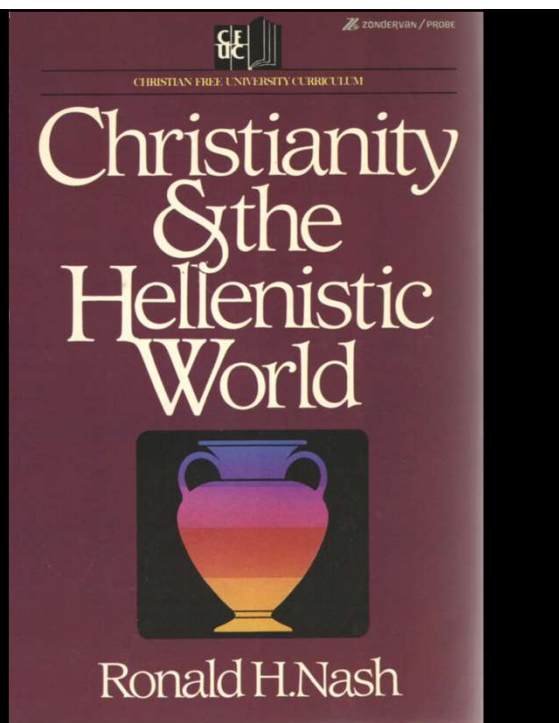
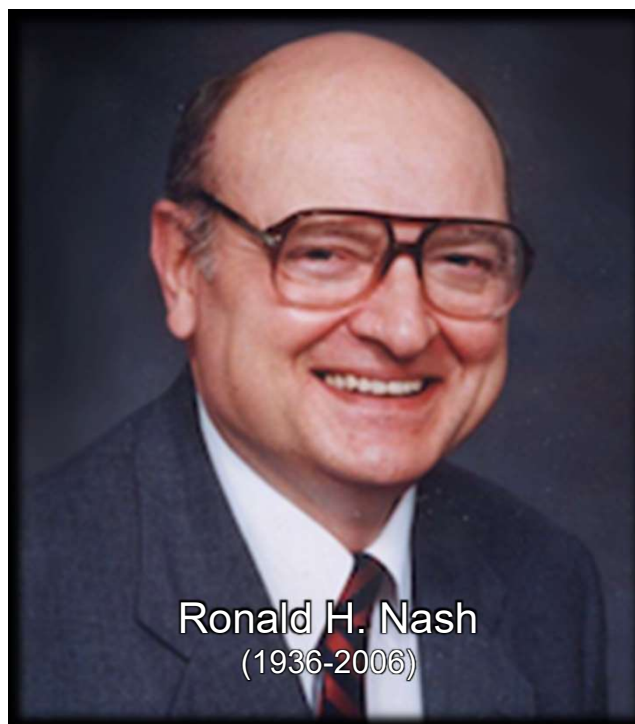
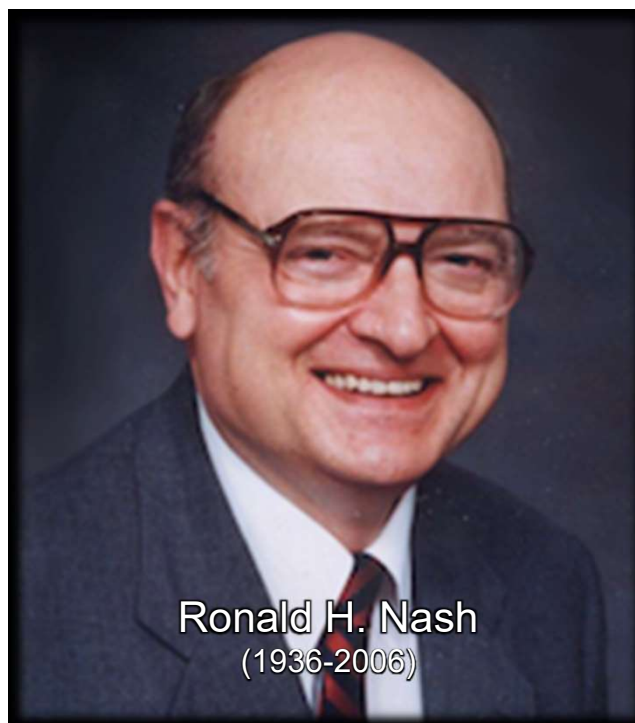
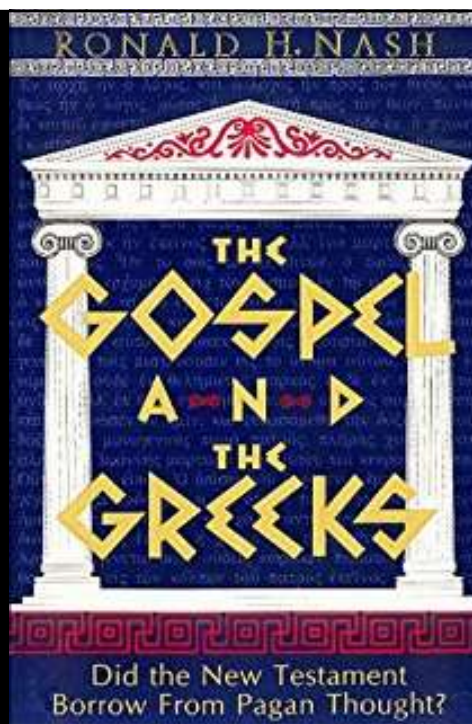


Ronald H. Nash  
(1936-2006)

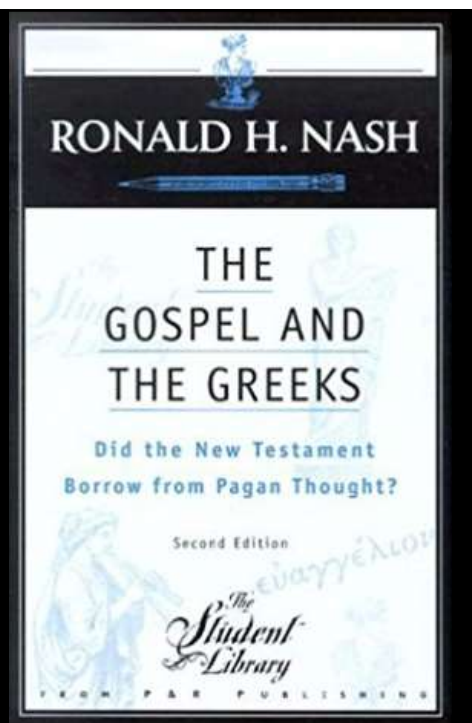




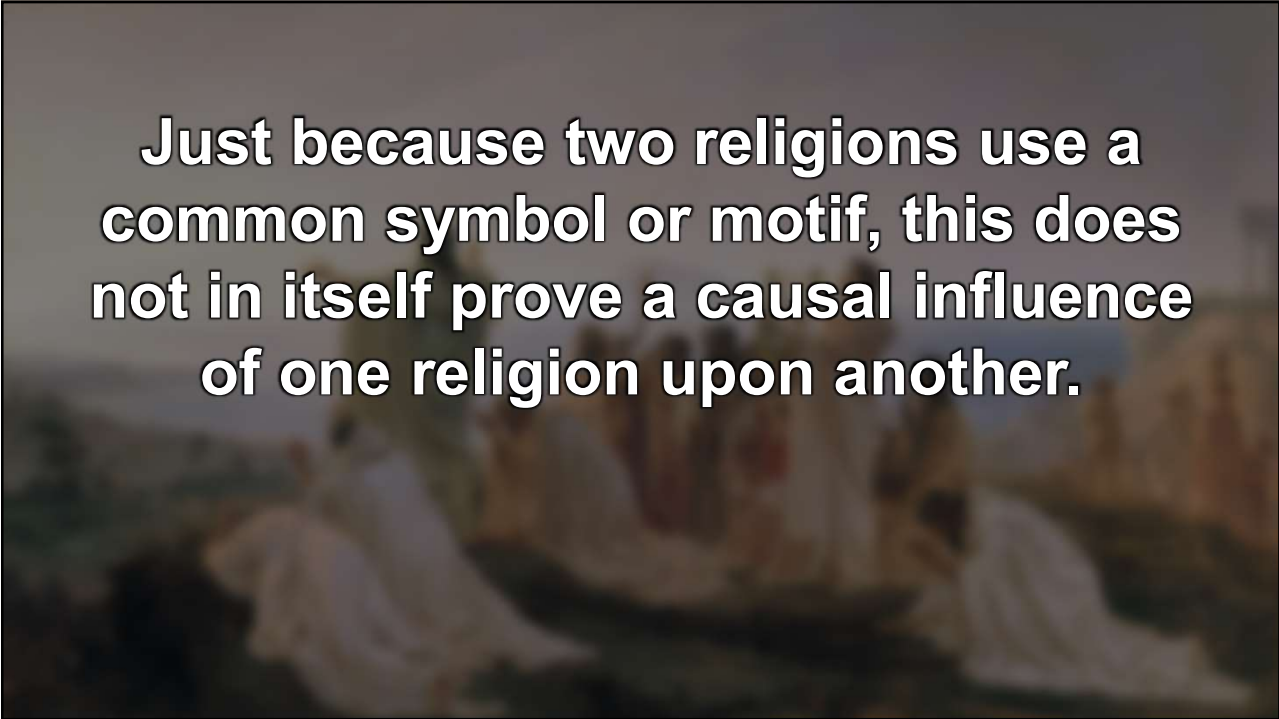
Ronald H. Nash  
(1936-2006)



