

THE DA VINCI CODE – MYTHS AND MISREPRESENTATIONS

WHAT IS THE DA VINCI CODE?

The Da Vinci Code (DVC) by Dan Brown has sold more than 40 million copies and has been translated into 44 different languages. The book alleges that a massive conspiracy orchestrated by the Catholic Church has concealed the facts about the life of Jesus.

Though bookstores categorize the book as “fiction,” Brown claims that his book’s contents are accurate. The opening lines of the book falsely declare: “Fact: ... All descriptions of artwork, architecture, documents, and secret rituals in this novel are accurate.”

These words were not simply content for the opening of a book; Brown fervently defends this statement. When asked how much of his book is factual, he replied, “Absolutely all of it.” However, when Brown’s claims are examined, many of his alleged “accurate depictions” prove to be empty falsehoods and clever fiction.

Dr. Paul Maier, professor of ancient history at Western Michigan University, reviewed the facticity of the book and concluded, “Detailing all the errors, misinterpretations, deceptions, distortions, and outright falsehoods in *The Da Vinci Code* makes one wonder whether Brown’s manuscript ever underwent editorial scrutiny or fact-checking.”

WHY YOU SHOULD CARE

A recent National Geographic Channel survey revealed that 32 percent of Canadians who have read *The Da Vinci Code* believe that the theories outlined in the bestselling novel are true. An Ipsos Reid survey showed that 13 percent of Americans now believe that Jesus was “married and had a family.”

DA VINCI DELUSIONS

Error: “*The New Testament is false testimony.*”

Truth: The New Testament was sealed with the apostles’ blood. They were not mere swindlers and storytellers. They gave their lives for the Gospel. In fact, the Greek word for “witness” — as in the idea of witnessing for Christ — is “martyro,” from whence we get the word martyr. This is because so many of Christ’s witnesses (e.g., the apostles) were willing to lay down their lives in order to testify about the truth of Jesus. Brown utterly ignores this history.

“Everyone is entitled to his own opinion, but he is not entitled to his own facts... [Dan Brown’s] ‘fact’ is just as much fiction as his fiction. *The Da Vinci Code* is chock full of errors.”

— Dr. D. James Kennedy —

Error: The Dead Sea Scrolls contain messages about Jesus, which the early Church tried to suppress. The book also suggests that the Dead Sea Scrolls were “*the earliest Christian records,*” adding, “*They do not match up with the gospels in the Bible.*”

Truth: The Dead Sea Scrolls are Jewish writings that pre-date the birth of Christ. The writings belonged to a Jewish sect living in the Qumran valley outside of Jerusalem. Dan Brown either fails to check his “facts” or deliberately misleads his audience.

Error: The book states, “*The Dead Sea Scrolls were found in the 1950’s hidden in a cave near Qumran in the Judean desert.*”

Truth: The Dead Sea Scrolls were actually discovered in 1947.

Error: The Emperor Constantine created the doctrine that Jesus was divine in the fourth century. Brown writes, “*It was all about power.*”

Truth: After the Resurrection, Christians worshipped Jesus and called Him “Kurios.” When the Hebrew Old Testament was translated into Greek in 150 B.C., Jews used the word “Kurios” to denote Yahweh or God.

In the New Testament, the title “Kurios” immediately precedes the name of “Jesus Christ” over 80 times. Clearly, the various apostles recognized the divinity of Jesus.

Error: “*The Bible ... was collated by the pagan Roman Emperor Constantine.*”

Truth: This claim is utter nonsense! By the end of the First Century, four-fifths of the New Testament was already being cited as Scripture. Long before Constantine was born, the four Gospels and the vast majority of epistles were considered authoritative and divinely inspired.

Error: The Christian Church did not recognize Jesus as being divine in nature until 325 A.D., when the Emperor Constantine urged the Church to approve a new suggestion that Christ was divine. According to Dan Brown, the measure passed in “*a relatively close vote.*”

Truth: Jesus’ divinity was already a settled issue coming into the Council of Nicaea. At issue was a heresy promoted by Arius, who claimed that Jesus was not the eternal God. Well over two hundred Bishops attended the Council to develop a common creed for the faith. The resulting creed specified that Jesus was the “true God” who was “begotten not made.”

Only two bishops (less than 1 percent) did not vote to approve the creed. Hardly the “relatively close vote” described in *The Da Vinci Code*!

