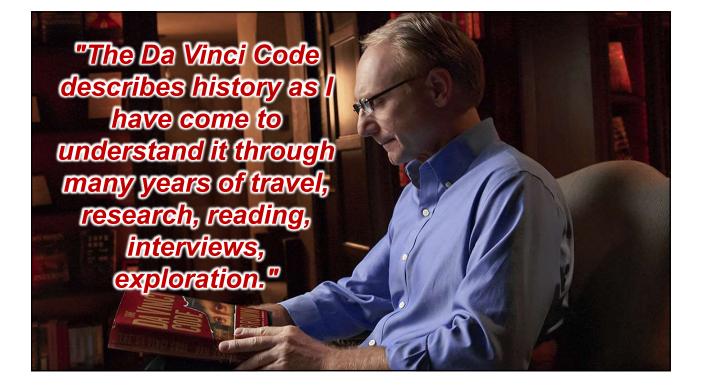
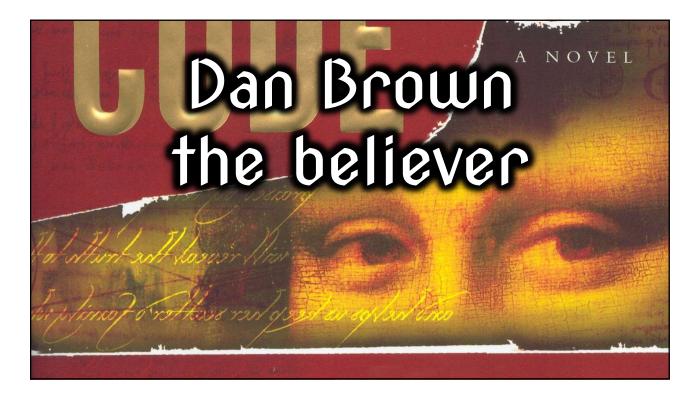
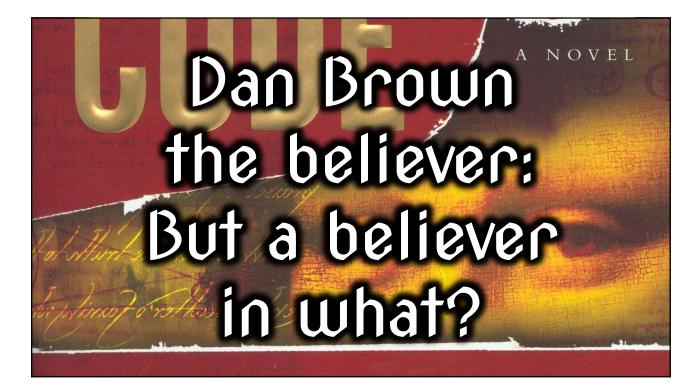


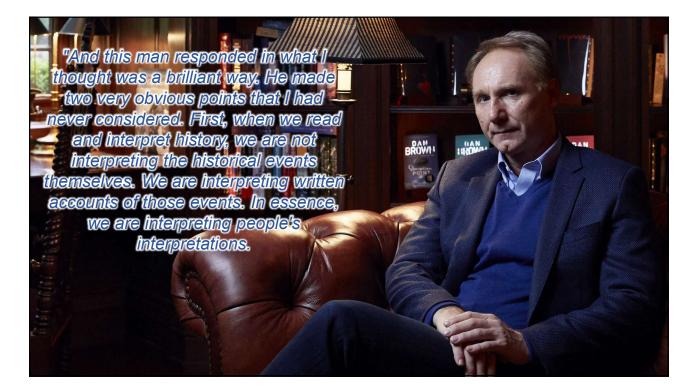
"I wrote this novel as part of my own spiritual quest. I never imagined a novel could become so controversial."







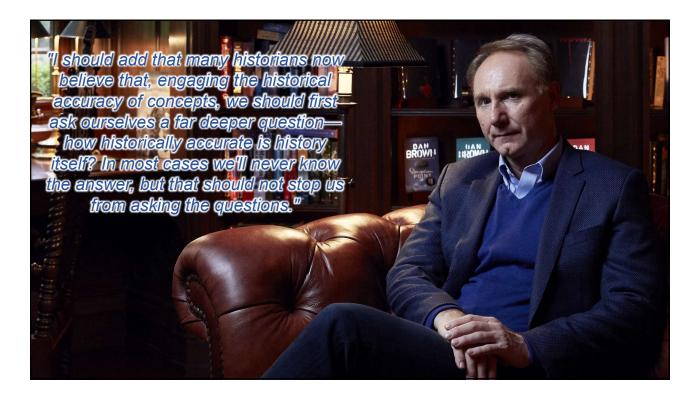
Dan Brown on Historical Skepticism "The further I progressed in my research, the more troublesome the information became to me. I also foundmuch of the information very hard to accept quite simply because the history did not mesh with what I had been taught both in school and in church. Troubled by these differences, I esked a historian triend of mine How do historians balance contrary accounts of the same event?"



BROWH

HRO

And second, since the beginning of recorded time, history has always been written by the winners—those societies and belief systems that conquered and survived. Despite the obvious bias in this accounting method, we still measure the historical accuracy of a given concept by examining how well it concurs with our existing historical record.



BROWH

HRO



# What does it mean to say that a writer "interprets" history?

If he means that the writing of an event is not the event itself, this is a trivial observation and irrelevant to adjudicating conflicting historical reports.

# What does it mean to say that a writer "interprets" history?

- If he means that in the writing of an event, the writer always modifies the nature of the event itself, then how could he possibly know this?
  - He would have to know the exact nature of the event in order to observe that a given writer's reporting of the event was a modification.
  - But then if he has access to accurate knowledge of the event itself, then there is no problem in the first place.

### What does it mean to say that a writer "interprets" history?

- The above criticisms apply *mutatis mutandis* to Browns comment "we are interpreting people's interpretation."
- The fact remains that it is impossible to deny that one can observe history objectively or that one can read someone's observations objectively.

### The comment "history was written by the winners" falsely implies that the winners' reporting of history is false or misleading.

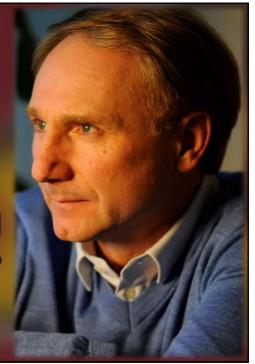
Since the Allied Forces won World War II, does this mean that the Nazis were not as evil as the "winners" have claimed?

### The comment "history was written by the winners" falsely implies that the winners' reporting of history is false or misleading.

It is not true that history is always written by the winners. The Romans subjugated the Jews, yet our understanding of Jewish history during that period comes from such writers as Josephus.

# Dan Brown on Faith and Reason

"I really wasn't sure where to turn. Where science offered exciting proofs of its claims, whether it was photos, equations, visible evidence, religion was a lot more demanding. It constantly wanted me to accept everything on faith. As I'm sure you're aware, faith takes a fair amount of effort."







# Dan Brown on Religion vs. Science

UAI

"Perhaps the greatest scientist the world had ever seen, Da Vinci faced the challenge of being a modern man of reason born into an age of deep religious fervor; an era when science was synonymous with heresy.

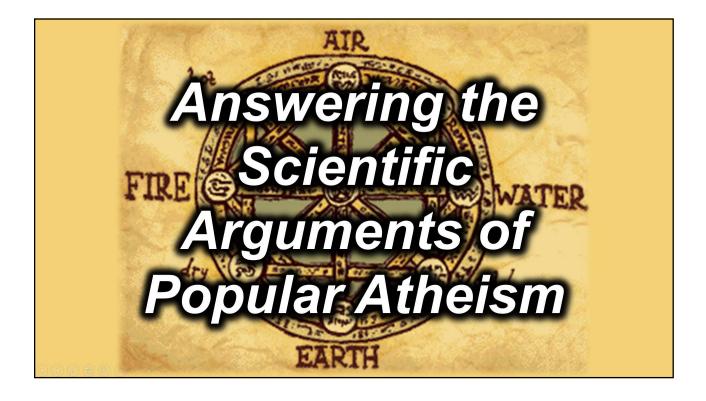
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"Men like Galileo and Copernicus in studying astronomy and the heavens were considered trespassers—invaders in a sacred domain whose mysteries previously had been reserved for the traditional scholars of heaven; the priests."



BROWN

HRO

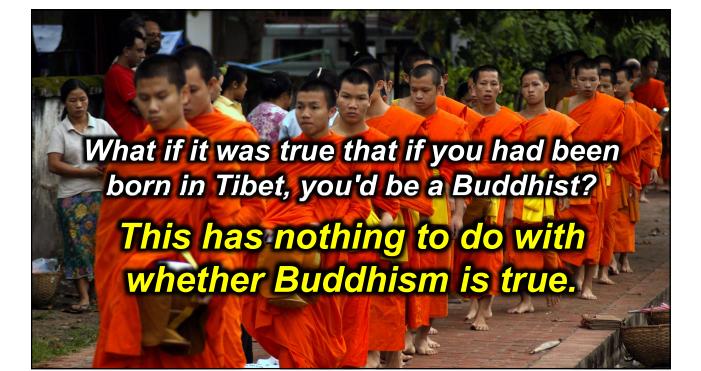


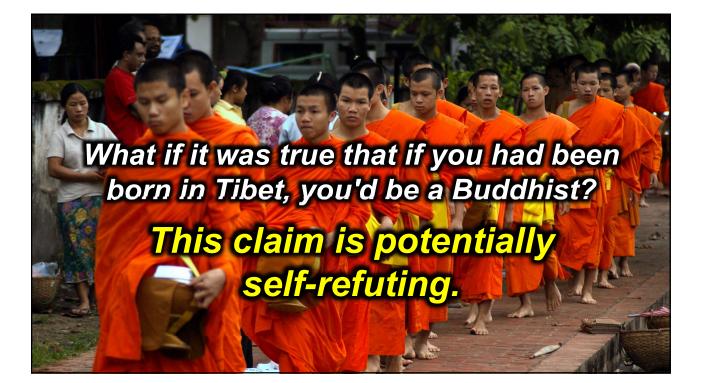
# Dan Brown on Religious Relativism

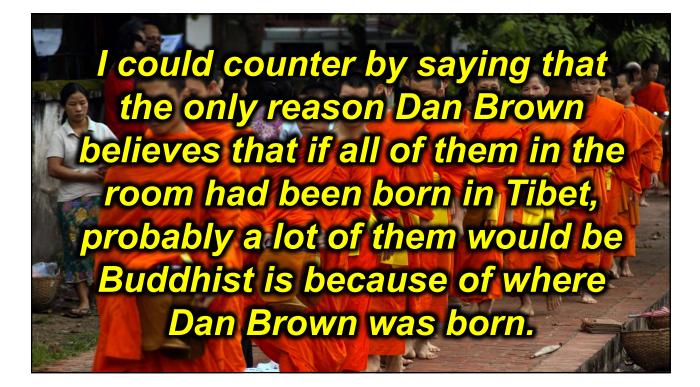


"I humbly submit that if all of us in this room had been born in Tibet, probably a lot of us would be Buddhist. I think the chance is pretty good. And I also think we'd hold on to that Buddhist philosophy with all the passion that some of us might hold on to our Christian ideals."



