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The face of Jesus as a 12-year-old boy.

Technology Shows The Face Of Jesus

A team of investigators is studying Jesus.

That alone isn't anything special, but what one particular team of investigators is looking at is. One team is trying to figure out what Jesus looked like as an adult and a child, a mystery that has intrigued millions for nearly 2,000 years.

New technology might now offer a glimpse of the image of Jesus, something previously left to imaginations.

An Italian group of forensic investigators began with the shroud of Turin, which many believe to be the burial cloth of Christ.

Dr. Carlo Bui, one of Europe's most noted forensic police experts, and his team are using advanced computer technology to reconstruct the shroud's faint image. They found the face of a man who had been tortured.

"The face of the man on the shroud is the face of a suffering man," Bui said. "He has a deeply ruined nose. It was definitely struck."

Then, the team took the same technology used to age missing children and applied it in reverse. They came up with the face of Jesus as a 12-year-old boy.

“There’s this impulse to say this is a question of faith, but now I have science to prove it,” said **Professor James Laine with Macalester College**. “I think that can be a little dangerous.”

Laine is a professor of religious studies. He worried investigators have relied on a science that is not scientific.

“It’s not surprising that he ends up looking extremely European and that it was done by Italians,” Laine said. “It sort of fits with our historical expectation of what Jesus was supposed to look like based on Renaissance paintings or something.”

The final image of Christ as a child assumes the shroud is genuine and there is scientific evidence it is not genuine.

It also assumes the technology used to reconstruct Jesus’ face and to melt away the years is accurate.

Critics think Jesus, as a Palestinian Jew, probably had a darker complexion. There is no way of knowing for sure.