

The placement of the Nails.

Some people believe there were 3 nails, some camps believe four. People will ALWAYS ask me where I think the nails were driven. Some believe the hands, others the wrist area.



I believe the hands. I refer to the meeting of Our Lord with Thomas the Apostle and the wounds of Church approved stigmatists.

In the Gospel of John, 20:25 it is written; "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

And in the (*Gospel of Peter, 6:20*) we read; "And then they drew the nails from the hands of the Lord and laid him

on the earth. And the whole earth shook and there came a great fear. Then the sun shone again..."

In 1968 building contractors working in a suburb north of Jerusalem accidentally uncovered a Jewish tomb dated to the first century after the death of Christ. Lying in a Jewish ossuary bearing the Hebrew inscription 'Jehohanan the son of HGQWL' were the skeletal remains of a man in his twenties, who had been crucified. The evidence for this was based on the right heel bone of the individual, pierced by an iron nail 11.5 cms. in length. The nail penetrated the lateral surface of the bone emerging on the middle of the surface in which the tip of the nail had become bent. The bending of the tip of the nail upon itself suggests that after the nail penetrated the tree or the upright it may have struck a knot in the wood thereby making it difficult to remove from the heel when the victim was taken from the cross.



The legs had been pressed together, bent, and twisted to that the calves were parallel to the patibulum. The feet were secured to the cross by one iron nail driven simultaneously through both heels (tuber calcanei). The iron nail contains after its round head the following: sediment, fragments of wood (Pistacia or Acacia), a limy crust, a portion of the right heel bone, a smaller piece of the left heel bone, and a fragment of olive wood.

Now this is interesting, in the photographs and documents from the dig it is written; the iron nail contains after its round head the following: sediment, fragments of wood (Pistacia or Acacia), then it states, a limy crust, a portion of the right heel bone, a smaller piece of the left heel bone, and a fragment of olive wood.

To me this means that a piece of wood similar to what we today would call a washer was used. The piece of wood would distribute the weight more evenly and prevent tearing.

Dr. Fred T. Zugibe, explains that the idea that nails were pounded in Jesus' wrists came from what he terms the erroneous research of a French doctor named Pierre Barbet -- who hypothesized that the weight of Jesus body would have caused nails to rip through His hands and instead postulated that they had been driven between the bones of the wrist at what is known anatomically as Destot's Space.

Not so, says Dr. Zugibe -- who asserts that Dr. Barbet carried out flawed experiments with an amputated arm that was already in a weakened state and that the force on the nails would have been less than many think, with much of the weight in the legs, which were also nailed. In the 1900s Dr. Barbet had taken the freshly amputated arms and stuck a nail in the middle of the hand, suspending weight from the limb. The scientist found that 88 pounds of shaking would cause the nail to pull through.

But Dr. Zugibe says the pull on each arm would have been less than Barbet thought -- more like fifty pounds (with the rest

dispersed to the legs) and that the amputated arm was not representative of a normal arm's strength.

What about those who point to marks on the Shroud that seem to indicate two flows from the wrists?

"After hours on the Cross, you're not going to have two perfect flows of blood," argues Dr. Zugibe, who studied the Shroud under invitation of royalty. "You're going to have a mass of blood. When you're a forensic pathologist you know you're going to have blood over the whole hand and over the whole place.

Dr. Zugibe, who has degrees in anatomy as well as cardiology, and served in the New York area as a medical examiner for 33 years, says that current-day stigmatics who have the "wounds" in their wrists seem to have been influenced by Barbet, whose work began to appear in 1937. "Most of the post-Barbet stigmatists have the wounds in their wrists," he says. "Before Barbet you never see stigmatists with the wounds in the wrists."

Dr. Zugibe points out that the first known stigmatic, St. Francis of Assisi, had the wounds in his palms (according to the majority of artistic images), as did St. Padre Pio, who lived until 1968. In recent years, Maria Esperanza of Venezuela has suffered palm wounds on Good Friday, despite the trend of those with marks on the wrists. Famed mystic Anne Catherine Emmerich, who has influenced an upcoming movie on the Passion, also "saw" the nails pounded into Christ's palms.

While most art and crucifixes shows the nails in the hands, there are depictions of nails in the wrists dating back to the 17th-century Flemish artist Anthony Van Dyck, who lived long before Barbet. But even earlier artwork shows the wounds in the palms.

In descriptions of St. Francis' stigmata, it is recounted that "streams of fire and blood shot from His wounds and pierced the hands and feet of Francis with nails and his heart with the stab of a lance." Artwork of him shows the palm wounds.

St. Francis of Assisi

The [saint's](#) right side is described as bearing on open wound which looked as if made by a lance, while through his hands and feet were black nails of flesh, the points of which were bent backward.

Ven. Anne Catherine Emmerick

At the end of 1818 [God](#) granted her earnest [prayer](#) to be relieved of the [stigmata](#), and the wounds in her hands and feet closed, but the others remained, and on [Good Friday](#) were all wont to reopen. In 1819 the government sent a committee of investigation which discharged its commission most brutally. Sick unto death as she was, she was forcibly removed to a large room in another house and kept under the strictest surveillance day and night for three weeks, away from all her friends except her confessor.

St. Padre Pio

The only difference was that his hands and feet and side were dripping blood. The sight terrified me and what I felt at that moment is indescribable. I thought I should die and really should have died if the Lord had not intervened and strengthened my heart which was about to burst out of my chest.

"The vision disappeared and I became aware that my hands, feet and side were dripping blood. Imagine the agony I experienced and continue to experience almost every day. The heart wound bleeds continually, especially from Thursday evening until Saturday.