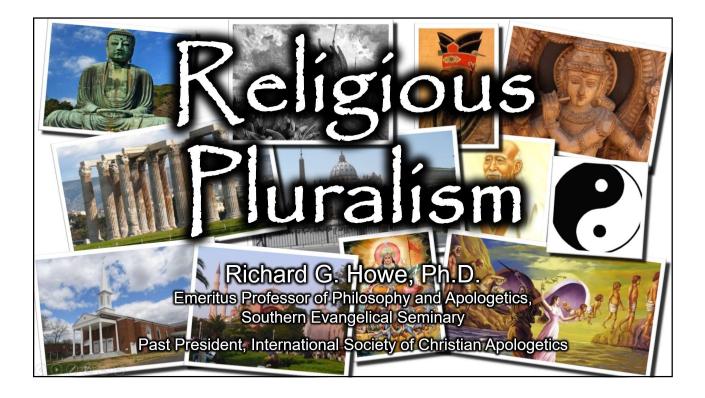




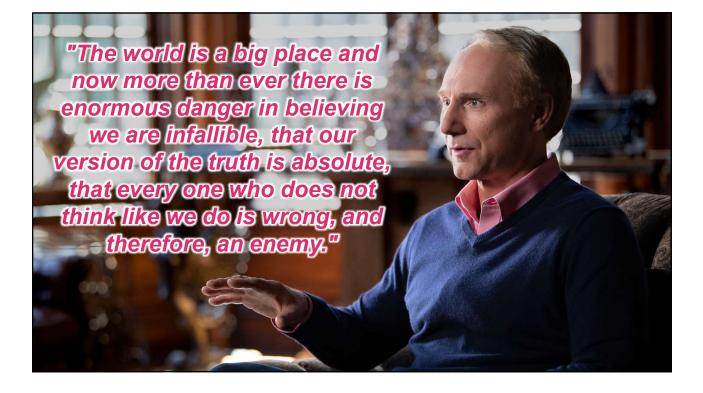


### 🇞 Genetic Fallacy 🛷

the fallacy of suggesting that the origin of a belief is relevant to the issue of whether the belief is true or false



# Dan Brown on the Relativism of Truth



### Dan Brown on Undebatable Truth (when it serves his purpose)

"I'm aware there are those out there ... who disagree with me. Sadly, I think many of these critics seemed to have missed the entire point of the novel. That being this—one simple, undebatable truth: Prior to two thousand years ago we lived in a world of gods and goddesses. Today, we live in a world solely of gods. Women in most cultures have been stripped of their spiritual power, and our maledominated philosophies of absolutism have a long history of violence and bloodshed which continues to this day."



### **Notice the Contradiction**

" ... there is enormous danger in believing we are infallible, that our version of the truth is absolute, that every one who does not think like we do is wrong, and therefore, an enemy." "Sadly, I think many of these critics seemed to have missed the entire point of the novel. "That being this—one simple, undebatable truth:

#### **Notice the Contradiction**

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### **Notice the Contradiction**

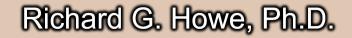
" ... there is enormous danger in believing we are infallible, that our version of the truth is absolute, that every one who does not think like we do is wrong, and therefore, an enemy."

The TRUTH

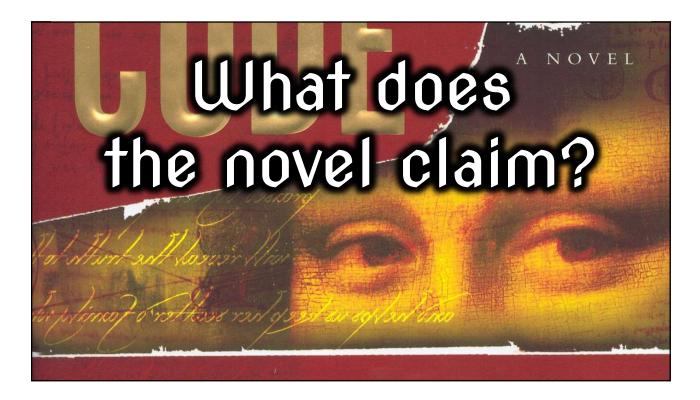
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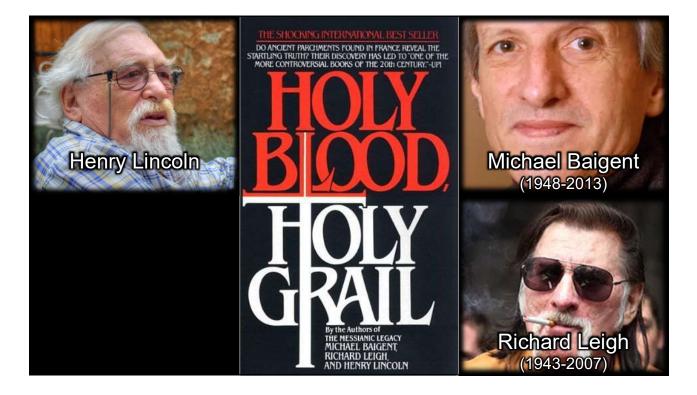
TRUT

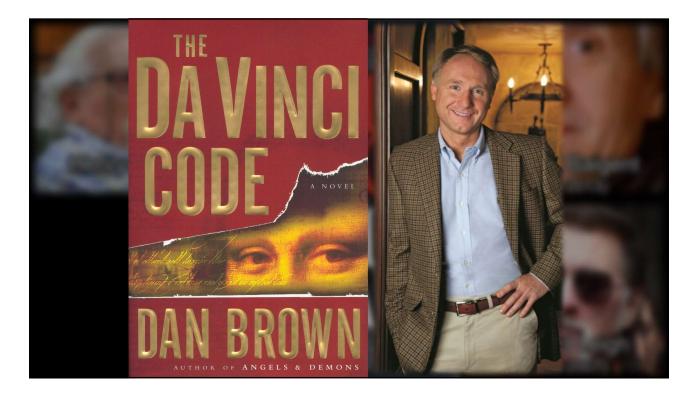
"Sadly, I think many of these critics seemed to have missed the entire point of the novel. "That being this—one simple, undebatable truth:



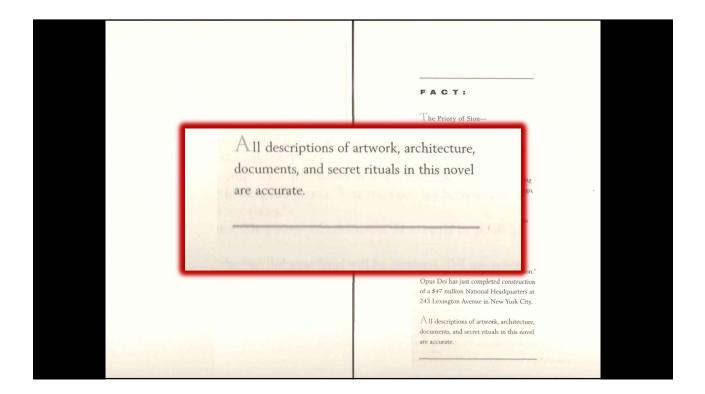
Emeritus Professor of Philosophy and Apologetics, Southern Evangelical Seminary Past President, International Society of Christian Apologetics











Despite Dan Brown's claim at the beginning of the novel, there are many factual errors in the book, including:

In the Novel	In reality
Silas is a monk belonging to the Roman Catholic organization Opus Dei.	Opus Dei (meaning, Work of God) does not have monks.

#### In the Novel ...

The Priory of Sion is an organization founded in 1099 which has guarded the secret of the Holy Grail and which has had numerous luminaries as members, including Isaac Newton and Leonardo Da Vinci.

#### In reality ...

The Priory of Sion was cofounded in 1956 by Pierre Plantard. The organization as depicted in the novel is a legend that was exposed as a hoax. This was admitted under oath by Plantard who had created fraudulent papers making such claims and which he had planted and then "discovered" in the French national library.

In the Novel	In reality
The Roman emperor Constantine is a pagan.	While no one but God knows the heart (Jer. 17:9-10), Constantine professed to be a Christian and was baptized on his death bed.

In the Novel	In reality
The Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in the 1950s and are some of the earliest Christian records.	The Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in 1947. Though some of the scrolls were likely copied during the New testament era, all the scrolls contain material that pre- date Christianity, some as much as centuries.

#### In the Novel ...

"Over eighty gospels were considered for the New Testament." (p. 231)

#### In reality ...

Besides the four Gospels in the New Testament, The Nag Hammadi Library lists fortyfive titles, only five of which are labeled as "gospels." The most generous list of extrabiblical documents has about sixty titles, the vast majority of which are not gospels.

#### In the Novel ...

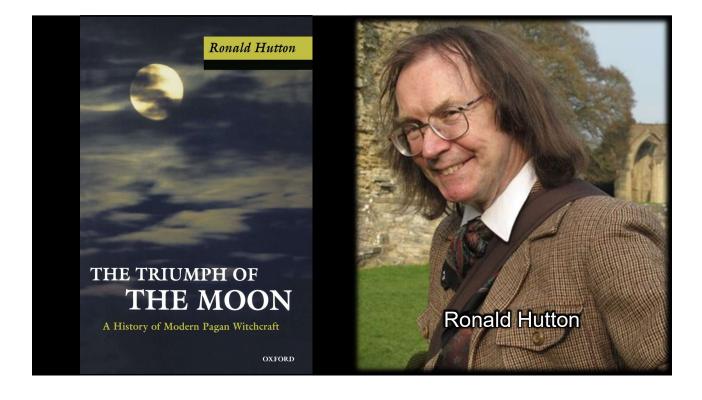
A bloodline of Jesus exists in the Sangreal documents, also known as the purist documents. The novel says that the Priory of Sion created the Knights Templar to recover the documents which were buried and preserved underneath the ruins of Herod's temple which was itself built upon the ruins of Solomon's temple.

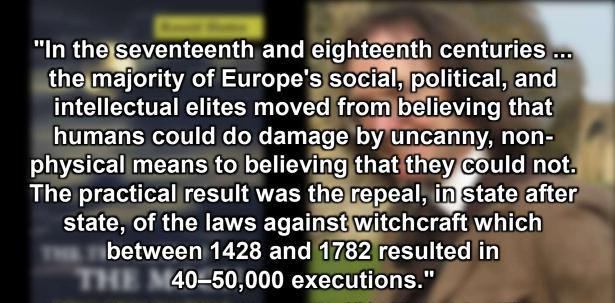
#### In reality ...

Such documents have never existed. The idea was based on the documents forged by Pierre Plantard and referenced by the book *Holy Blood*, *Holy Grafl*.

In the Novel	In reality
The church has murdered five million witches.	While one murder is one too many, actual estimates put the number from 30,000 to 50,000.

In the Novel	In reality
The church has murdered five million witches.	While one murder is one too many, actual estimates put the number from 30,000 to 50,000.





[Ronald Hutton, The Triumph of the Moon: A History of Modern Pagan Witchcraft (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999), 132]

#### In the Novel ...

The church has demonized the sacred feminine and has created the concept of original sin by having Eve taste of the apple, thus causing the downfall of the human race.

#### In reality ...

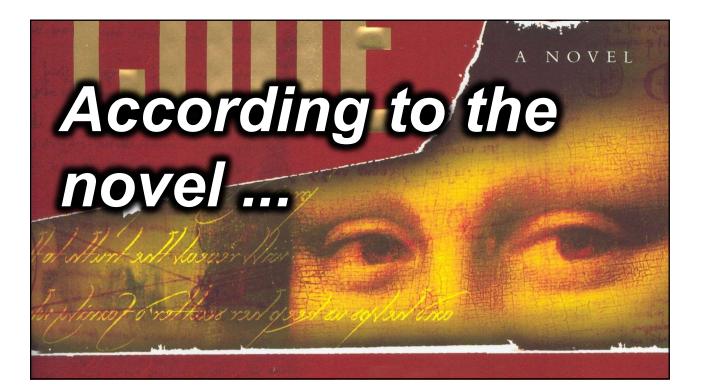
There are two errors here. First, there is no reason to think that the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil which Adam and Eve ate was an apple. Second, the doctrine of original sin refers to Adam eating of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, not Eve. Thus, according to Christian theology, Adam was the one who plunged the human race into sin.