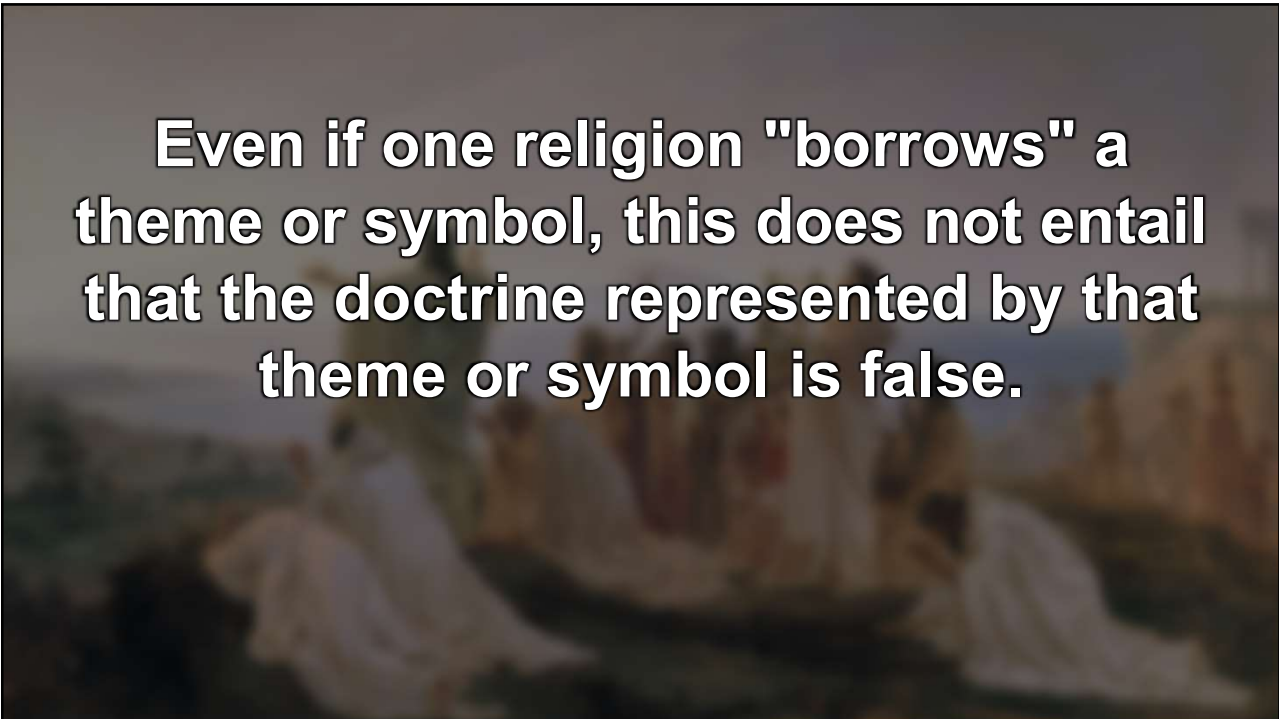
Ronald H. Nash  
(1936-2006)





A blurred background image showing a religious scene, possibly a religious figure or a group of people in a church or temple setting.

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

A blurred background image showing a religious scene, possibly a religious figure or a group of people in a church or temple setting.

**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**

None of the so-called savior gods died for anyone else.

It is never claimed that these deities died for sins.

Many of these pagan deities would die and be resuscitated repeatedly as depicting the annual vegetative cycles.

The deaths of the pagan deities were mythical stories not tied to any historical event.

These pagan deities did not die voluntarily.

### **CHRISTIANITY**

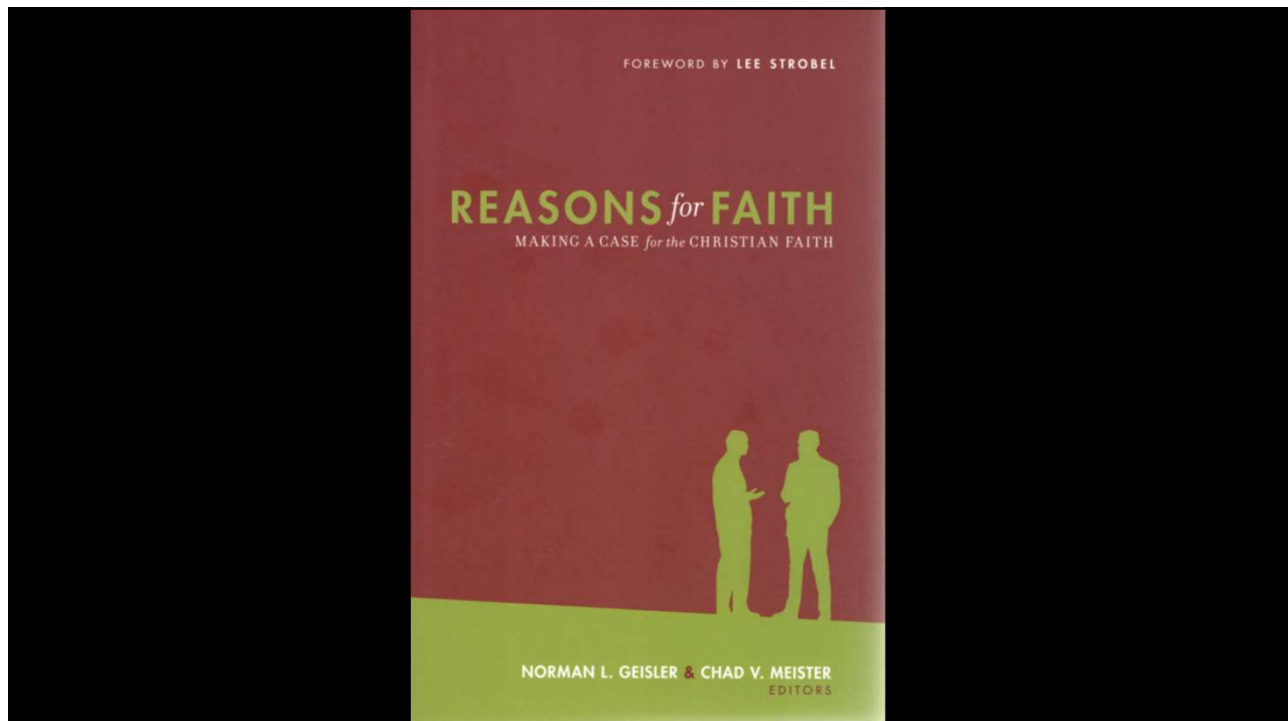
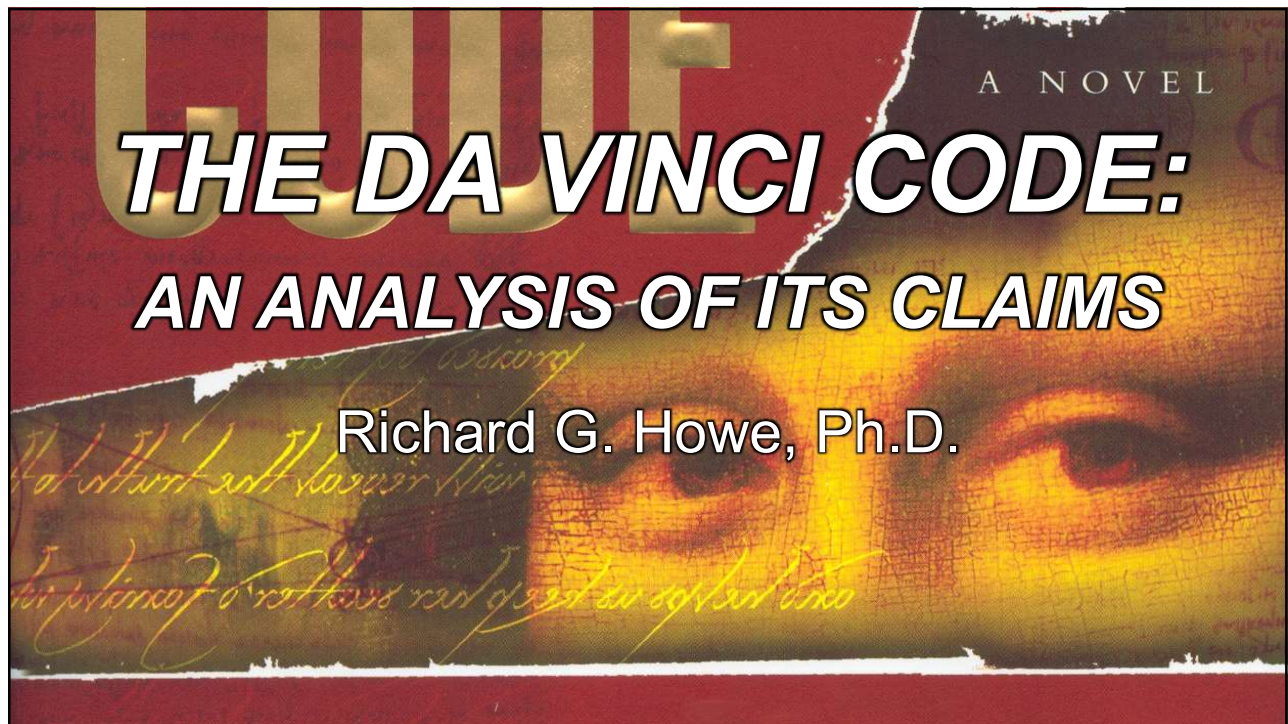
The idea that a savior dies for his people is unique to Christianity.