DA VINCI DELUSIONS

Error: The Church opposed the Gnostic gospels, because they taught of the “sacred feminine,” and the Church sought to oppress women.

Truth: The Gnostic gospels are notoriously anti-female. For example, in the forged Gospel of Thomas, the apostle Peter declares, “Women are not worthy of Life,” and Jesus responds, “For every woman who will make herself male will enter the Kingdom of Heaven.”

The Jesus Christ of the Bible did more for the emancipation and dignity of women than any other religious figure in history — by far!

Error: “*The marriage of Jesus and Mary Magdalene is part of the historical record.*”

Truth: There is not one single shred of reputable evidence to suggest that Jesus was ever married. None of the direct eyewitnesses even hint at the notion. In fact, Dan Brown hinges this entire premise on two forged apocryphal gospels, written long after all of the apostles had died.

The forged Gospel of Philip, written nearly three centuries after the Resurrection, claims that Mary was Jesus’ “companion,” adding that “he used to kiss her.”

The so-called Gospel of Mary Magdalene was written between 160 and 200 A.D. — long after her death. It claims that Jesus “loved Mary Magdalene more than the others.”

Brown claims this confirms marriage and family.

Error: After stating that the Gospel of Philip referred to Mary as Christ’s “companion,” one of Brown’s characters states, “*As any Aramaic scholar will tell you, the word companion, in those days, literally meant spouse.*”

Truth: The Gospel of Philip was written in Coptic, not Aramaic. In the Coptic language, the term “companion” means “companion.”

DA VINCI DELUSIONS

Error: The Bible “*has evolved through countless traditions, additions, and revisions. History has never had a definitive version of the book.*”

Truth: Dr. N.T. Wright, former Canon Theologian at Westminster Abbey, states, “The New Testament documents are very reliable. We have better manuscript evidence for the New Testament than for any other ancient book.”

OPPORTUNITY TO EVANGELIZE

Dr. Warren Gage, professor at Knox Theological Seminary, has stated, “I think *The Da Vinci Code* provides a wonderful opportunity for Christians to witness about their faith. For those of us that have come to know, like Mary, forgiveness of sins — even notorious sins of the past — we have found forgiveness in Jesus Christ and, therefore, love Him just as much as she loved Him.”

Dan Brown is wrong to insinuate that Jesus and Mary were married, but his instincts are right to see that Christ seeks a bride — the Church.

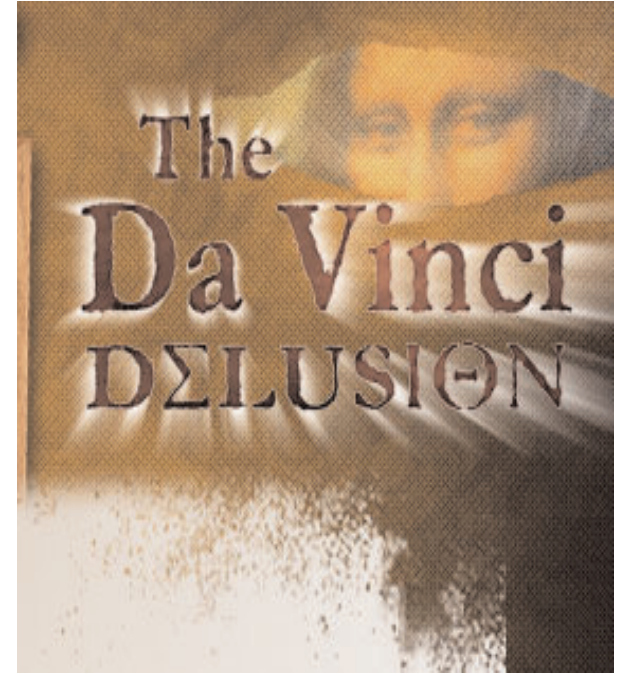
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Dr. D. James Kennedy and Jerry Newcombe, *The Da Vinci Myth Versus The Gospel Truth*, Coral Ridge Ministries, 2006. (Book)

- *Da Vinci Delusion* (DVD), presented by Coral Ridge Ministries. To order, call: (800) 988-7884.

- James L. Garlow and Peter Jones, *Cracking Da Vinci’s Code*, Victor Press, 2004. (Book)

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*Do the claims of
The Da Vinci Code
stand up against
historical evidence
and the Bible?*

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