In the Novel	In reality
Leonardo Da Vinci's painting "The Last Supper" is a fresco.	Leonardo's painting is a mural. A fresco is a painting applied to a surface while the plaster is still wet (for which Leonardo's meticulous style was ill- suited).

In the Novel	In reality
Leonardo's painting "The Last Supper" is missing the chalice from which Jesus and the disciples drank.	The legend that there was a single cup from which they all drank (which became the legend of the Holy Grail) is a Medieval invention which Leonardo seemingly discounted. There is every reason to believe that each disciple had his own cup.

More serious errors in the novel which warrant a closer examination include ...

- 1. The Christian doctrine of the deity of Christ was the result of a close vote among church leaders convening at the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD.
- 2. The Bible as we know it was collated by Constantine at the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD.
- 3. The story of Jesus is more accurately contained within the Gnostic documents than in the New Testament and shows a mere human Jesus.
- 4. This story also shows that Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene and fathered children.
- 5. The Christian religion is an amalgamation of themes from several ancient mystery religions.

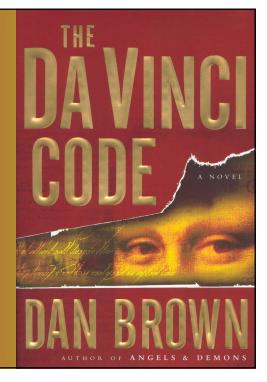


According to the novel, the Christian doctrine of the deity of Christ was the result of a close vote among church leaders convening at the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD.

TEABING: "At this gathering [of the Council of Nicaea], many aspects of Christianity were debated and voted upon—the date of Easter, the role of the bishops, the administration of sacraments, and, of course, the divinity of Jesus."

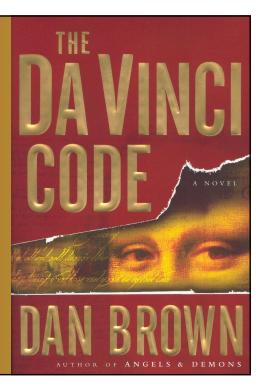
SOPHIE: "I don't follow. His divinity?"

TEABING: "My dear, until that moment in history, Jesus was viewed by His followers as a mortal prophet ... a great and powerful man, but a man nonetheless. A mortal."



#### SOPHIE: "Not the Son of God?"

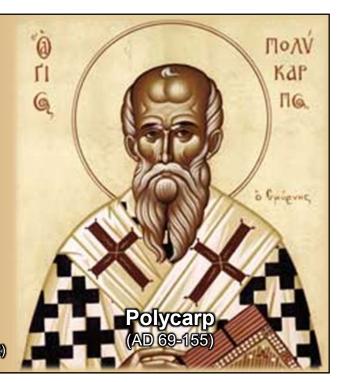
- TEABING: "Right. Jesus' establishment as 'the Son of God' was officially proposed and voted on by the Council of Nicaea."
- SOPHIE: "Hold on. You're saying Jesus' divinity was the result of a vote?"
- TEABING: "A relatively close vote at that." (p. 233)

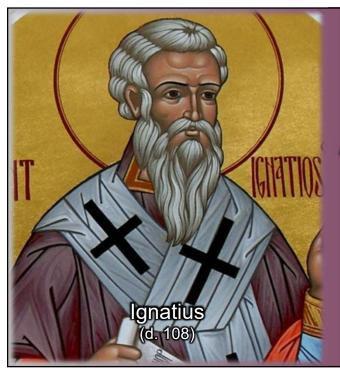




The divinity of Jesus was affirmed long before Constantine and the Council of Nicaea.

"May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the eternal High Priest himself, the [Son of] God Jesus Christ, build you up in faith and truth."



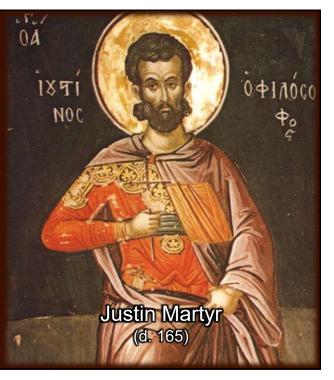


"God Himself being manifested in human form for the renewal of eternal life."

(Epistle to the Ephesians, 19)

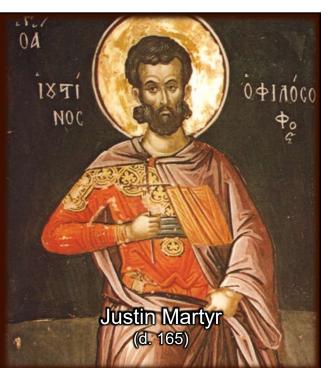
"... the Logos Himself, who took shape, and became man, and was called Jesus Christ ..."

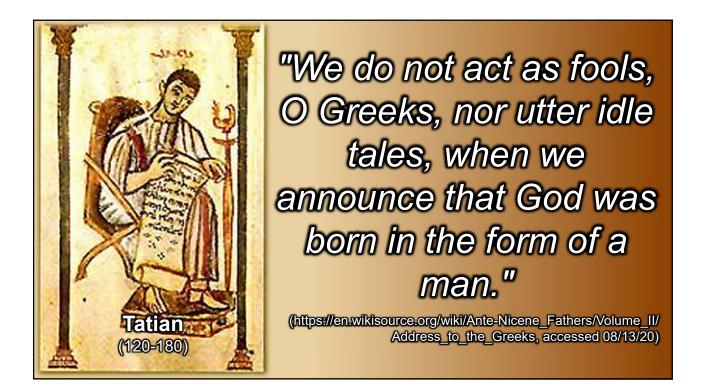
(First Apology 5)



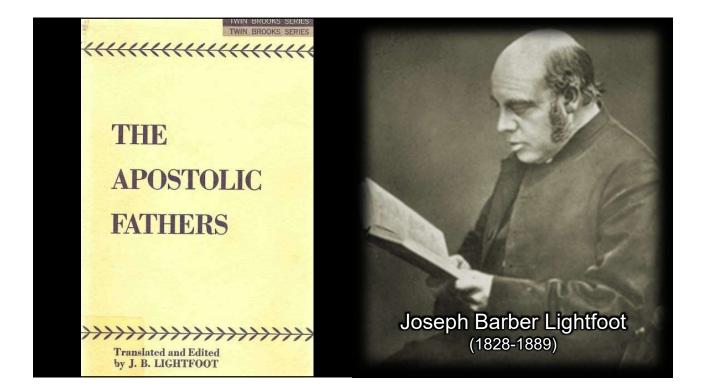
"...the Father of the universe has a Son; who being the logos and First-begotten is also God"

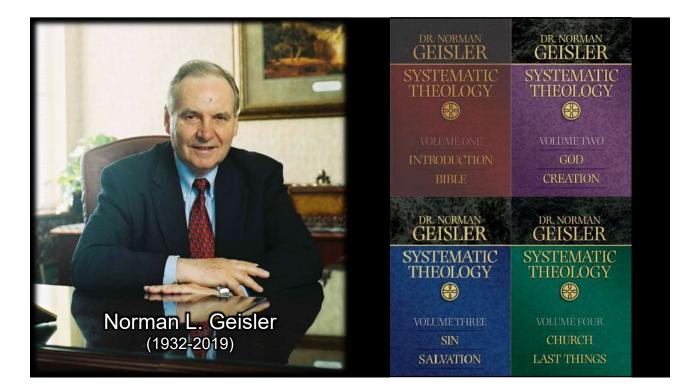
(First Apology 63:15)

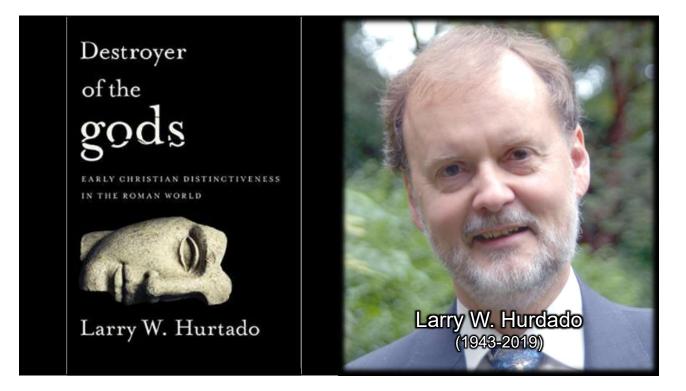








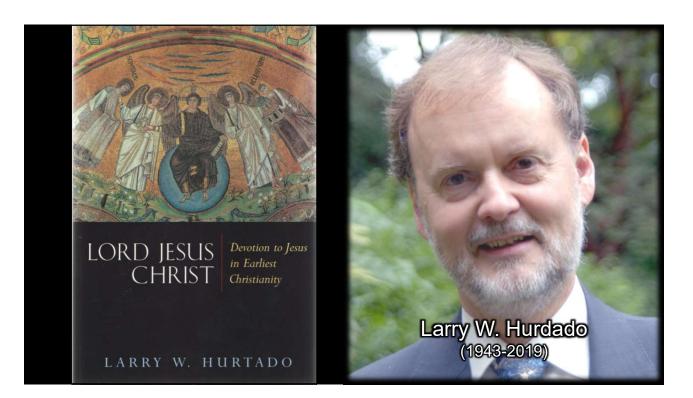


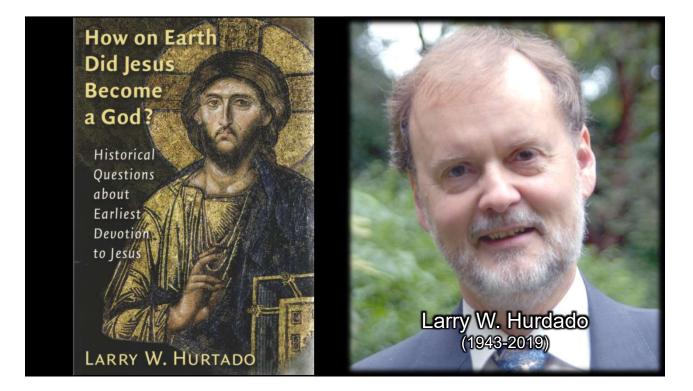


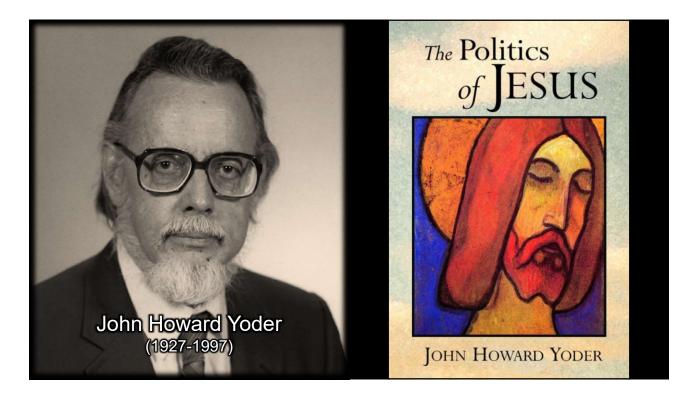
"Christianity did not become successful through Constantine giving it imperial approval. Instead, Constantine adopted Christianity because it had already become so successful despite earlier efforts to destroy the movement."