Only Jesus is said to have died for sins of the world.

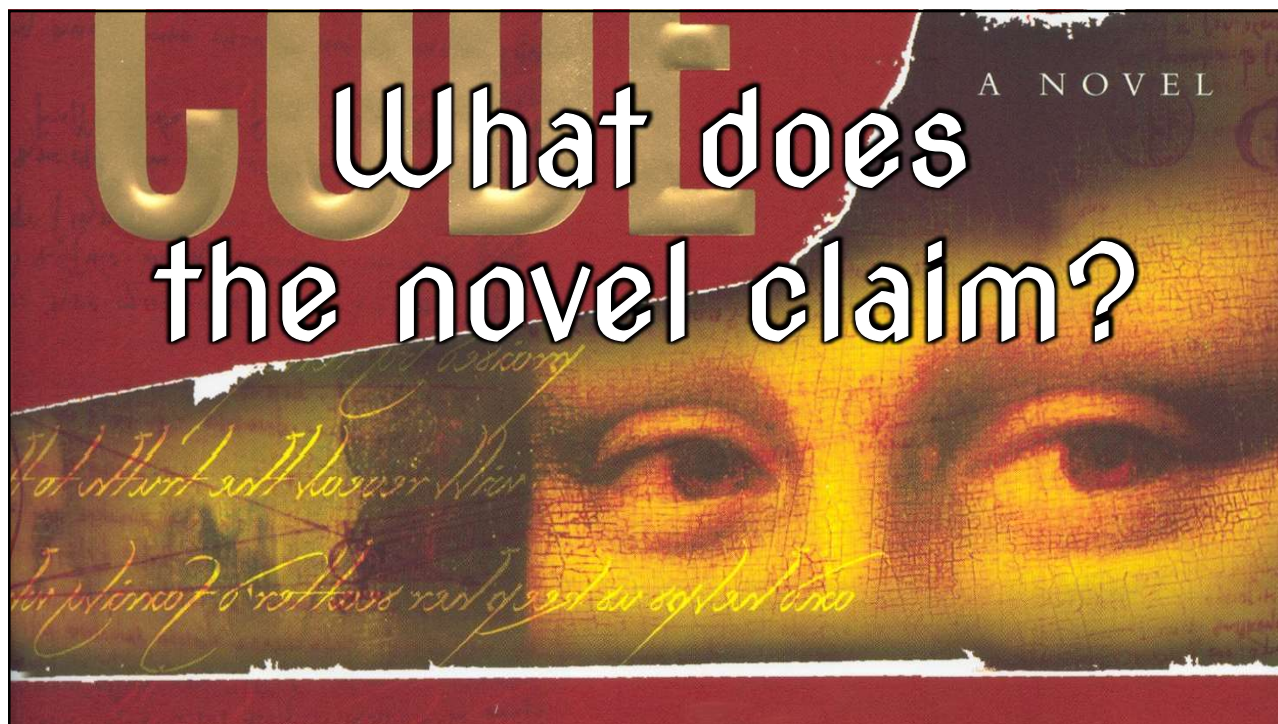
Jesus died once for all

The death of Jesus Christ was an actual event of history

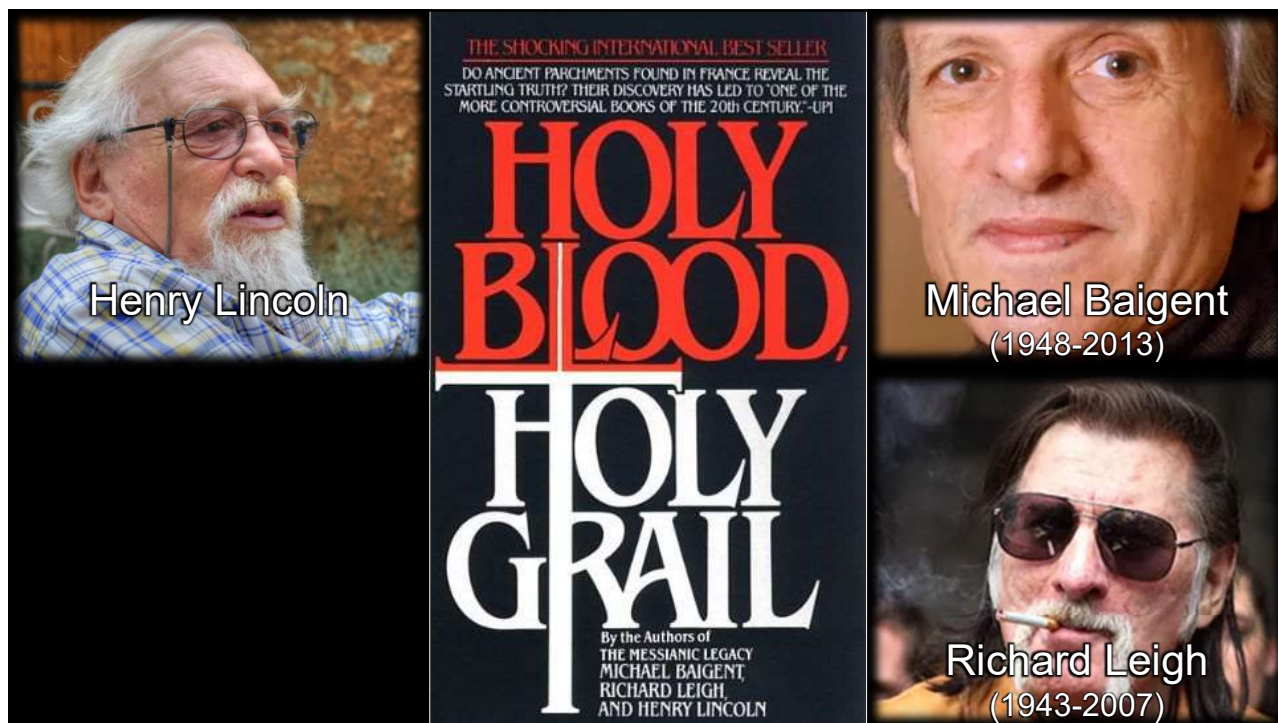
Jesus gave up his life voluntarily.







# What does the novel claim?



Henry Lincoln

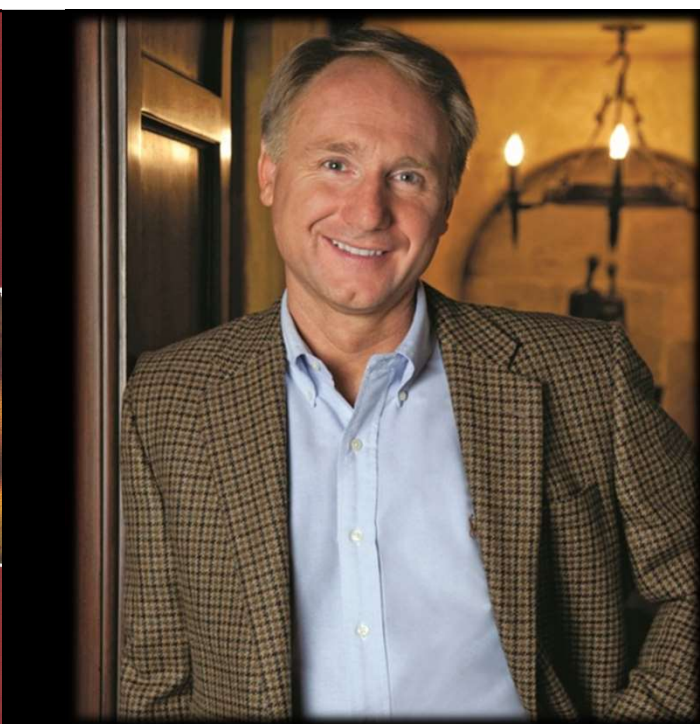
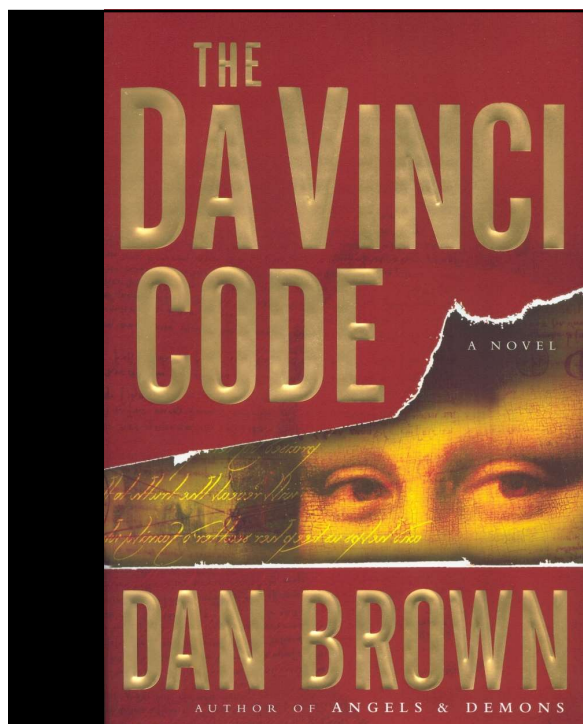
Michael Baigent  
(1948-2013)

