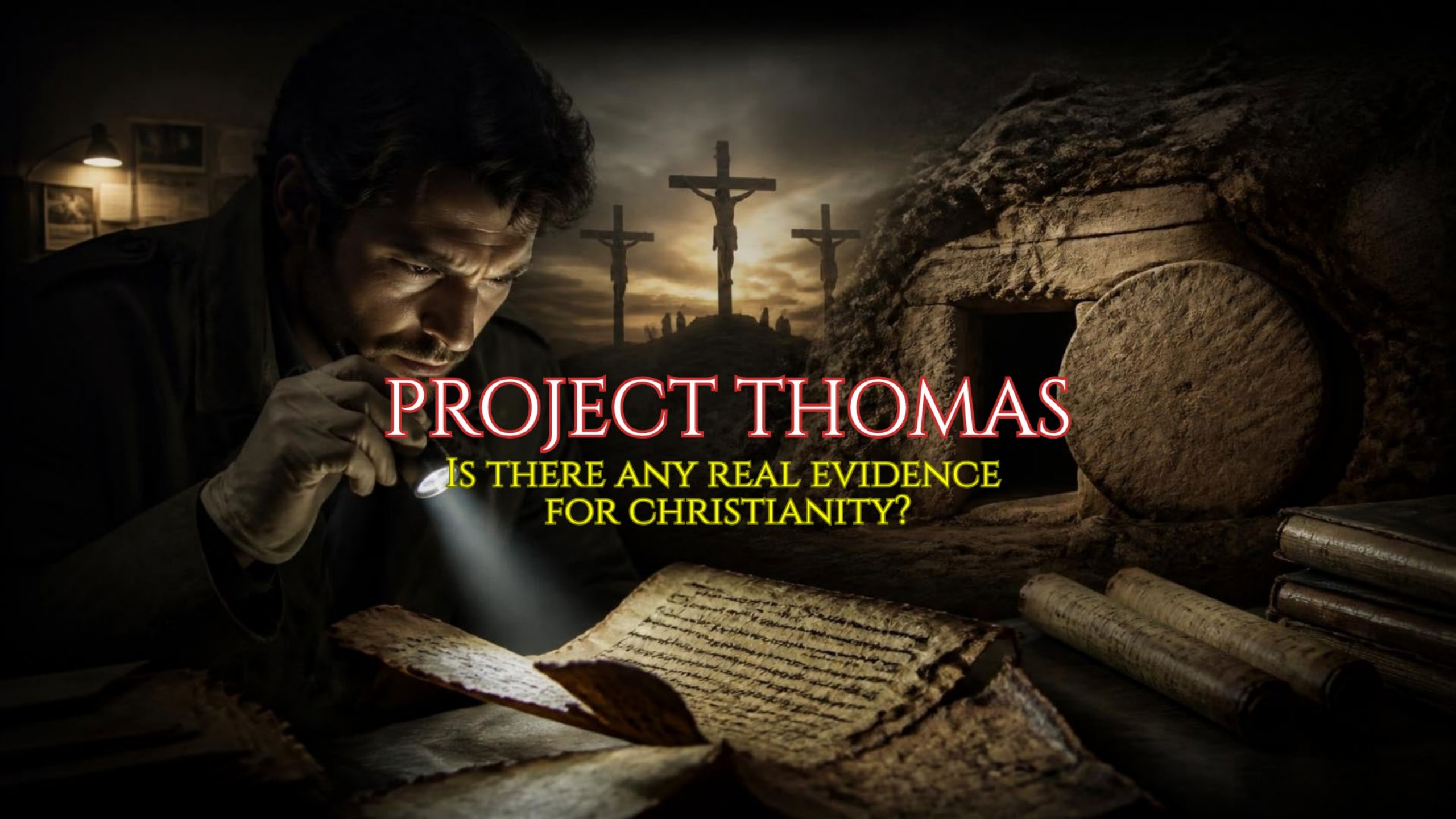




PROJECT THOMAS

IS THERE ANY REAL EVIDENCE
FOR CHRISTIANITY?