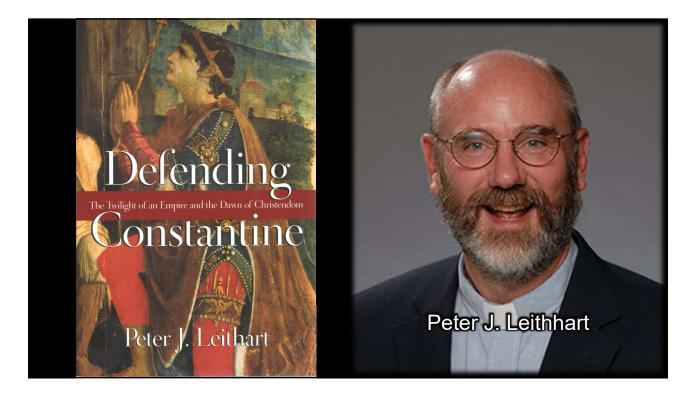
[Destroyer of the Gods: Early Christian Distinctives in the Roman World (Waco: Baylor University Press, 2017), 5]

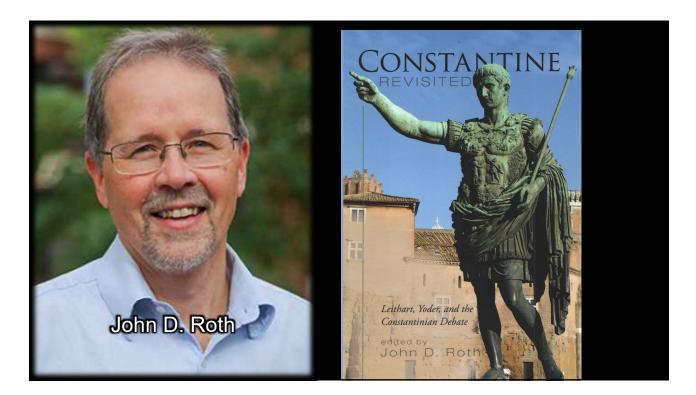




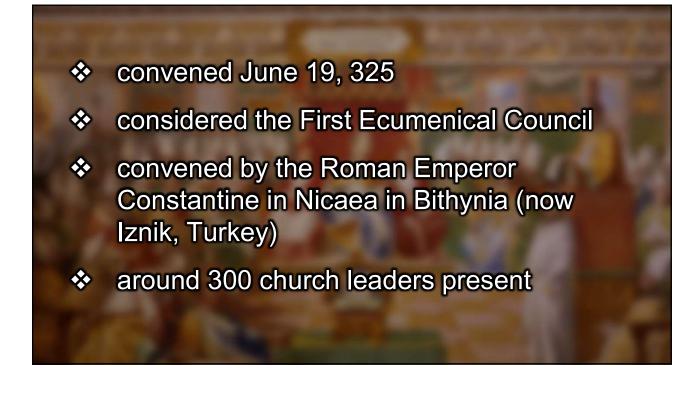














Arias (who regarded Jesus as a subordinate god and of a similar substance (ὑμοιούσιος / homoiousios) to the Father)

Athanasius (who regarded Jesus as co-equal and of the same substance (ὁμοούσιος / homoousios) as the Father)

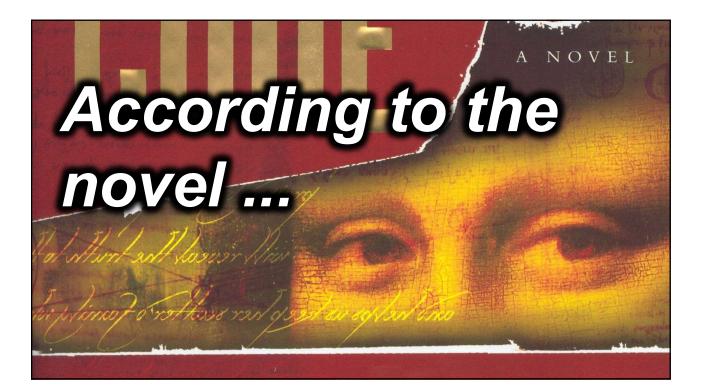
There was no "vote" on the deity of Christ.

The Bishops were asked to sign the final conclusion of the council—which affirmed the full deity of Christ—and only 2 out of the 300 or so refused.

This is far from the "close vote" that *The Da Vinci Code* claims.

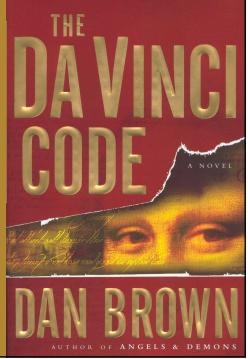
### Conclusions

- ✓ All the church fathers before Nicaea acknowledged the deity of Christ.
- The church fathers often defended the deity of Christ against the heresies that denied it.
- Nicaea formalized what the Church already believed and was defending.



According to the novel, the Bible as we know it was collated by Constantine at the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD.

TEABING: "Constantine commissioned and financed a new Bible, which omitted those gospels that spoke of Christ's human traits and embellished those gospels that made Him godlike. The earlier gospels were outlawed, gathered up, and burned." (p. 234)

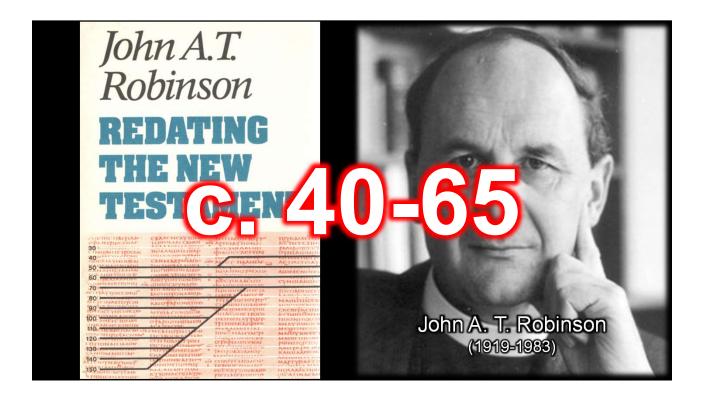


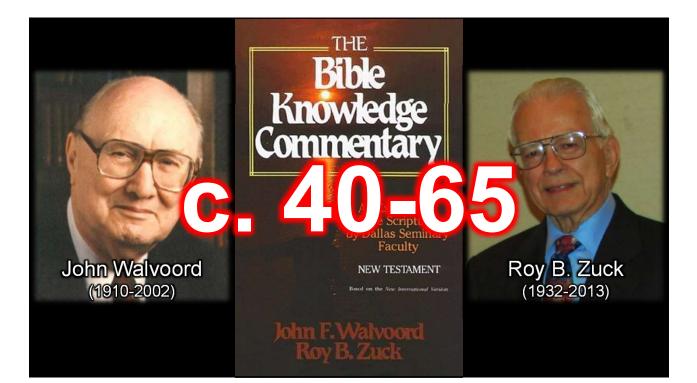


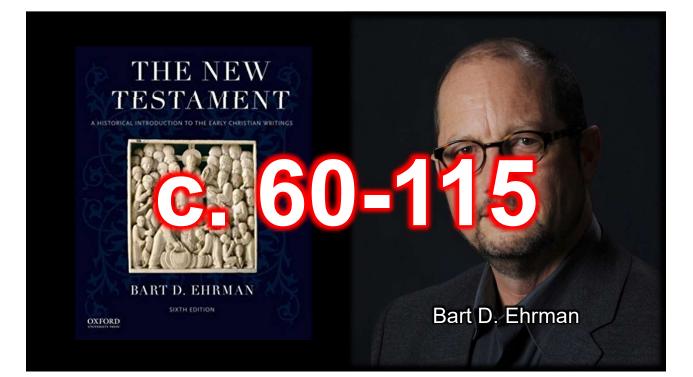
The four Gospels of the New Testament were attested to long before Constantine and Nicaea.

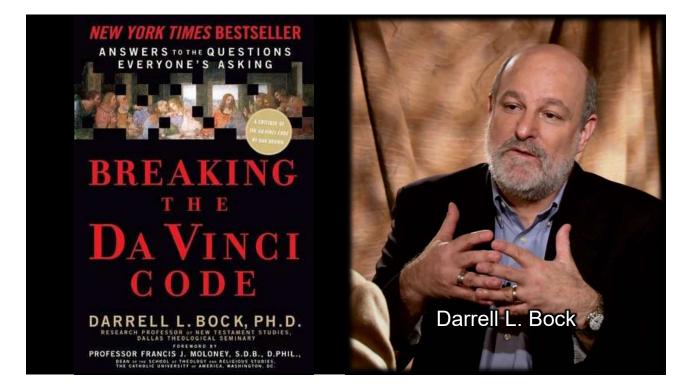
- Epistle of Barnabas (c. 70-79)
- Didache (c. 70-130)
- Papias (c. 70-163) Interpretation of the Oracles of the Lord
- Josephus' Antiquities (93-94
- Clement of Rome (c. 95-97) Epistle to the Corinthians
- Epistles of Ignatius (c. 110-117)
- Irenaeus (c. 130-202) Against Heresies
- Marcion (c. 140)
- Origen (AD 185-254) Homily on Luke
- Muratorian Canon (late 2<sup>nd</sup> Century)

Some scholars give the four Gospels relatively early dates, even within the first century.

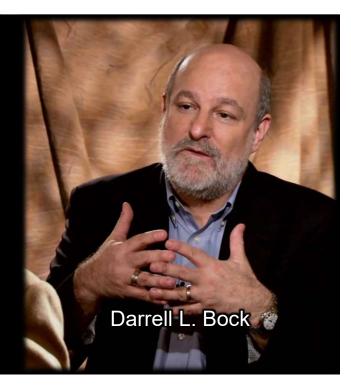




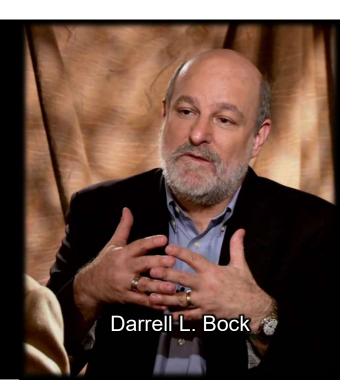




"The Nicene Creed puts in precise philosophical and theological language what had been expressed in more general terms for years. It also affirmed which texts taught such views.

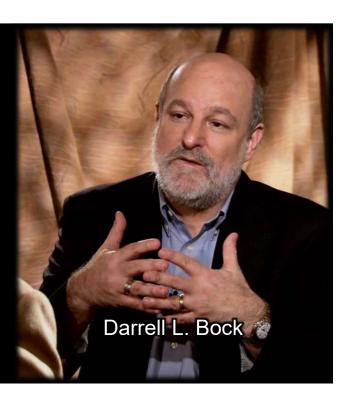


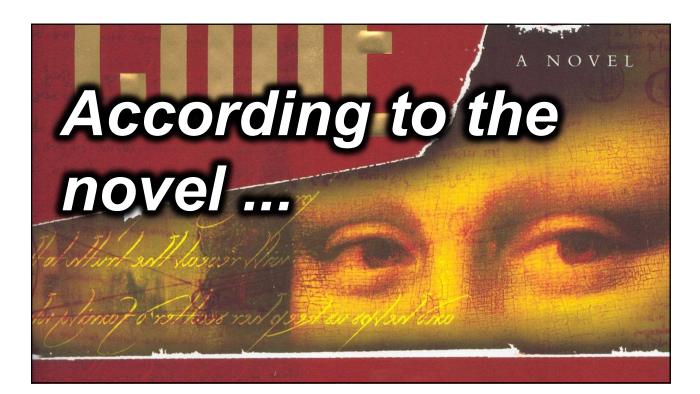
"What is more, the four Gospels highlighted at this council had been solidly established and recognized in these communities for more than a century before Nicaea.