Richard Leigh  
(1943-2007)

THE SHOCKING INTERNATIONAL BEST SELLER  
DO ANCIENT PARCHMENTS FOUND IN FRANCE REVEAL THE  
STARTLING TRUTH? THEIR DISCOVERY HAS LED TO "ONE OF THE  
MORE CONTROVERSIAL BOOKS OF THE 20th CENTURY."-UPI

# HOLY BLOOD, HOLY GRAIL

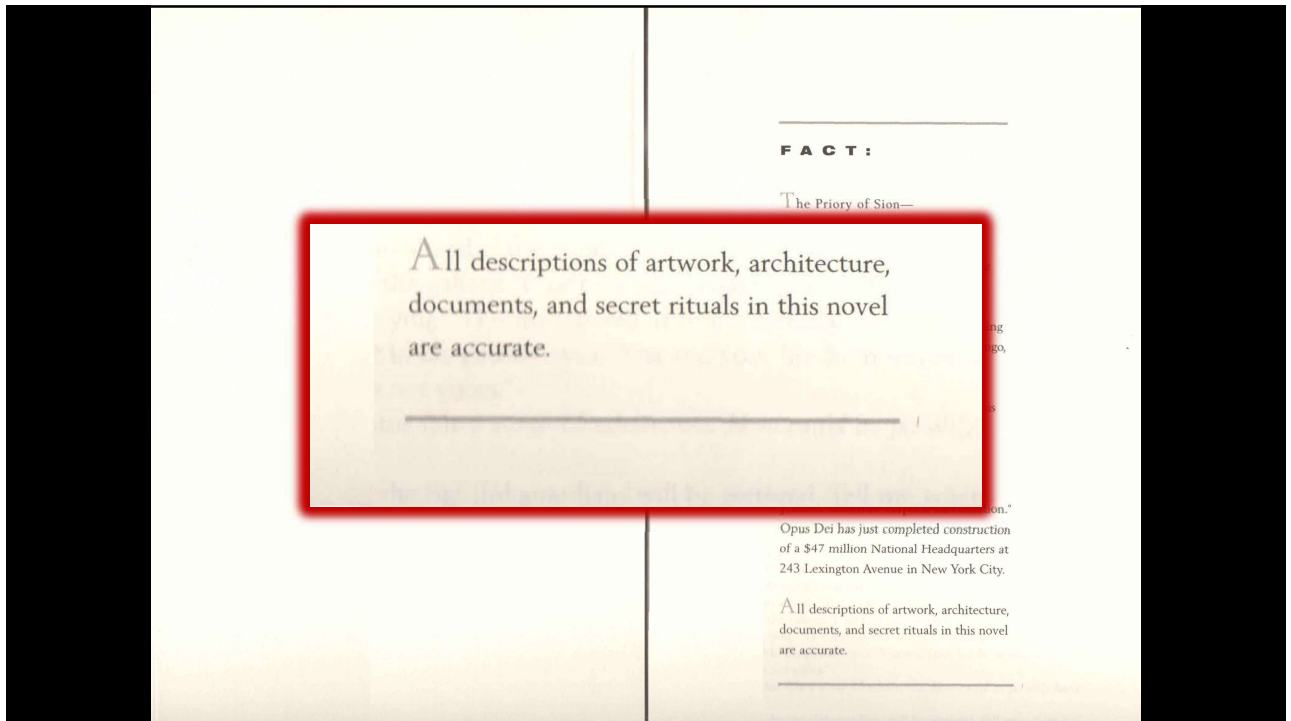
By the Authors of  
THE MESSIANIC LEGACY  
MICHAEL BAIGENT,  
RICHARD LEIGH,  
AND HENRY LINCOLN



**Michael Baigent**

**Richard Leigh**

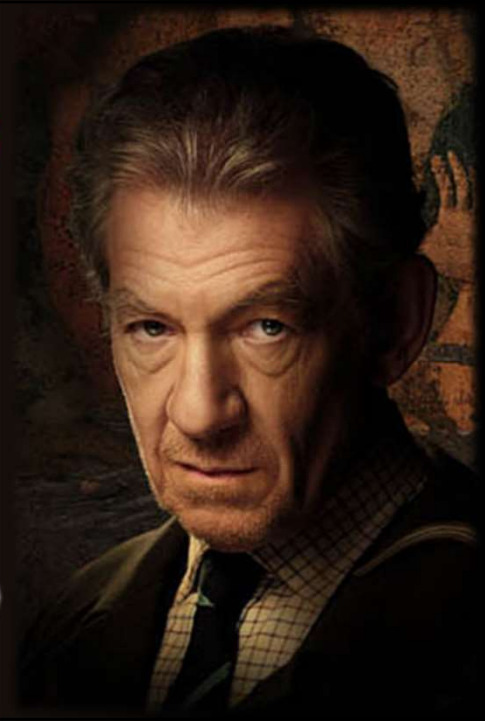




***Note what Teabing said  
in the novel ...***

***"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)***



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



### **In the Novel ...**

**Silas is a monk belonging to the Roman Catholic organization Opus Dei.**

### **In reality ...**

**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 co-founded 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 ...**

**The Roman emperor Constantine is a pagan.**

### **In reality ...**

**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 ...**

**The Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in the 1950s and are some of the earliest Christian records.**

### **In reality ...**

**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.**



<b>In the Novel ...</b>	<b>In reality ...</b>
<p><b>"Over eighty gospels were considered for the New Testament." (p. 231)</b></p>	<p><b>Besides the four Gospels in the New Testament, The Nag Hammadi Library lists forty-five titles, only five of which are labeled as "gospels." The most generous list of extra-biblical documents has about sixty titles, the vast majority of which are not gospels.</b></p>

<b>In the Novel ...</b>	<b>In reality ...</b>
<p><b>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.</b></p>	<p><b>Such documents have never existed. The idea was based on the documents forged by Pierre Plantard and referenced by the book <i>Holy Blood, Holy Grail</i>.</b></p>

**In the Novel ...**

**The church has murdered  
five million witches.**

**In reality ...**

**While one murder is one too  
many, actual estimates put  
the number from 30,000 to  
50,000.**

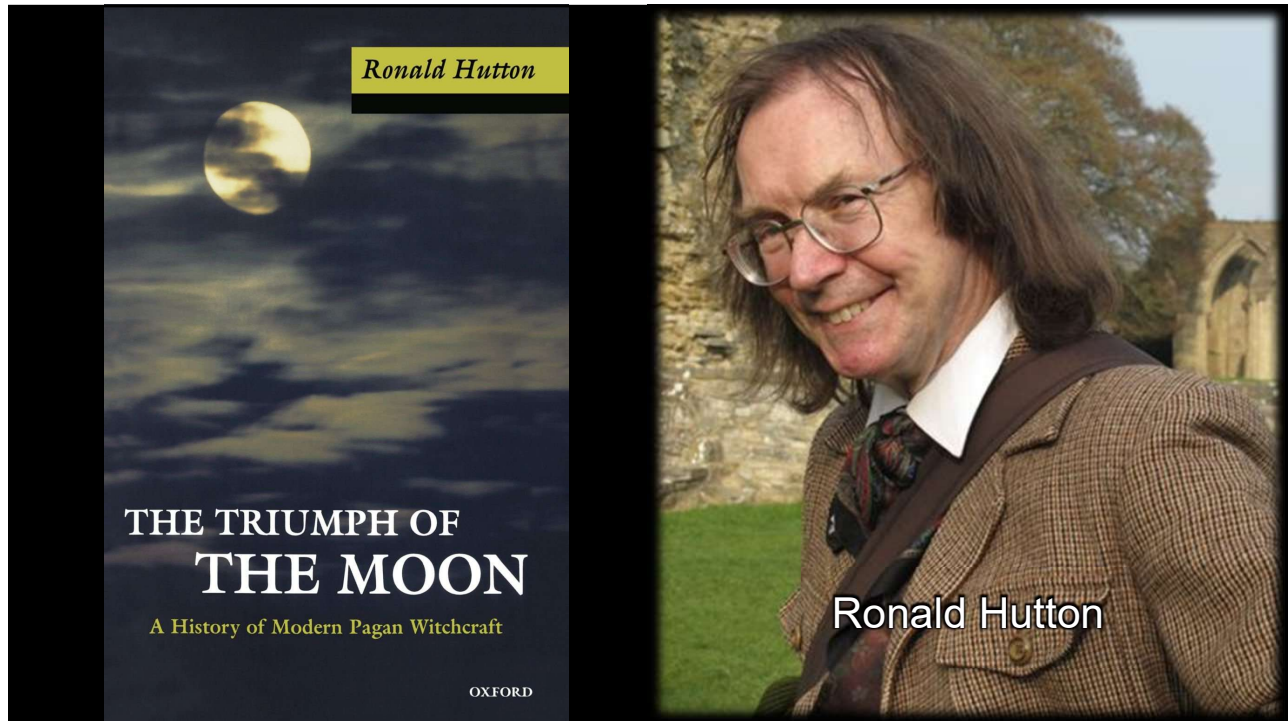
**In the Novel ...**

**The church has murdered  
five million witches.**

**In reality ...**

**While one murder is one too  
many, actual estimates put  
the number from 30,000 to  
50,000.**





**"In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries ... the majority of Europe's social, political, and intellectual elites moved from believing that humans could do damage by uncanny, non-physical means to believing that they could not. The practical result was the repeal, in state after state, of the laws against witchcraft which between 1428 and 1782 resulted in 40–50,000 executions."**

[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 ...

