

These two verses tell us, that the head of Jesus was wrapped by a napkin or kerchief while the body of Jesus was also wrapped with a linen cloth.

On the day of Christ's resurrection, we read in Jn. 20:12 that Mary Magdalene "saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain". Their sitting positions indicate that the area between contains the evidence to prove that Jesus had resurrected in that spot and was where the shroud and kerchief still lie-wrapped up.

When John and Peter reached the sepulcher and looked in they saw the burial clothes before Mary Magdalene had noticed them (Jn. 20:4-8). Peter saw the linen clothes (shroud) and also the napkin "soudarion" for Christ's head lying by itself and not with the shroud. This also caught the eye of the apostle John and when he saw, he then believed. John had witnessed the evidence that Jesus had resurrected, that His body was not stolen by friends or foes. Had Jesus' body been stolen, the thieves would not have had the time to unwrap Him.

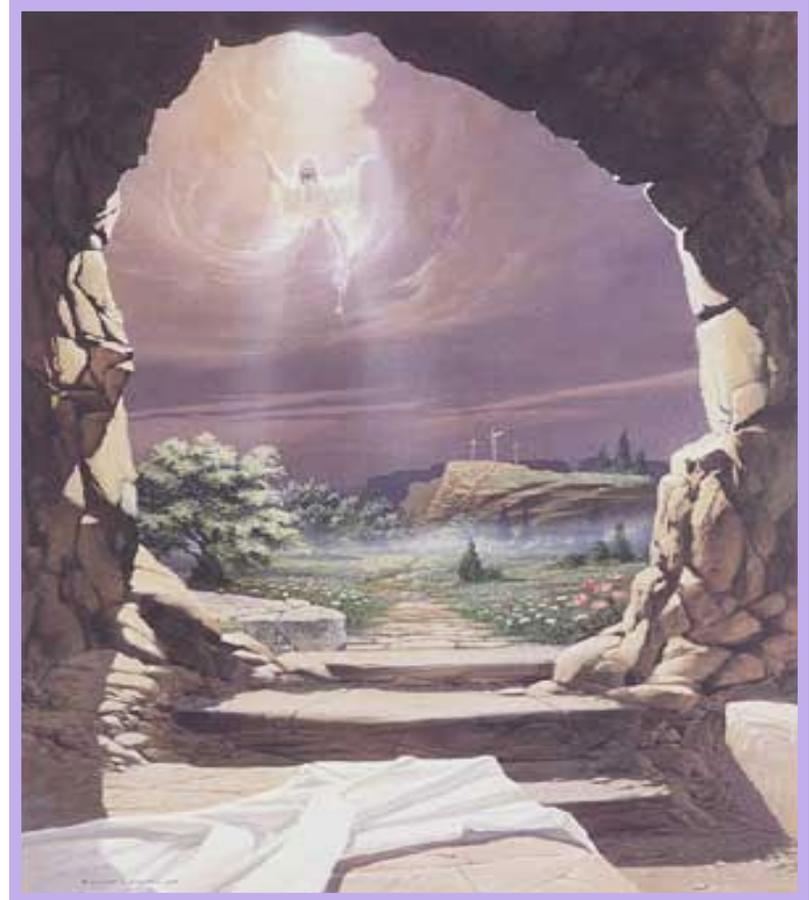
The evidence of the intact and not unwrapped grave clothes, both the shroud and the "sudarion" prove that Jesus Christ rose up, from His sleeping position, right through the wrappings, and then passed through the wall of the sepulcher in His resurrected glorified body. Amen. He was unlike Lazarus who needed to be loosed from his wrappings after Jesus raised him from the dead (Jn. 11:44).

*(excerpted from: www.propheticrevelation.net)



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The Folded Napkin



***...His beloved disciple saw
and
believed...***

Why Did Jesus Fold The Napkin?

In John (20:7) it states: "And the napkin that had been about his head, not lying with the linen cloths, but apart, wrapped up into one place."

*Have you ever noticed this unusual approach to a biblical story? Why did Jesus fold the napkin after His resurrection? As noted above, in the Gospel of John (20:7), the napkin, which was placed over the face of Jesus, was not just thrown aside like the grave clothes. The Bible takes an entire verse to tell us that the napkin was neatly folded, and was placed at the head of that stony coffin.

Early Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb to find that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. She said, "They have taken the Lord's body out of the tomb, and I don't know where they have put Him." Peter and the other disciple ran to the tomb to see. The other disciple out ran Peter and got there first. He stooped and looked in and saw the linen cloth lying there, but he didn't go in. Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, while the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying to the side. Is this important? If so, is it really significant?

The Significance of the Folded Napkin

In order to understand the significance of the folded napkin, you have to understand a little bit about Hebrew tradition of that day. The folded napkin had to do with the Master and servant relationship, and every Jewish boy knew this tradition.

When the servant set the dinner table for the master, he made sure that it was exactly the way the master wanted it. The table was furnished perfectly, and then the servant would wait, just out of sight, until the master had finished eating, and the servant would not dare touch that table, until the master was finished. Now if the master was done eating, he would rise from the table, wipe his fingers, his mouth, and clean his beard, and would wad up that napkin and toss it onto the table. The servant would then know to clear the table. For in those days, the wadded napkin meant "I'm done". But if the master got up

from the table, and folded his napkin, and laid it beside his plate, the servant would not dare touch the table, because the folded napkin meant, "I'm coming back!"

Jesus is Coming Back!

Back in the days of Jesus, the Jews, the Persians, the Greeks and the Romans did not sit on upright chairs around the dining room table with their legs underneath the table to dine. They would usually recline on one side while eating with one hand. There were no forks, no spoons and no knives on the table and certainly there was no table napkin. As one reclined to eat his meal, he first washed his hands in a bowl of water (usually borne by a servant). He may or may not dry his hands with a towel provided. After the meal, he would again wash his hands.

The word "napkin" in Greek is "soudarion" from a Latin word "sudarium". The cloth is akin to our modern day handkerchief, though larger in size, like a bandana or a "mitpachat" (head scarves) worn by Jewish women. The word folded or wrapped found in John 20:7 gives the impression that the "soudarion" was folded like one would fold his handkerchief or a towel.

After Jesus expired on the cross, His body was taken down by Joseph of Arimathea with the help of Nicodemus. Joseph prepared the body for burial. The body of Jesus was wrapped in a clean linen cloth. A single linen cloth, according to Jewish sources, (from the Jewish Mishnah) describes burials in a simple linen shroud, that is not knotted or fastened in any restricting way. This large single piece of linen cloth was wrapped around the body ("soudarion"/"sudarium") was placed over His face and wrapped over and around His head.

John writes that the napkin, that was about His head and not lying with the linen clothes was wrapped together in a place by itself. The word "wrapped" ("wrapped together") comes from the Greek word "entulissō"; meaning to entwine, roll or coil round and round. The napkin was placed over the face of Jesus and then wrapped around His head. The word "entulissō" is also used in two other places (Matt. 27:59 and Lk. 23:53).