*What **kind** of evidence
would be reasonable
enough to produce faith?*

J. WARNER WALLACE

"America's Foremost Cold-Case Detective"

PERSON OF INTEREST

WHY JESUS STILL MATTERS IN A WORLD THAT REJECTS THE BIBLE





PROJECT THOMAS

PART 2

START FROM THE BEGINNING

*Did Jesus of Nazareth
exist as a historical
person?*

*16 For we did not follow cleverly
devised stories when we told you
about the coming of our Lord Jesus
Christ in power, but **we were
eyewitnesses of his majesty.***

17 He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." 18 We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.

2 Peter 1

rogatum auctoritate perit. est enim locuples fac-
tiorque amicitia amicitia apluribus; quod pleru-
q; fortius amicitia est potest tamen fieri ut hec con-
cussa libantur. namque veritas malorum tamen infida
est quoniam si verum ut idem dicam saepius exspecto
et mauricam vir est gravis prudens multis experi-
mentis eruditus & qui futura possit ex parte tunc
providere mihi & temperandi aliquid & quiescendi
illo auctore ratio constabit hec tibi scripsi quoniam
erat te pro amore mutuo non solum omnia mea
falte dicta; utrum etiam consilia cognoscere vale;

PLINIUS TACITO SUO SALUTEM

Ridebis & licet rideas ego ille quem nosti a pro-
f. & quidem pulcherrimos cepi ipse inquis ipse non tamen
ut omnino ab inertia mea & quidem discederem ad
reclia sedebam. erat in proximo non uenabulum aut
leoncea sed stilus & pugillares medicabatur aliquid
enotabam que ut simanus uacuas plenas tamen ceras
reportarem. Non est quod contemnas hoc sciendum
genus mirum est ut animus agitatione motuque cor-
poris exercetur iam undique siluice & solitudo ipsum
illud silentium quod uenationi datur. magna cogita-
tionis incantamenta sunt proinde cum uenabere
licebit auctore me ut panarium & lagunculon

Letters from Pliny to Trajan from Bithynia 112 AD

*...they were accustomed to meet on a fixed day before dawn and **sing responsively a hymn to Christ as to a god**, and to bind themselves by oath, not to some crime, but not to commit fraud, theft, or adultery, not falsify their trust, nor to refuse to return a trust when called upon to do so. When this was over, it was their custom to depart and to assemble again to partake of food--but ordinary and innocent food. Even this, they affirmed, they had ceased to do after my edict by which, in accordance with your instructions, I had forbidden political associations. Accordingly, I judged it all the more necessary to find out what the truth was by torturing two female slaves who were called deaconesses. But I discovered nothing else but depraved, excessive superstition....*

But all human efforts, all the lavish gifts of the emperor, and the propitiations of the gods, did not banish the sinister belief that the conflagration was the result of an order. Consequently, to get rid of the report, Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus,

and a most mischievous superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judæa, the first source of the evil, but even in Rome, where all things hideous and shameful from every part of the world find their centre and become popular. Accordingly, an arrest was first made of all who pleaded guilty; then, upon their information, an immense multitude was convicted, not so much of the crime of firing the city, as of hatred against mankind.

Mockery of every sort was added to their deaths. Covered with the skins of beasts, they were torn by dogs and perished, or were nailed to crosses, or were doomed to the flames and burnt, to serve as a nightly illumination, when daylight had expired. Nero offered his gardens for the spectacle, and was exhibiting a show in the circus, while he mingled with the people in the dress of a charioteer or stood aloft on a car. Hence, even for criminals who deserved extreme and exemplary punishment, there arose a feeling of compassion; for it was not, as it seemed, for the public good, but to glut one man's cruelty, that they were being destroyed.