Leonardo Da Vinci's painting "The Last Supper" is a fresco.

## In reality ...

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).



<b>In the Novel ...</b>	<b>In reality ...</b>
<p><b>Leonardo's painting "The Last Supper" is missing the chalice from which Jesus and the disciples drank.</b></p>	<p><b>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.</b></p>

***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.



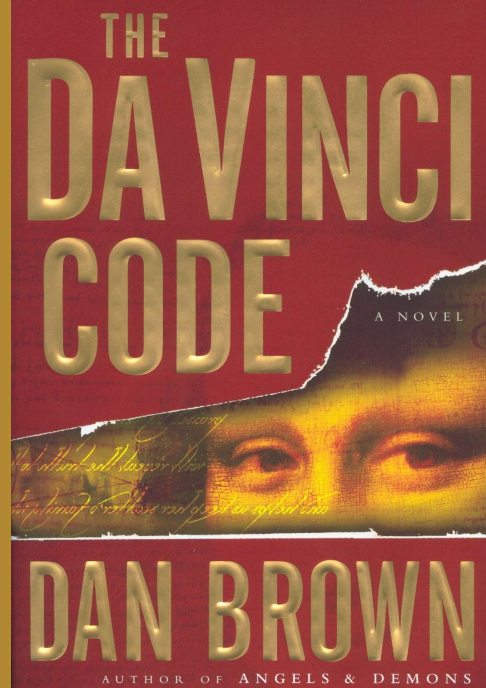


*According to the novel, the Christian doctrine of the deity of Christ was the result of a close vote among church leaders convening at the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD.*

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."

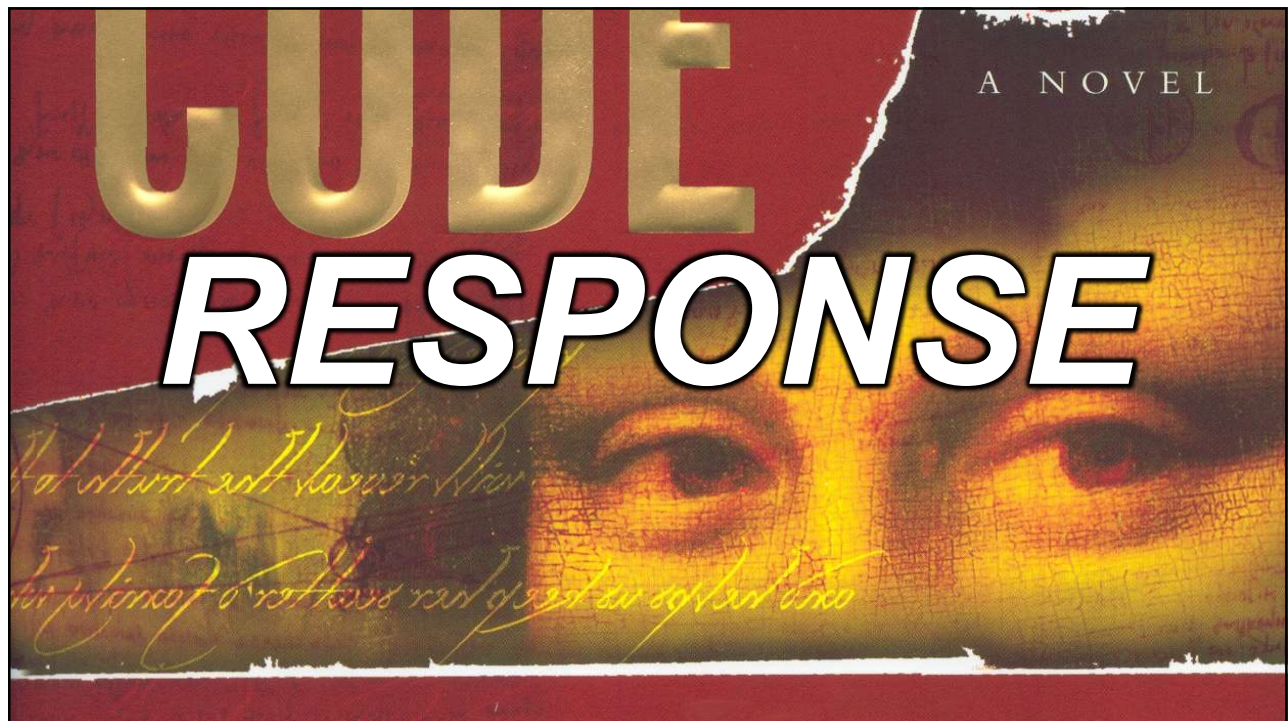
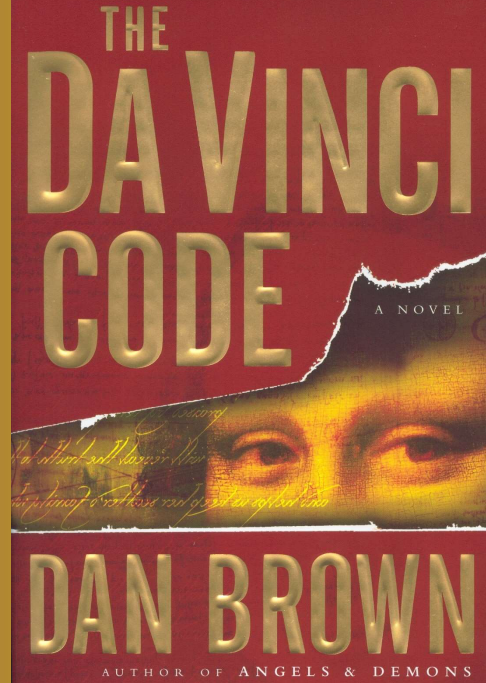


SOPHIE: "Not the Son of God?"

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)







# What Was the Council of Nicaea?

- ❖ convened June 19, 325
- ❖ considered the First Ecumenical Council
- ❖ convened by the Roman Emperor Constantine in Nicaea in Bithynia (now Iznik, Turkey)
- ❖ around 300 church leaders present





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

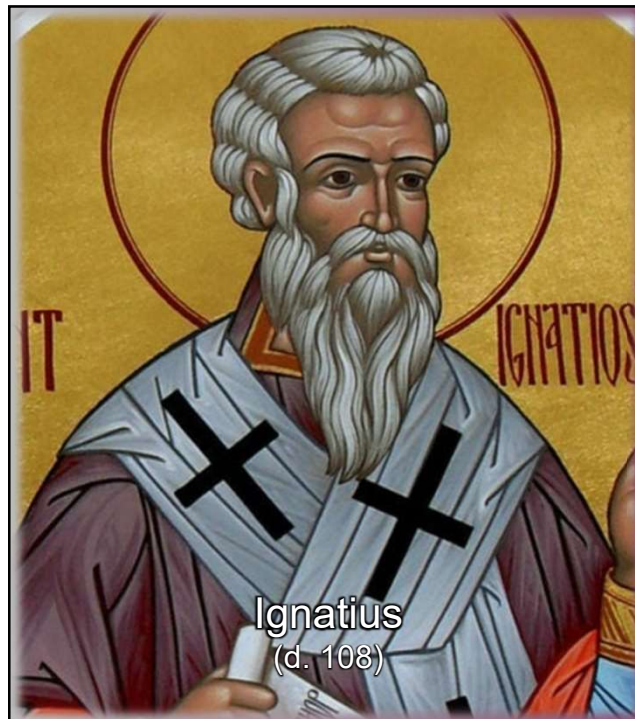
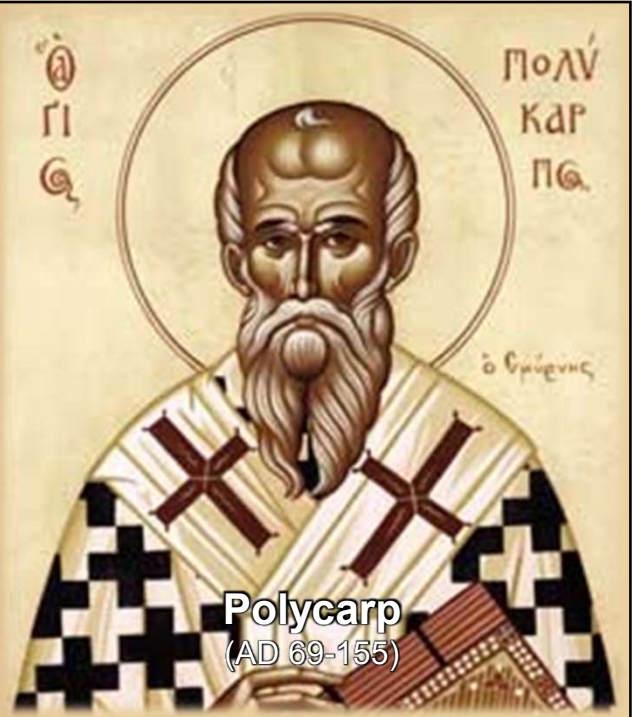