"The vote at Nicaea, rather than establishing the church's beliefs, affirmed and officially recognized what was already the church's dominant view."

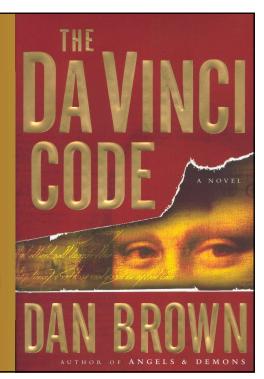
[Breaking the Da Vinci Code: Answers to the Questions Everyone's Asking (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2004), 102]



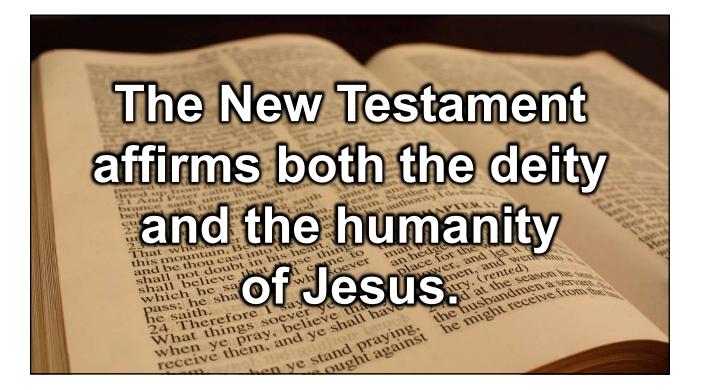


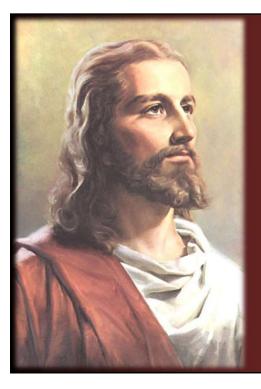
According to the novel, the story of Jesus is more accurately contained within the Gnostic documents than in the New Testament and shows a mere human Jesus.

"And, of course, the Coptic Scrolls in 1945 at Nag Hammadi ... in addition to telling the true Grail story ... speak of Christ's ministry in very human terms." (p. 234)

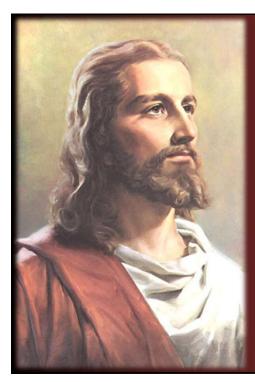




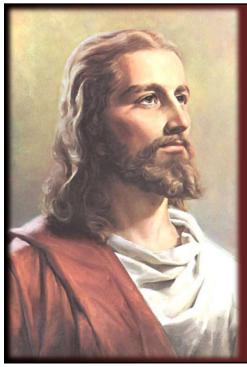




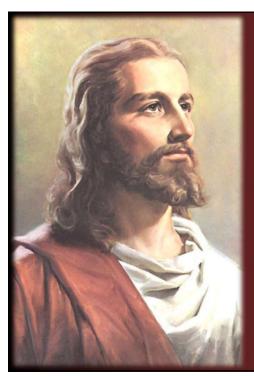
Jesus had a human ancestry. (Matt. 1:20-25) Jesus had a human birth. (Luke 2:4-7) Jesus was human flesh and blood. (John 19:34; Heb. 2:14)



Jesus had a human childhood. (Luke 2:21-22; 41-49; 52) Jesus experienced human hunger. (Luke 4:2) Jesus experienced human thirst. (John 4:6-7)



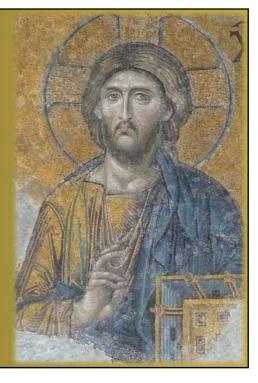
Jesus experienced human fatigue. (John 4:6) Jesus experienced human sorrow. (John 11:35) Jesus experienced human temptation. (Heb. 4:15)



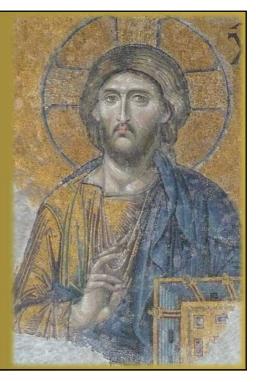
Jesus suffered human pain. (Matt. 26:38; 27:34, 46) Jesus experienced human death. (Matt. 16:21)

[Adapted from Norman L. Geisler, Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1999), s.v., "Docetism," pp. 202-203]

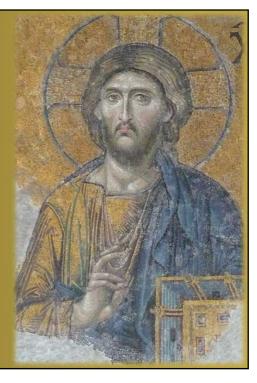
Jesus claimed to have had glory with the Father. John 17:5 (cf. Isaiah 42:8; 48:11) Jesus claimed to be the I AM. John 8:55-59 (cf. Exodus 3:14)



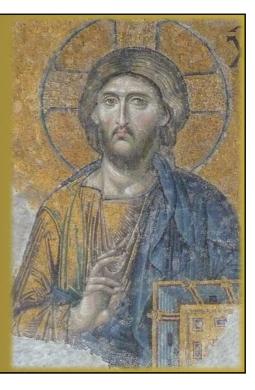
Jesus spoke with absolute authority. Matthew 7:24-29 Jesus claimed that God was His Father. (John 5:17-18) Jesus claimed to be one with the Father. (John 10:30-33)



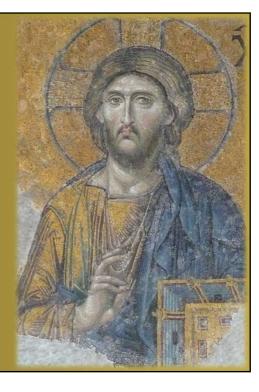
Jesus claimed to come forth from God. (John 8:42-47) Jesus claimed to be the only access to the Father. (John 14:6)



Jesus claimed to be able to forgive sins. Matthew 9:2-7 Jesus claimed to deserve absolute allegiance. Luke 14:26

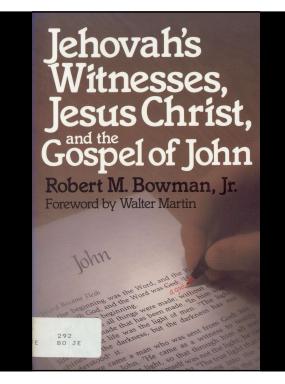


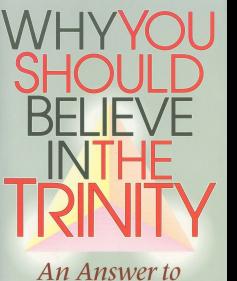
Jesus claimed to be the judge of all mankind, and to dishonor Him is to dishonor the Father. John 5:21-23 Jesus accepted worship. John 20:28; Matthew 28:9; Luke 24:52



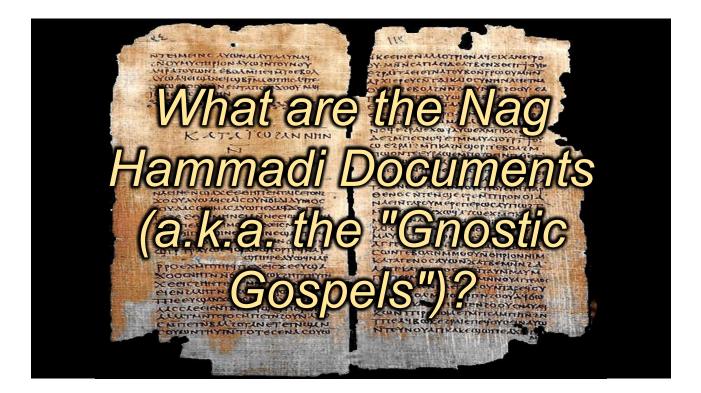
God	Jesus as Man	Jesus as God
God is not man.	Jesus is Man.	Jesus is God.
(Num. 23:19)	(1 Tim. 2:5)	(John 1:1; 20:28)
God cannot be tempted.	Jesus was tempted.	Jesus could not sin.
(James 1:13)	(Heb. 4:15)	(John 5:19)
God knows all things. (Isa. 41:22-23)	Jesus did not know the time of His return. (Mark 13:32)	Jesus knows all things. (John 16:30)
God cannot be seen.	Jesus was seen.	No man can see Jesus.
(John 1:18)	(1 John 1:1-2)	(1 Tim. 6:16)
God cannot die. (1 Tim. 1:17)	Jesus died. (Phil. 2:8)	No one can take Jesus life from Him, it was impossible for Him to remain dead, and He raised Himself. (John 10:18: Acts 2:24; John 2:19-22)
God never changes. (Ps. 102:26-27)	Jesus grew and learned (Luke 2:52; Heb. 5:8).	Jesus never changes. (Heb. 1:10-12; 13:8)
God is eternal.	Jesus was born.	Jesus is eternal.
(Ps. 90:2)	(Matt. 1:18)	(John 8:58)

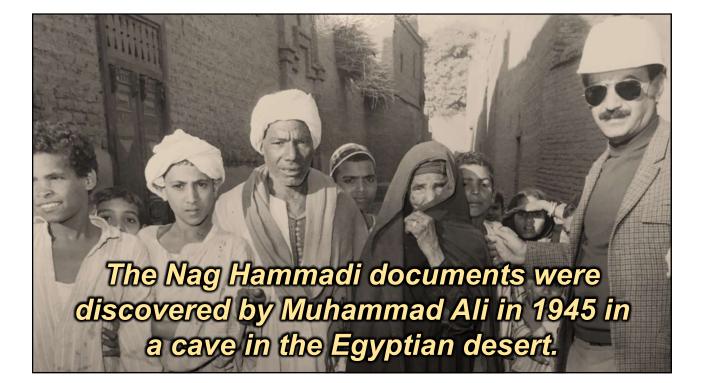
Chart constructed from Robert M. Bowman, Jr. Why You Should Believe in the Trinity: An Answer to Jehovah's Witnesses (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1989), 75.





Jehovah's Witnesses Robert M. Bowman, Jr.





They are 8<sup>th</sup> Century Coptic translations of original Greek documents dating from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> Centuries.

## They consist of twelve codices (books) and eight leaves from a thirteenth.

There are fifty-two separate tractates. Eliminating duplication, this amounts to forty-five separate titles.