Josephus "Antiquities of the Jews" in AD 62

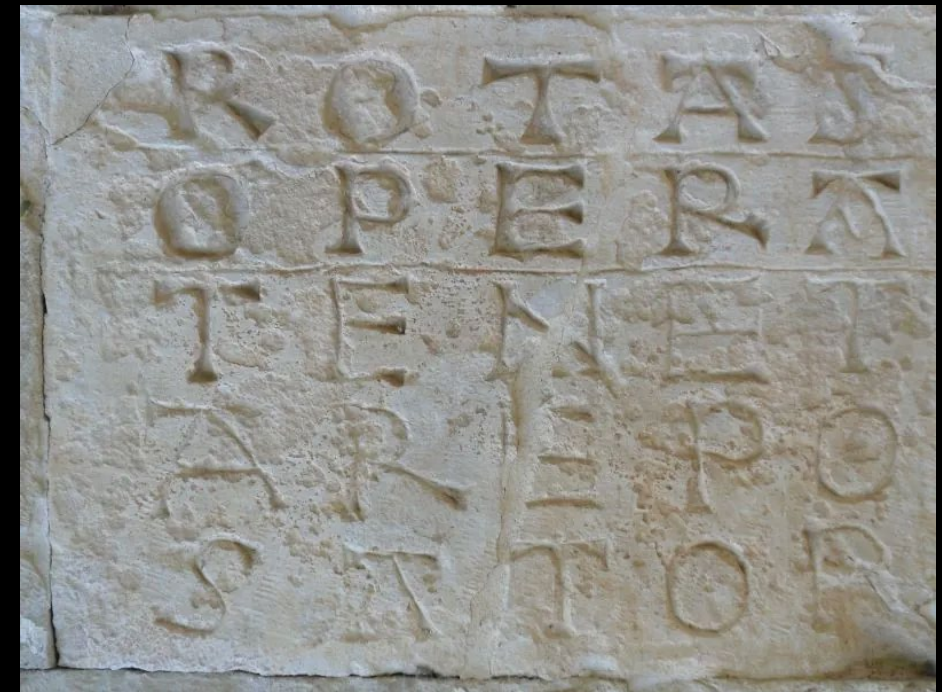
ὡς αὖτε παλαιὰ φέρουσα ὑπὸν δρῶν ἐλυσσασκευήσας
ἐπιφθόρον μὲν· πολλοὶ μὲν αὐτῶν ταύτης καὶ ἀποδύμην
σιν· οἱ δὲ καὶ τραυματίαι αὐτῶν ἔχουσιν· καὶ οὕτως αὐ
ταῖς αἰσῶσι· Γίνεται δὲ καὶ αὐτὸ ὑπομὸν χρόνον
ἡσίοισι τοῖς ἀνθρώποις ἡ γὰρ δρῶν αὐτῶν λείπει χρόνον
παρὰ τὸν χρόνον ποιεῖται· διδύσκουσιν αὐτῶν πο
τὸν ἡδονὴν τῆς δὲ δόξης μὲν· καὶ πολλοὶ οὐ μὲν ἰουδαῖοι·

ἔτι χῦτ' α
ΛΗΘΙΝΟΥ
ἡ μὲν

πολλοὶ δὲ καὶ τοῦ ἐλλειψομένου ἐπὶ γὰρ τοῦ οὐχ οὕτως
ἡμῶν καὶ αὐτὸν μὲν δὲ ζῆτον πρῶτον αὐτῶν παρὴν
συνῶν· ἐπὶ τῇ μετὰ τοσούτου· οὐκ ἐπαύσαντο
οἱ τὸ πρῶτον ἡσίοισιν· ἐφ' αὐτῇ γὰρ αὐτοῖς τρίτῳ
ἔχουσιν μὲν πᾶσι μὲν· τῶν θείων προφητῶν ταύτῃ
τῇ καὶ ἄλλῃ μὲν ἰσχυρῶς αὐτοῦ θανούσιν αὐτῶν
ἔχουσιν μὲν τῶν χριστιανῶν ἀπὸ τοῦ δὲ ἀπομανόμενον,
οὐκ ἐπαύσαντο τὸ φῶς· καὶ ὑπὸ τοῦ αὐτοῦ χρό
νου, ἐβρέμει δὲ τὸν μὲν θέρυμα τοῖς ἰουδαίοις· καὶ π

Josephus *“Antiquities of the Jews”* in AD 62

...Festus was now dead, and Albinus was but upon the road; so he assembled the Sanhedrin of judges, and brought before them the brother of Jesus, who was called Christ, whose name was James, and some others; and when he had formed an accusation against them as breakers of the law, he delivered them to be stoned: but as for those who seemed the most equitable of the citizens, and such as were the most uneasy at the breach of the laws, they disliked what was done;...