Athanasius (who regarded Jesus as co-equal and of the same substance (ὁμοούσιος / homoousios) as the Father)

**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."*

(Epistle to the Philippians, 12)



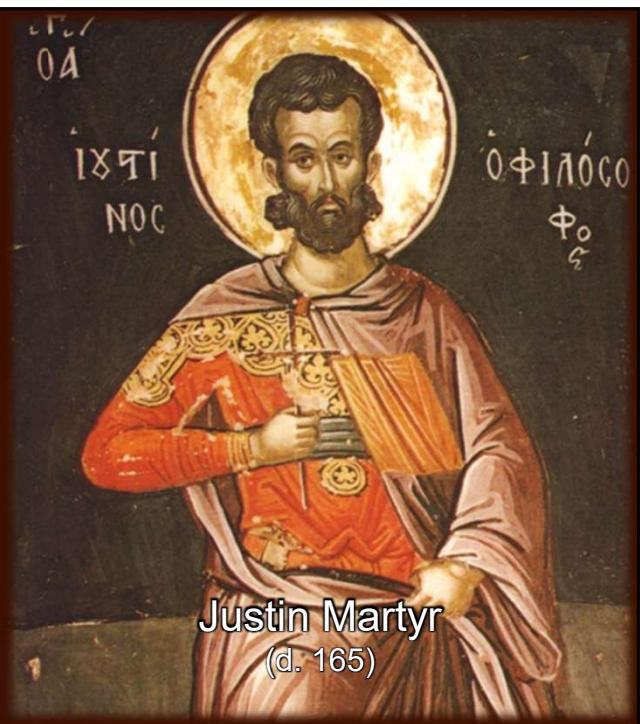
*"God Himself being manifested in human form for the renewal of eternal life."*

(Epistle to the Ephesians, 19)



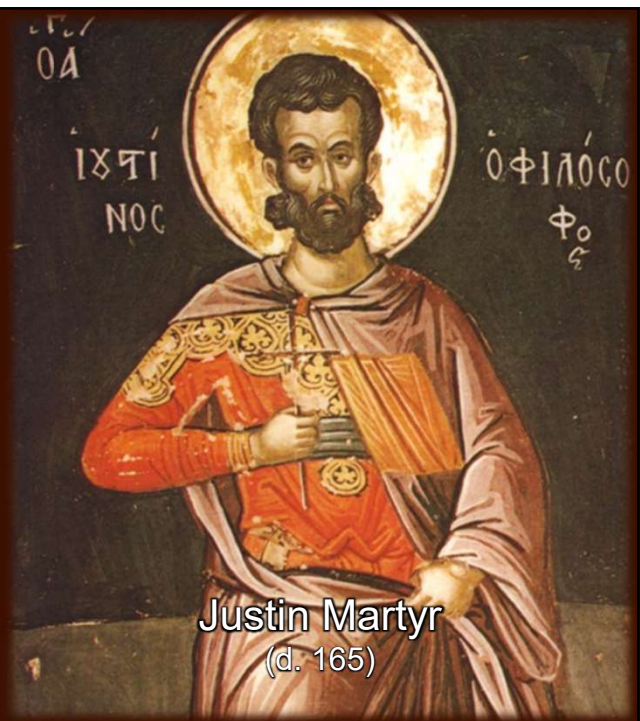
*"... the Logos  
Himself, who took  
shape, and  
became man, and  
was called Jesus  
Christ ..."*

*(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)*







**Tatian**  
(120-180)

*"We do not act as fools,  
O Greeks, nor utter idle  
tales, when we  
announce that God was  
born in the form of a  
man."*

([https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Ante-Nicene\\_Fathers/Volume\\_II/Address\\_to\\_the\\_Greeks](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Ante-Nicene_Fathers/Volume_II/Address_to_the_Greeks), accessed 03/06/23)



**Origen**  
(c. 185-254)



**Novatian of Rome**  
(c. 200-258)



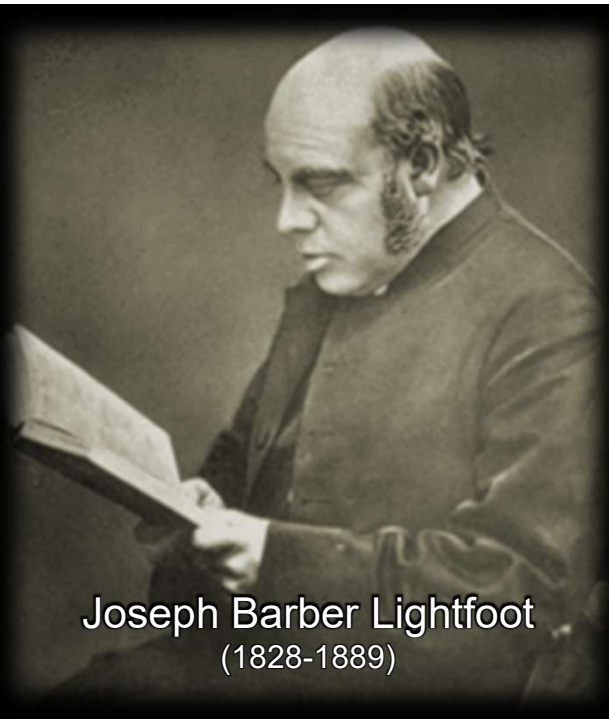
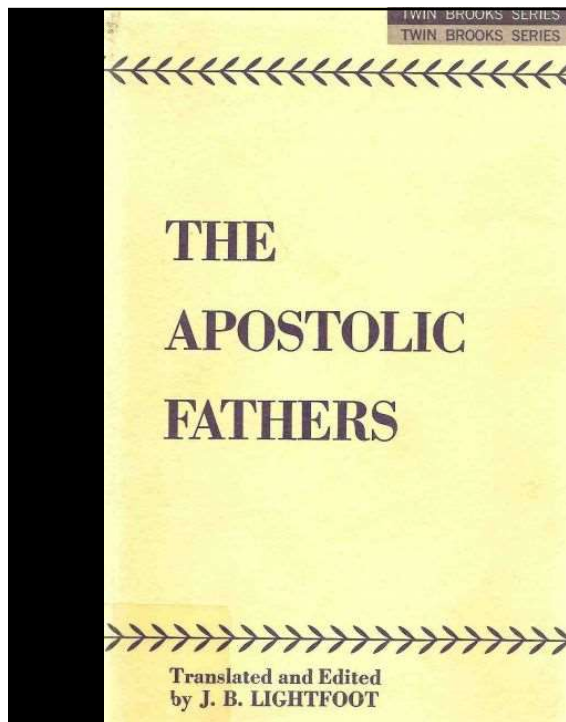
**Lactantius**  
(c. 250 - c. 325)



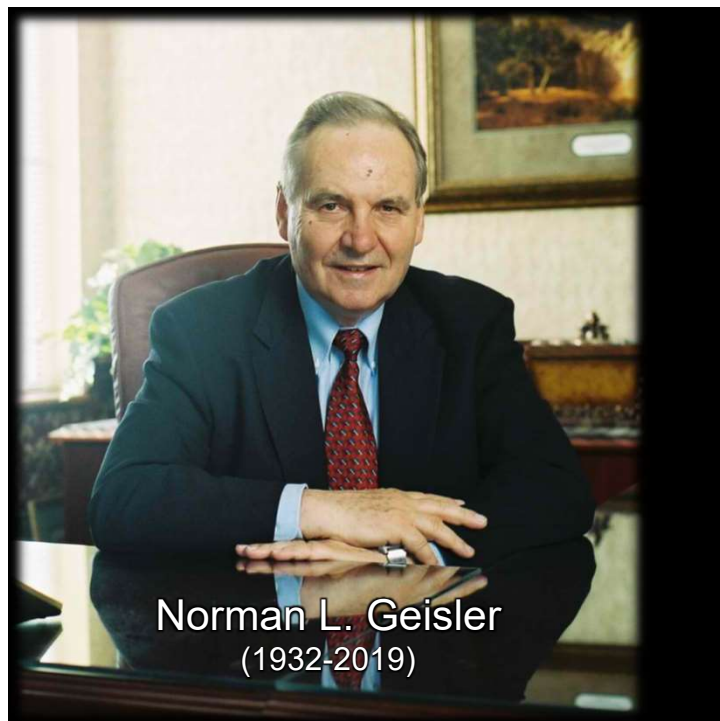
**Cyprian**  
(d. 258)