#### Codex I

- The Prayer of the Apostle Paul
- The Apocryphon of James
- The Gospel of Truth
- The Treatise on the Resurrection
- The Tripartite
- Codex II The Apocryphon of John

- The Hypostasis of the Archons
- On the Origin of the World
- The Exegesis on the Soul
- The Book of Thomas the Contender

#### Codex III

- The Apocryphon of John
- The Gospel of the Egyptians
- Eugnostos the Blessed
- The Sophia of Jesus Christ
- The Dialogue of the Saviour Codex IV
- The Apocryphon of John
- The Gospel of the Egyptians

#### Codex V

- · Eugnostos the Blessed
- The Apocalypse of Paul
- The First Apocalypse of James
- The Second Apocalypse of James
  - The Apocalypse of Adam Codex VI
- The Acts of Peter and the Twelve Apostles
- The Thunder, Perfect Mind
- Authoritative Teaching
- The Concept of Our Great Power
- · The Discourse on the Eighth and Ninth
- The Prayer of Thanksgiving
- Asclepius 21-29
- Codex VIII
- Zostrianos The Letter of Peter to Philip
- Codex VIII
- Zostrianos
- The Letter of Peter to Philip

#### Codex IX Melchizedek

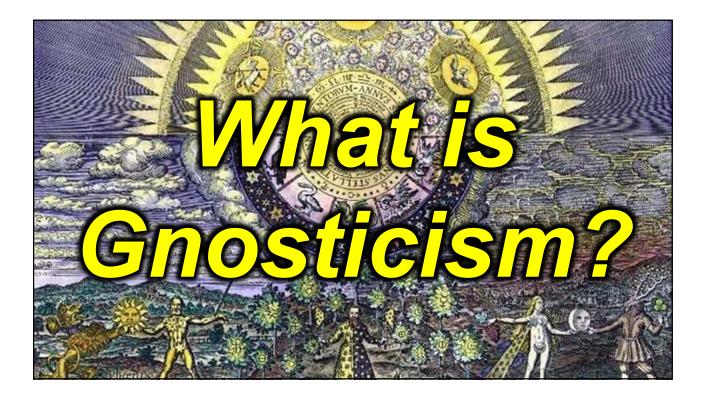
- The Thought of Norea
- The Testimony of Truth
- Codex X
- Marsanes
  - Codex XI
- The Interpretation of Knowledge
- A Valentinian Exposition, On the Anointing, On Baptism (A and B) and On the Eucharist (A and B)
- Allogenes
- Hypsiphrone
- Codex XII
- The Sentences of Sextus
- The Gospel of Truth
- Fragments
- Codex XIII
- Trimorphic Protennoia
- On the Origin of the World

Though they are sometimes called "secret" documents, the texts were no "secret." Their content has been known from the critical writings of the Church Fathers of the 2nd to 4th Centuries.

Nevertheless, the find does let us hear the views set forth by those who held it.

The teachings of the documents are a combination of Christian themes and Gnosticism.

For this reason, they are often referred to as the Gnostic Gospels or Gnostic writings. However, only five of the fortyfive works are in any since of the term 'gospels.' Other Coptic Gnostic documents have also been found apart from the Nag Hammadi documents that are sometimes grouped together with them in translations (e.g., The Gospel of Mary; discovered in 1896.)

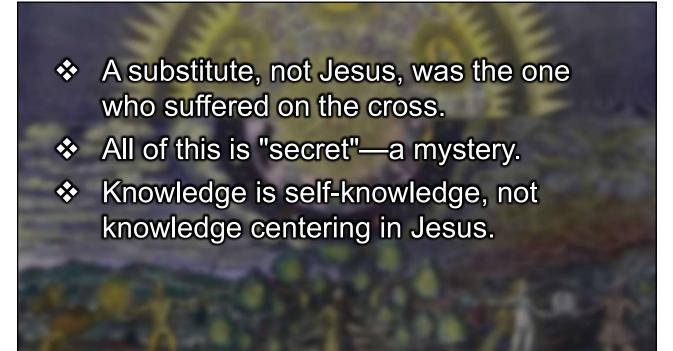


The term 'gnosticism' comes from the Greek word γνῶσις"(gnōsis) meaning 'knowledge.'

It refers to a religious movement which began to flourish toward the end of or soon after the apostolic era. The movement taught that one is saved, not because of any atoning work of a Savior, but through a secret knowledge.



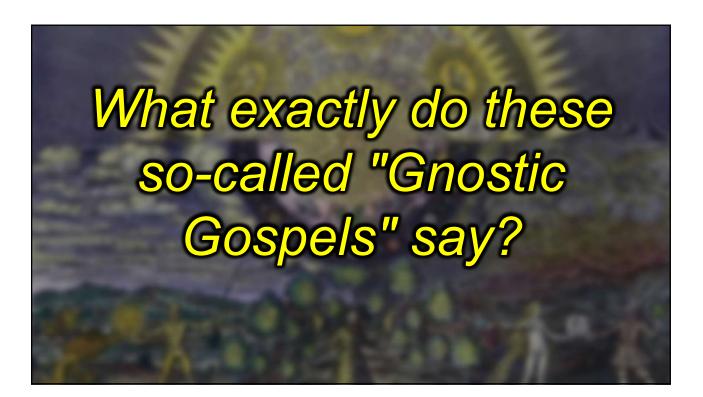
- The True God is a pure, immaterial fullness of light, removed from the creation.
- The material world is evil and is not a subject of ultimate redemption in the end.



## Remember in the novel what Teabing said ...

"And, of course, the Coptic Scrolls in 1945 at Nag Hammadi. In addition to telling the truth Grail story, these documents speak of Christ in very human terms."

(p. 234)



# Some of the material is quite incoherent.

"Jesus said 'Blessed is he who came into being before he came into being."

(The Gospel of Thomas, 19)

"[His disciples] said to [Jesus], 'Shall we then, as children, enter the kingdom?' Jesus said to them, 'When you make the two one, and when you make the inside like the outside and the outside like the inside, and the above like the below, and when you make the male and the female one and the same, so that the male not be male nor the female, female; and when you fashion eyes in place of an eye, and a hand in place of a hand, and a foot in place of a foot, and a likeness in place of a likeness; then will you enter [the kingdom]."

(The Gospel of Thomas, 22)

Thus, it is difficult to glean a consistent picture of anything in the documents, though many of the teachings fall within a Gnostic world view.

There is a distinction between the Living Jesus and the fleshly Jesus, the latter alone being the one who was crucified.

"I saw him apparently being seized by them. And I said, 'What am I seeing, O Lord? Is it really you whom they take? And are you holding on to me? And are they hammering the feet and hands of another? Who is this one above the cross, who is glad and laughing?' The Savior said to me, 'He whom you saw being glad and laughing above the cross is the Living Jesus. But he into whose hands and feet they are driving the nails is his fleshly part, which is the substitute.'"

(Apocalypse of Peter 81:4-21)

"It was another ... who drank the gall and the vinegar; it was not I. They struck me with the reed; it was another, Simon, who bore the cross on his shoulder. It was another upon whom they placed the crown of thorns. But I was rejoicing in the height ... over their error ... And I was laughing at their ignorance."

(Second Treatise of the Great Seth 56:6-19)

# Interestingly, compare this to the Quran.

### 🎐 Sura 4:158 🛩

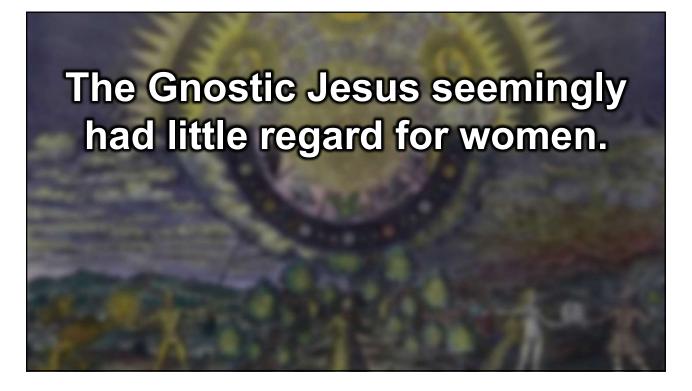
"... but they did not kill him, and they did not crucify him, but a similitude was made for them. And verily, those who differ about him are in doubt concerning him; they have no knowledge concerning him, but only follow an opinion. They did not kill him, for sure! nay, God raised him up unto Himself; for God is mighty and wise!"

The true identity of the Gnostic Jesus seems to reside in his transcendence apart from his incarnation. "I am the one who was sent down in the body because of the seed which had fallen away. And I came down into their mortal mold. But they did not recognize me; they were thinking of me that I was a mortal man."

(The Letter of Peter to Philip, 136:16-23)

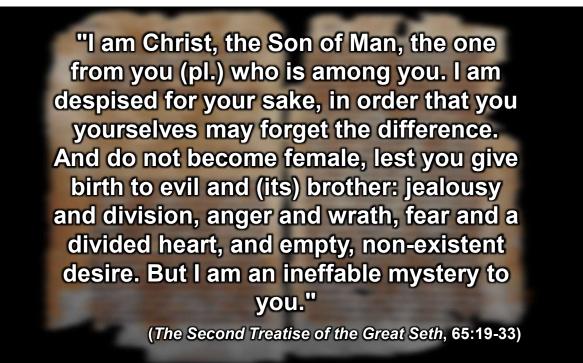
The Gnostic Jesus is presented as an exalted being and an associate of the ineffable one. "I am Jesus Christ, the Son of Man, who is exalted above the heavens, O perfect and incorruptible ones, because of the incorruptible and perfect mystery and the ineffable one. But they think that we decreed them before the foundation of the world in order that, when we emerge from the places of the world, we may present there the symbols of incorruption from the spiritual union unto knowledge. You (pl.) do not know it because the fleshly cloud overshadows you. But I alone am the friend of Sophia. I have been in the bosom of the father from the beginning, in the place of the sons of the truth, and the Greatness. Rest then with me, my fellow spirits and my brothers, for ever.

(The Second Treatise of the Great Seth, 69:22-70:11)



"Simon Peter said to them, 'Let Mary leave us, for women are not worthy of life.' Jesus said 'I myself shall lead her in order to make her male, so that she too may become a living spirit resembling you males. For every woman who will make herself male will enter the kingdom of heaven.'"

(The Gospel of Thomas, 114)



# The Gnostic Jesus seemingly had little regard for human sexuality..

"Then the savior continued, saying, ... "Woe to you (pl.) who love intimacy with womankind and polluted intercourse with them!"

(The Book of Thomas the Contender, 144.9)

"But the Son of Man [came] forth from Imperishability [being] alien to defilement. He came [to the] world by the Jordan river, and immediately the Jordan [turned] back. And John bore witness to the [descent] of Jesus. For it is he who saw the [power] which came down upon the Jordan river; for he knew that the dominion of carnal procreation had come to an end. The Jordan river is the power of the body, that is, the senses of pleasures. The water of the Jordan is the desire for sexual intercourse. John is the archon of the womb."

(The Testimony of Truth, 30:19-31:6)

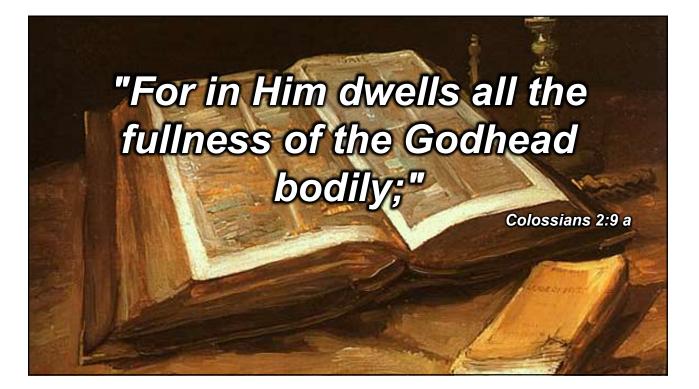
The Gnostic Jesus seemingly had little regard for decency although the language could be metaphorical for the physical body. "His disciples said, 'When will you become revealed to us and when shall we see you?' Jesus said, 'When you disrobe without being ashamed and take up your garments and place them under your feet like little children and tread on them, then [will you see] the son of the living one, and you will not be afraid."

