## Who Can He Be?

## David Rolfe

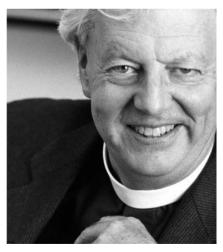
For some churchgoers, and, indeed, even some clergy, being the charismatic and radical 'entity' that Jesus clearly was has been good enough to justify their membership of the church. It can be just a step too far to believe that He did, *actually*, return from the dead and really was the son of the God who set the universe in motion. That certainly applied to me until I encountered His Shroud.

Jesus, controversially, saw 'Himself' as the Son of God and did not shrink from saying so. Whatever our beliefs about this, if any, I suggest we all owe Jesus a debt of gratitude. Why? Because contrasted with its predecessors, our Christian civilisation's humanitarian and charitable ethos derives mainly from His teachings. But, was he *more* than a human like you and me? That is the fundamental question.

There is no doubt that Jesus created a following large enough to disquiet the Jewish establishment and this led to his pragmatic execution by the Roman authorities. But matters did not end there. His followers had clearly witnessed events that had given them the courage to stand up to and, eventually, overcome the most savage of persecutions and to go on to spread the 'Word' about this 'man' into the heart of Rome itself. Once it arrived among the slaves there the only way was up until it reached the emperors themselves and then outwards across their empire and on - even to the woadembellished Picts and Celts of distant Albion.

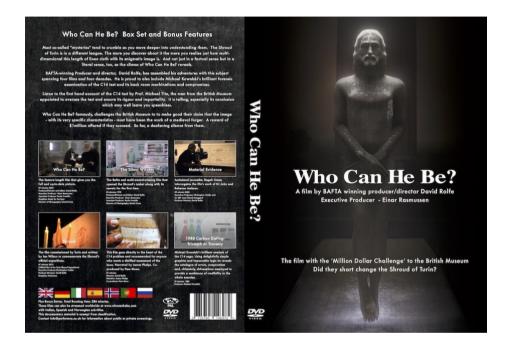
It was a great shock to me in the 1980s when, commissioned to make a series of films on the 'Historical Jesus', I discovered that some high-ranking members of the clergy were of this 'non-divine' view, too. Shortly after series, the (then) Bishop of Durham expressed doubt about the Virgin birth and stated that, "There is absolutely no certainty in the New Testament about anything of importance." It is not surprising that with headlines like this that the established Church in the UK has seen a long slow decline in many parishes.

But the Shroud tells us a different story. Its image is unique. It cannot be reproduced by anything we could ever replicate. Its penetration of the linen cloth on which it lies is measurable only in microns yet, uniquely,



David Jenkins was an Anglican Bishop who questioned some of the fundamental beliefs of Christianity

it bears an image that can be rendered into a fully recognisable three-dimensional victim of a Roman crucifixion. Both ventral and dorsal images - quite separate on the cloth - merge into one as most graphically illustrated in the climax of my recent film. Only a single and highly compromised C14 test has kept this amazing artefact from receiving the universal awareness and respect it deserves.



## Pre-release exclusive offer to BSTS readers.

This new feature-length film with its multiple bonus features is streaming worldwide now and also available on DVD from whocanhebe.com. Members can receive a 15% BSTS discount by going to <a href="https://www.bstsnewsletter.com">www.bstsnewsletter.com</a>, clicking on the BUY DVD button which you will find on the Welcome page and then entering BSTSOFFER when prompted for the discount code.

David Rolfe

Former editor of the BSTS Newsletter and Producer/director of Who Can He Be? <u>whocanhebe.com</u>