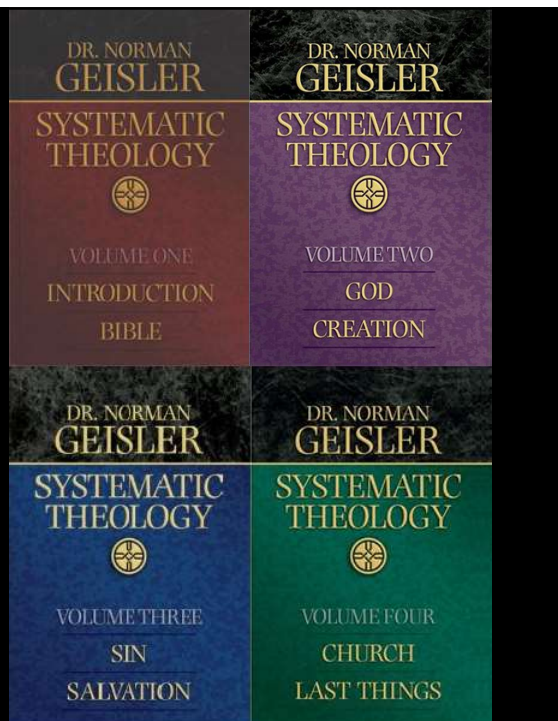
**Methodius**  
(d. 311)



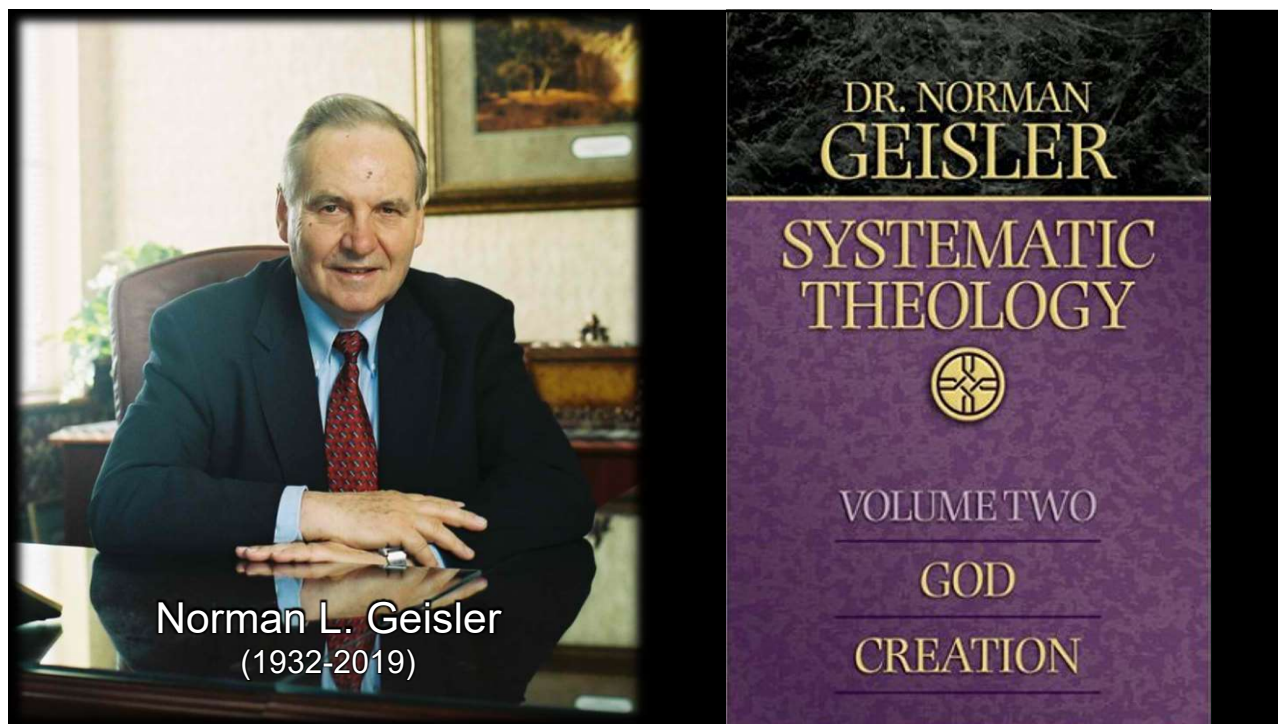
Joseph Barber Lightfoot  
(1828-1889)



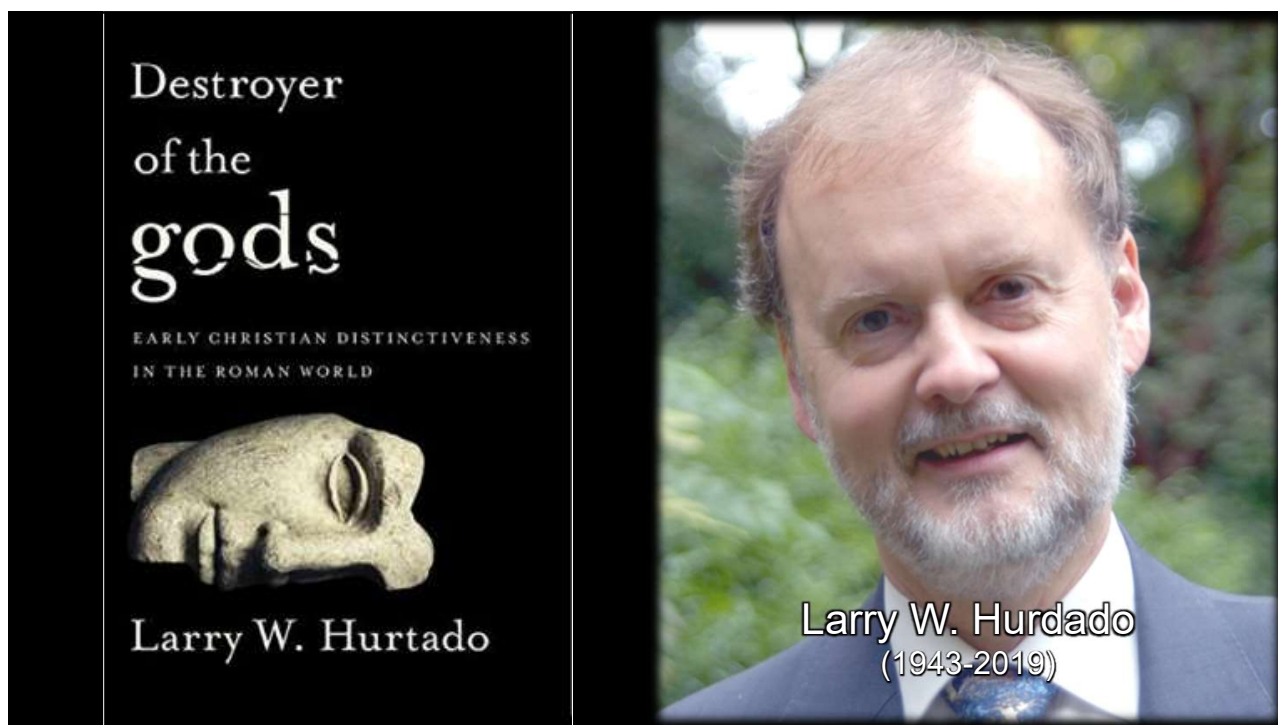
Norman L. Geisler  
(1932-2019)







Norman L. Geisler  
(1932-2019)



Larry W. Hurtado  
(1943-2019)



**"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]



Larry W. Hurdado  
(1943-2019)



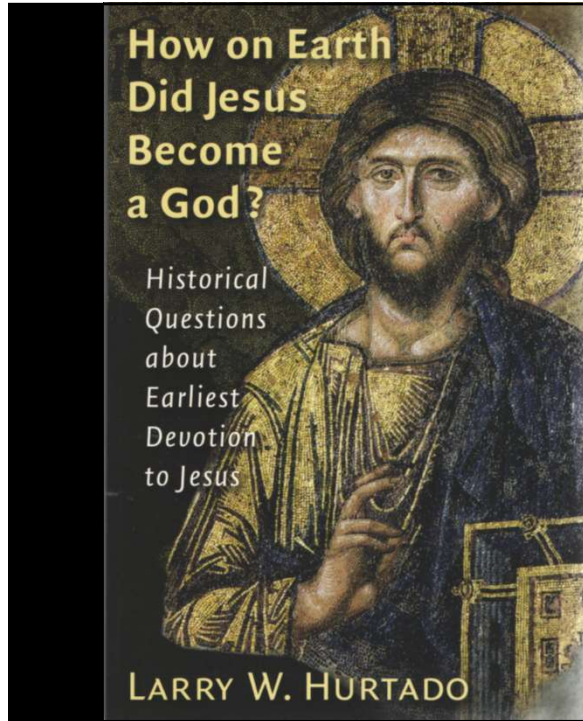
LORD JESUS  
CHRIST

*Devotion to Jesus  
in Earliest  
Christianity*

LARRY W. HURTADO



Larry W. Hurdado  
(1943-2019)