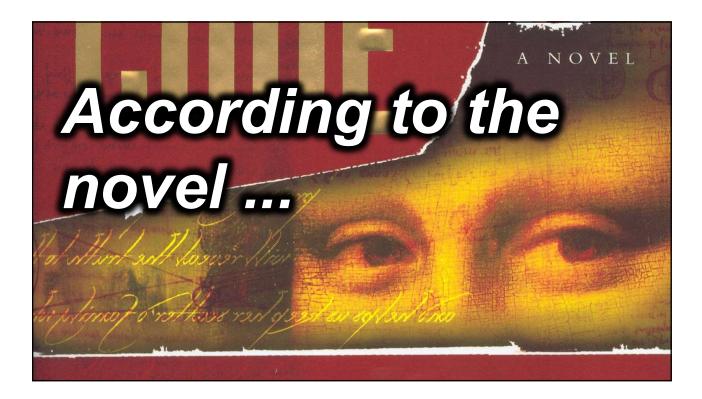
(The Gospel of Thomas, 37)

## Conclusion

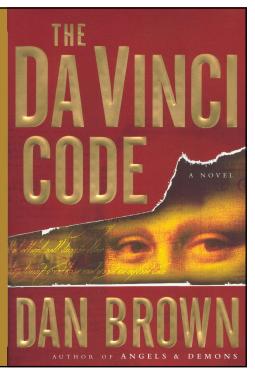
- The overwhelming evidence indicates that the writings of the New Testament, which are earlier than the Gnostic writings and which were written either by eye-witnesses or those closely associated with eye-witnesses, give a much more accurate portrayal of who Jesus was than the Gnostic writings.
- What is more, the views of the first generation of Christians as contained in their extensive writings corroborate this same portrayal of Jesus and stand in stark contrast to these Gnostic writings.
- Last, while the Gnostic documents paint a picture of a metaphysical Jesus, the New Testament shows that Jesus was both God and man; God incarnate; one person with two natures.

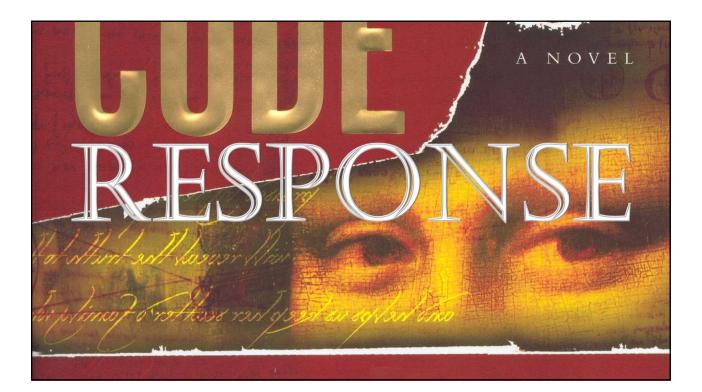
"Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross!





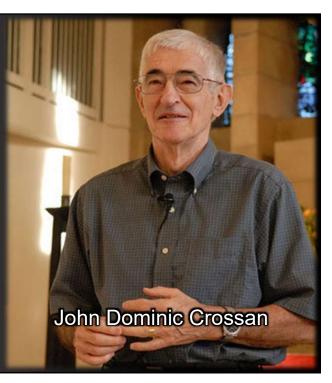
According to the novel, the story also shows that Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene and fathered children. "As I mentioned," Teabing clarified, "the early Church needed to convince the world that the mortal prophet Jesus was a divine being. Therefore, any gospels that described earthly aspects of Jesus' life had to be omitted from the Bible. Unfortunately for the early editors, one particularly troubling earthly theme kept recurring in the gospels. Mary Magdalene." He paused. "More specifically, her marriage to Jesus Christ." (p. 244)





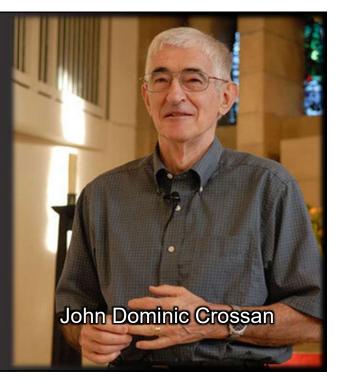
There is no reason to believe that Jesus was married.

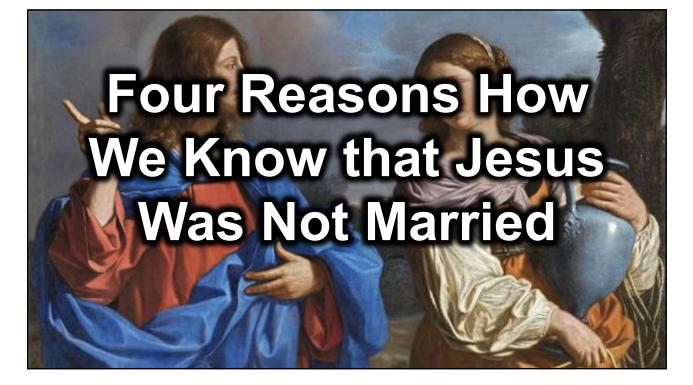
When asked about the historical evidence whether Jesus was married, the liberal Jesus Seminar scholar John Dominic Crossan quipped: "There is an ancient and venerable principle of biblical exegesis which states that if it looks like a duck, walks like a duck, and quacks like a duck, it must be a camel in disguise. So let's apply that to whether or not Jesus was married.



"There is no evidence that Jesus was married (looks like a duck), multiple indications that he was not (walks like a duck), and no early texts suggesting wife or children (quacks like a duck) ... so he must be an incognito bridegroom (camel in disguise)."

[Cited in Darrell L. Bock, Breaking the Da Vinci Code: Answers to the Questions Everyone is Asking (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2004), 32-33]



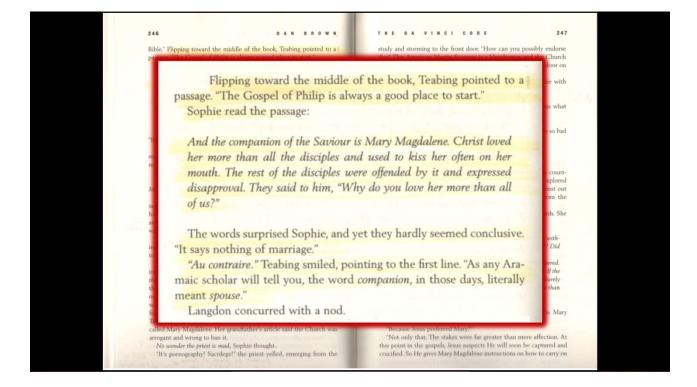


It was not contrary to social decorum for a Jewish man to be unmarried.

- Some say that Jesus was married because he was a Rabbi. Even if it could be argued that Rabbis normally were married, Jesus was not, strictly speaking, a Rabbi.
- Jesus talks about "eunuchs for the kingdom" (Matthew 19:10-12) and appears to model it after Himself.
- The Essenes were known for their emphasis on celibacy (Josephus, Antiquities 18.1.5.21; Jewish War 2.8.2.121-122; Philo, Hypothetica 11.14-18).

There is absolutely no historical evidence nor any historical document that attest to Jesus being married.

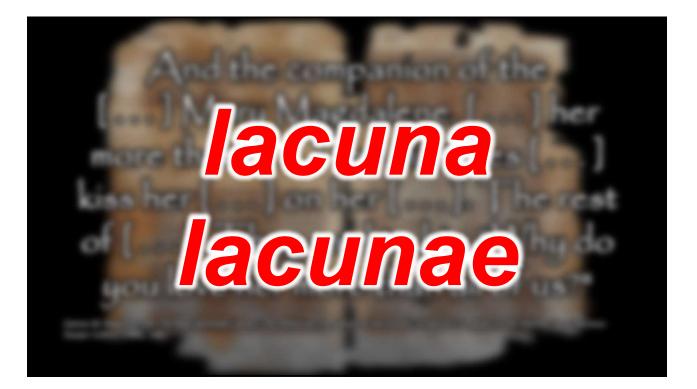
- The writings from the period of the early Church take up about thirty-eight volumes, yet there is not one intimation that Jesus was married.
- Even the Gnostic writings to which Dan Brown makes so much appeal (Nag Hammadi and others) lack any indication of Jesus being married.

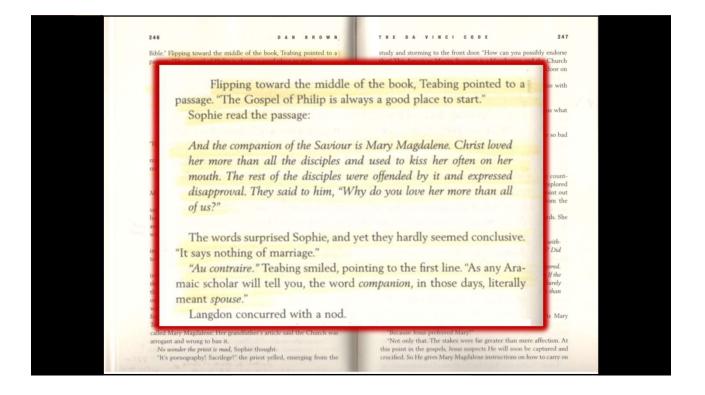


The text of The Gospel of Philip does not say that Jesus kissed her on the mouth. The translation is actually an embellishment. In reality it reads:

And the companion of the [...] Mary Magdalene. [...] her more than [...] the disciples [...] kiss her [...] on her [...]. The rest of [...]. They said to him "Why do you love her more than all of us?" And the companion of the [...] Mary Magdalene. [...] her more than [...] the disciples [...] kiss her [...] on her [...]. The rest of [...]. They said to him "Why do you love her more than all of us?"

[James M. Robinson, ed. The Nag Hammadi Library: The Definitive Translation of the Gnostic Scriptures Complete in One Volume (San Francisco: Harper Collins, 1988), 148]





#### Aramaic?

- In the novel, Teabing says "any Aramaic scholar" but the Gospel of Philip as we have it today is a Coptic translation of a Greek document. Thus, there is no Aramaic word to translate.
- Even if one argued that it was likely that Jesus spoke Aramaic, there is no way to know what the Aramaic word was that Jesus used.
- Apparently, the script writer heard the criticisms and deleted the reference to Aramaic in the movie version.

#### **Kissing**?

- If their kissing hints that they were married, what are we to make of Judas kissing Jesus in Matt. 26:49?
- The fact is that in that culture kissing was a common gesture of hospitality and affection among friends. (Rom. 16:16)

#### **Offensive?**

- The way Teabing is interpreting the passage, in the Gospel of Philip the disciples seem to be offended that Jesus would kiss Mary Magdalene.
- But if Jesus and Mary were married (as surely the disciples would have known) why would they be offended at a man kissing his own wife?

#### Love?

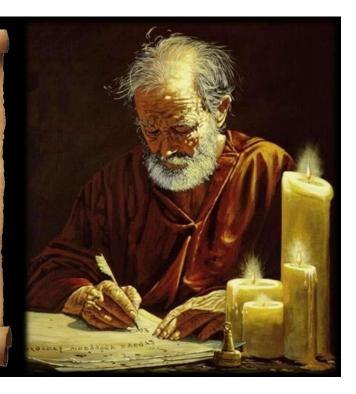
- Further, the disciples ask "Why do you love her more than all of us?"
- But if Jesus and Mary Magdalene were married then this seems to be a ridiculous question to ask a man regarding his wife.
- They would in effect be asking "Why do you love your wife more that a group of us guys?"