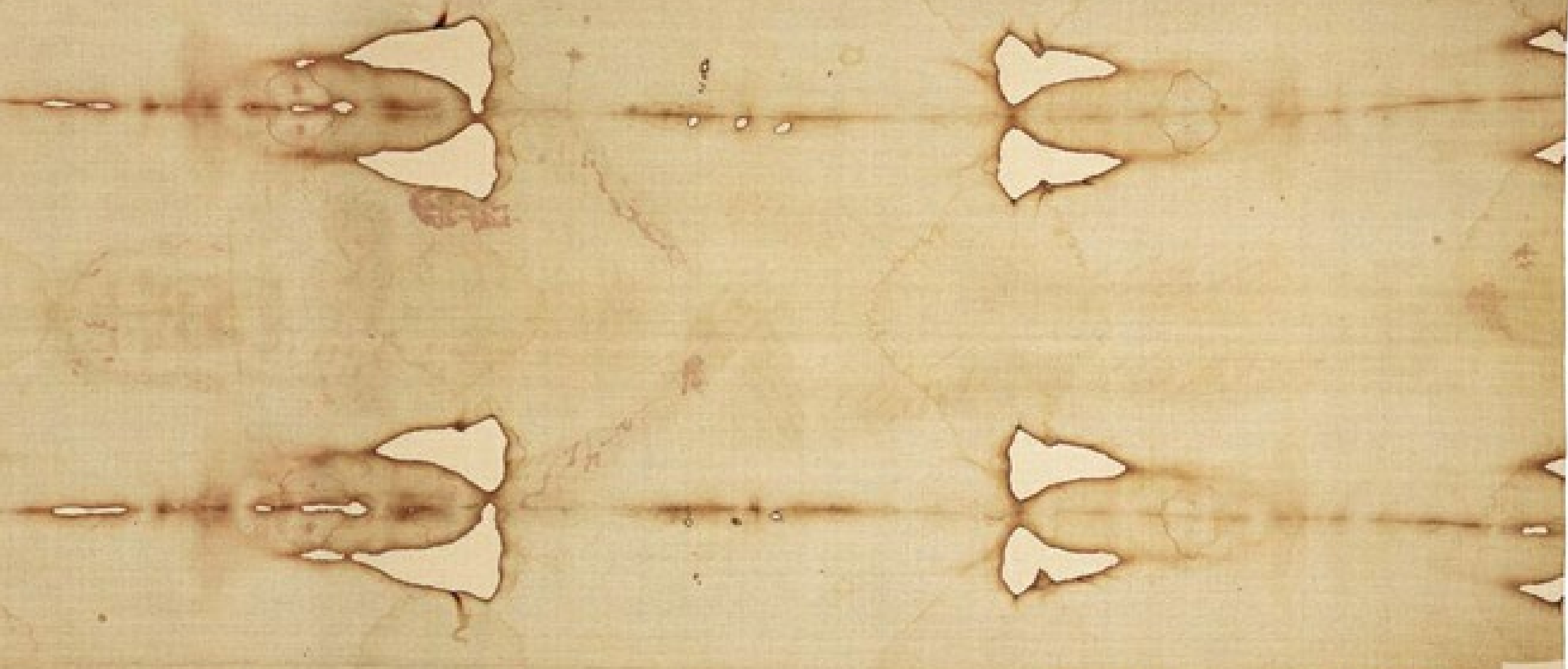
SATOR		P	
AREPO		A	
TENET	A	T	O
OPERA		E	
ROTAS		R	
PATER NOSTER			
		O	
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	O	T	A
		E	
		R	

*Christians in
Pompeii in 79 AD?*



(Greek)
“Alexamenos
worships his god”
Rome 200 AD

Who knows???



Arcidiocesi di Torino

Who knows???



“Beyond reasonable doubt”

Executed in Judea under Pilate and Tiberius – Tacitus

Followers worshipped him as “a god” – Pliny

He was called “the Christ”, his followers were called “Christians” – Pliny, Josephus, Tacitus

His brother was James – Josephus

Many followers in Bithynia and Rome – Pliny, Tacitus