#### **Favoritism?**

- If the disciples were offended that Jesus seemed to show favoritism to Mary Magdalene, this seems to be evidence that in their minds there was no good reason for Him to do so.
- Clearly, even in the Gospel of Philip, in their minds there was no special relationship between Jesus and Mary Magdalene.

It is conspicuous that Paul in 1 Cor. 9:4-5, when defending the right of the apostles to be accompanied by their believing wives, refers to the other apostles and even to the Lord's brothers, but does not mention Jesus.

Do we have no right to eat and drink? Do we have no right to take along a believing wife, as do also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas?



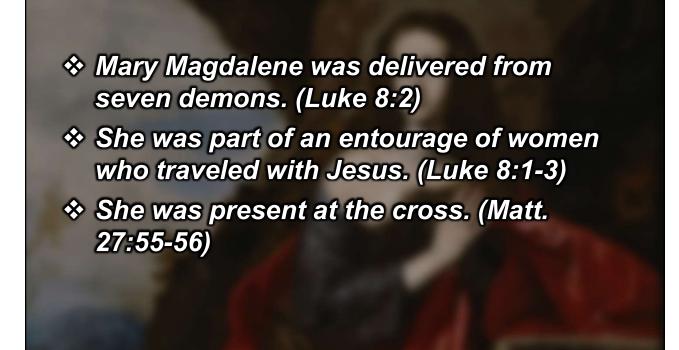
All of our discussion about whether Jesus was married has assumed a rather straightforward understanding of what we mean by 'marriage'.

However, the theological significance of the matter is that in a very important sense, Jesus is engaged and will someday be married. (Rev. 19:7, 9; 21:9)



# There are seven people named Mary in the New Testament.

- 1. Mary, the mother of Jesus (Luke 1:30-31)
- 2. Mary of Bethany (John 11:1)
- 3. Mary, the mother of James who was not Jesus' brother (Matt. 27:56)
- 4. Mary, wife of Clopas (John 19:25)
- 5. Mary, the mother of John Mark (Acts 12:12)
- 6. an otherwise unidentifed Mary (Rom. 16:6)
- 7. Mary Magdalene (Luke 8:2)



Teabing argues that ancient sources indicate that Jesus and Mary Magdalene were married.

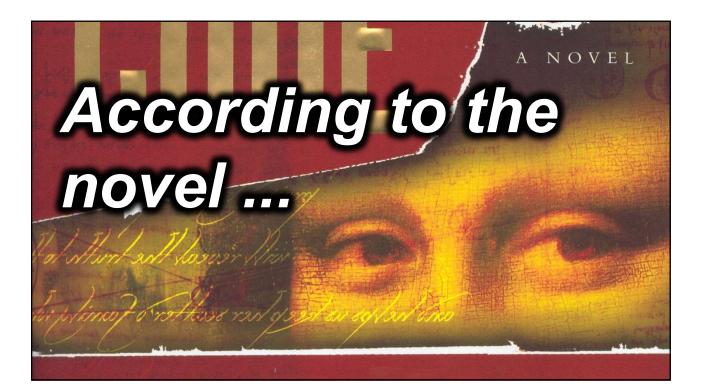
Besides what we have already said about the unlikelihood that Jesus was married at all, there are additional reasons to think that even if Jesus was married, it was not to Mary Magdalene.

- When she is listed, she is not singled out as being special among the other women.
- She is not tied to any male anywhere when she is named in Scripture. Rather, she is designated by her geography (of Magdala)
- Jesus shows no special concern for Mary Magdalene at the cross.

# Conclusions

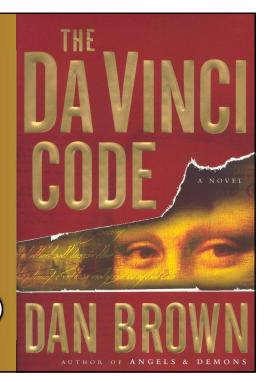
There is no historical evidence that indicates that Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene or anyone else.

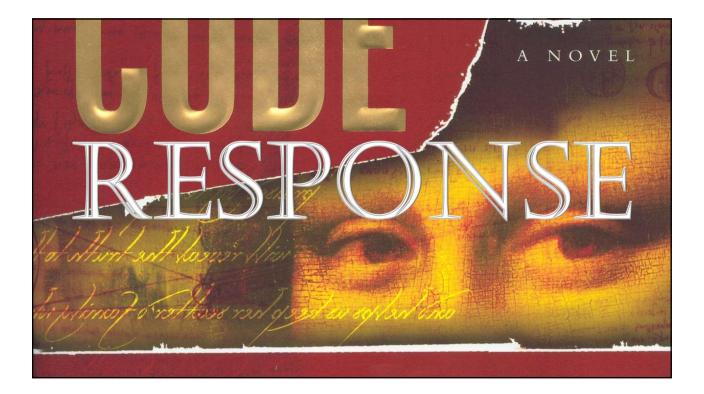
What is more, there is historical evidence that Jesus was unmarried.



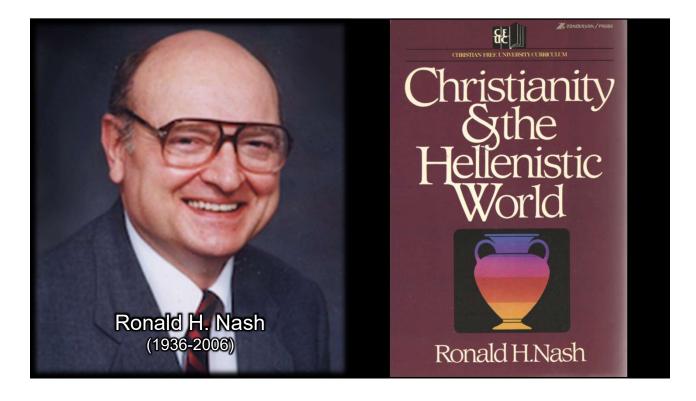
According to the novel, the Christian religion is an amalgamation of themes from several ancient mystery religions.

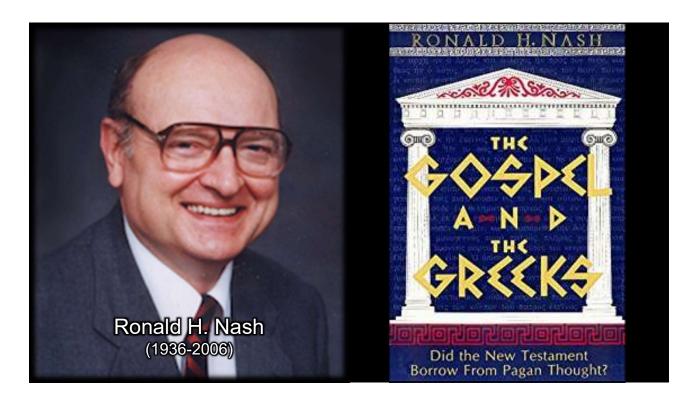
Teabing groaned. "Don't get a symbologist started on Christian icons. Nothing in Christianity is original. The pre-Christian God Mithras—called the Son of God and the Light of the World—was born on December 25, died, was buried in a rock tomb, and then resurrected in three days." (p. 232)

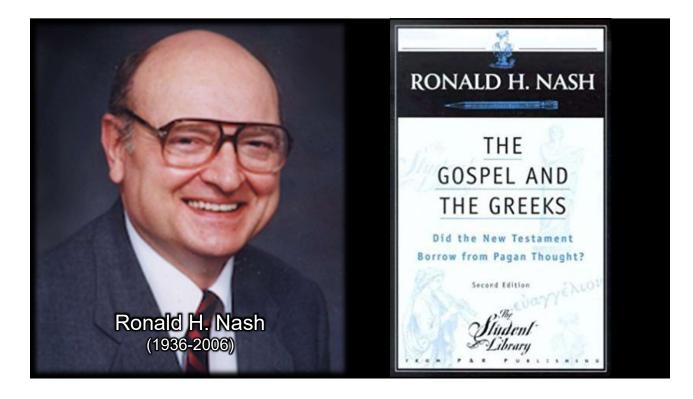




Christianity is not an amalgamation of earlier mystery religions.









Just because two religions use a common symbol or motif, this does not in itself prove a causal influence of one religion upon another.

Even if one religion "borrows" a theme or symbol, this does not entail that the doctrine represented by that theme or symbol is false. Some of the themes in Christianity that are thought to have been borrowed from other religions, actually predate those religions or were not present in those religions until after the beginning of Christianity.



The Taurobolium ritual of the cult of Cybele, where one stood in a pit underneath a slaughtered bull while the blood of the bull poured over him as the animal was dying, has been suggested as the origin of Paul's teaching about being cleansed by the blood of Christ.

However, studies show that the Taurobolium ritual did not arise within the cult until the 2nd Century, i.e., after the onset of Christianity.



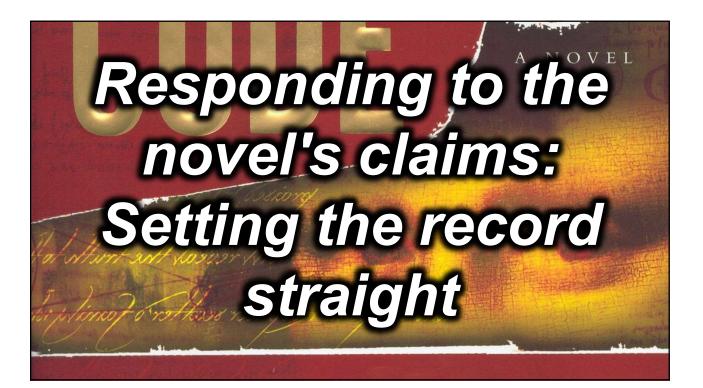
Some of the elements that are often construed as similar are shown to be quite distinct upon closer examination, e.g. the death and resurrection of Jesus vs. the death and supposed resurrections among certain pagan deities. The supposed "dying and rising savior" theme of the mystery religions is said to be the origin of Christianity's doctrine of the death and resurrection of Jesus.

However, the differences far out-weigh any similarities.

PAGAN MYSTERY RELIGIONS	CHRISTIANITY
None of the so-called savior gods died for anyone else.	The idea that a savior dies for his people is unique to Christianity.
It is never claimed that these deities died for sins.	Only Jesus is said to have died for sins of the world.
Many of these pagan deities would die and be resuscitated repeatedly as depicting the annual vegetative cycles.	Jesus died once for all.
The deaths of the pagan deities were mythical stories not fied to any historical event.	The death of Jesus Christ was an actual event of history.
These pagan deities did not die voluntarily.	Jesus gave up his life voluntarily.

# Conclusion

While it may be true that certain ancillary elements of the Judeo-Christian tradition were borrowed from prior religions, nothing that defines Christianity in terms of its essential doctrine is the result of modifying or merely adopting another religious system other than the obvious grounding Christianity has in Judaism.



- 1. The Christian doctrine of the deity of Christ was the result of a close vote among church leaders convoning at the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD.
- 2. The Bible as we know it was collated by Constantine at the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD.
- 3. The story of Jesus is more accurately contained within the Gnostic documents than in the New Testament and shows a mere human Jesus.
- 4. This story also shows that Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene and fathered children.
- 5. The Christian religion is an amalgamation of themes from several ancient mystery religions.