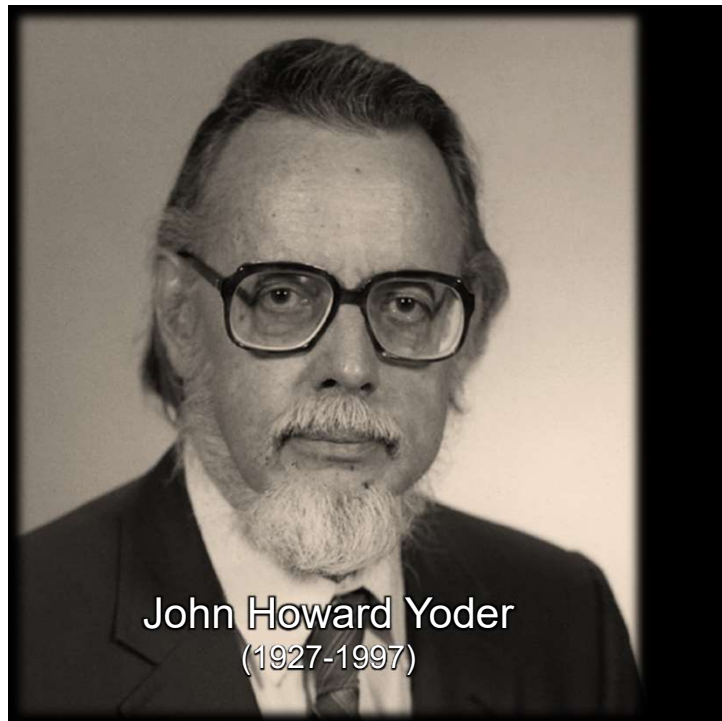
**How on Earth  
Did Jesus  
Become  
a God?**

*Historical  
Questions  
about  
Earliest  
Devotion  
to Jesus*

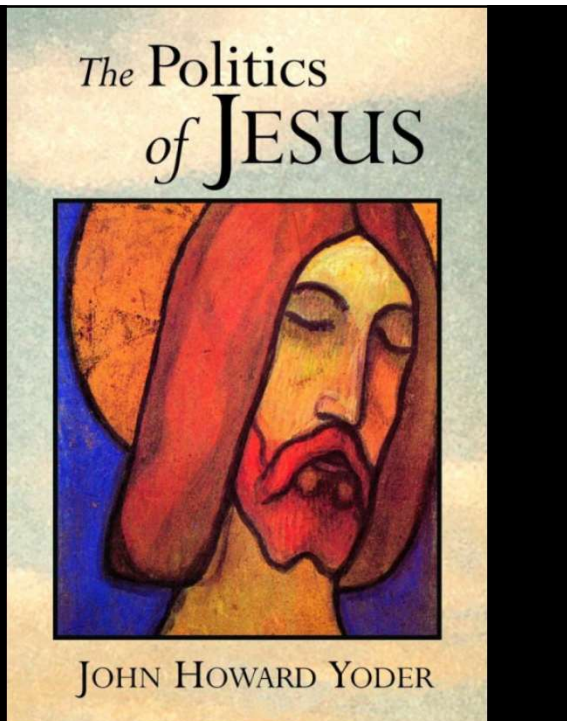
**LARRY W. HURTADO**



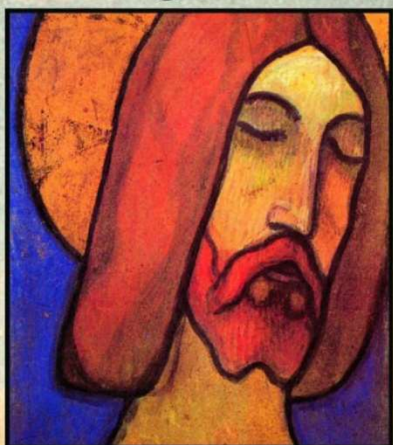
**Larry W. Hurtado**  
(1943-2019)



**John Howard Yoder**  
(1927-1997)

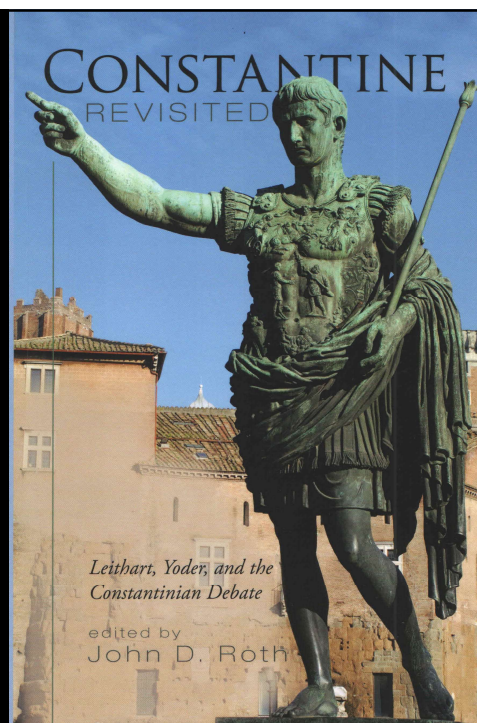
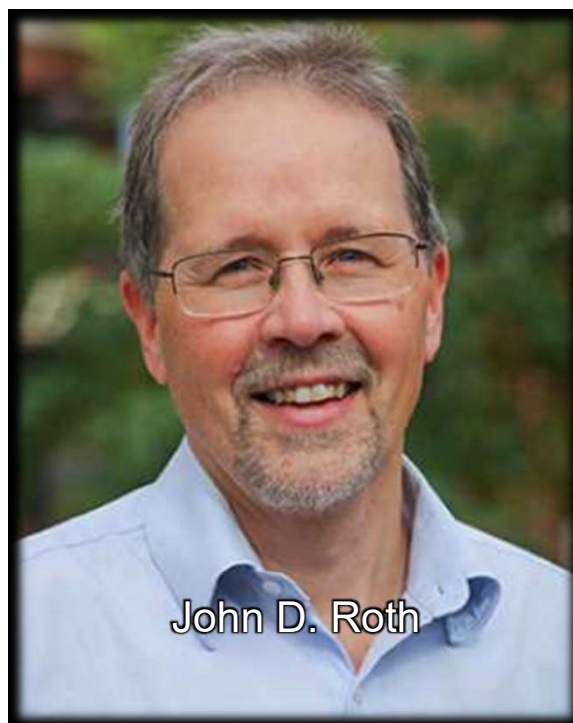
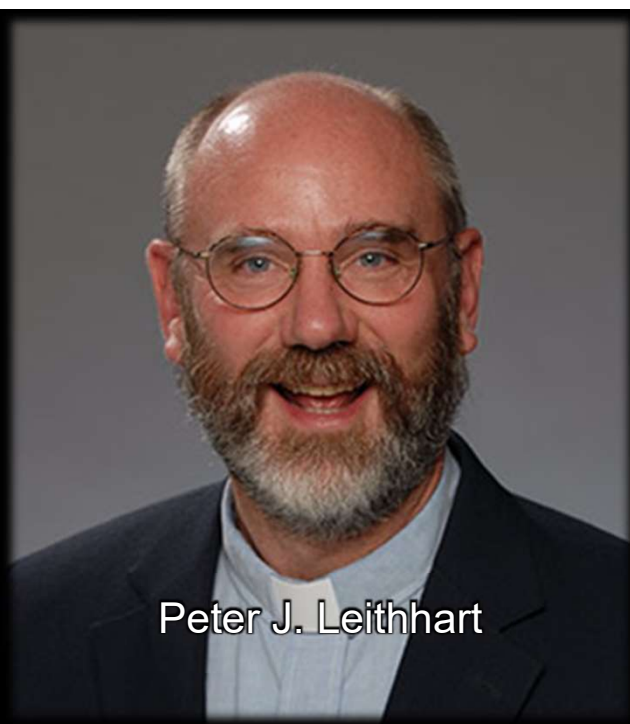
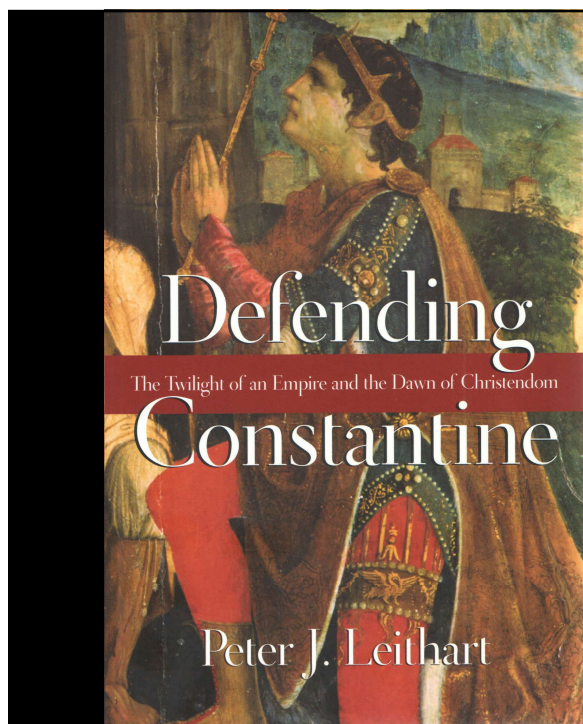


*The Politics  
of JESUS*



**JOHN HOWARD YODER**







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

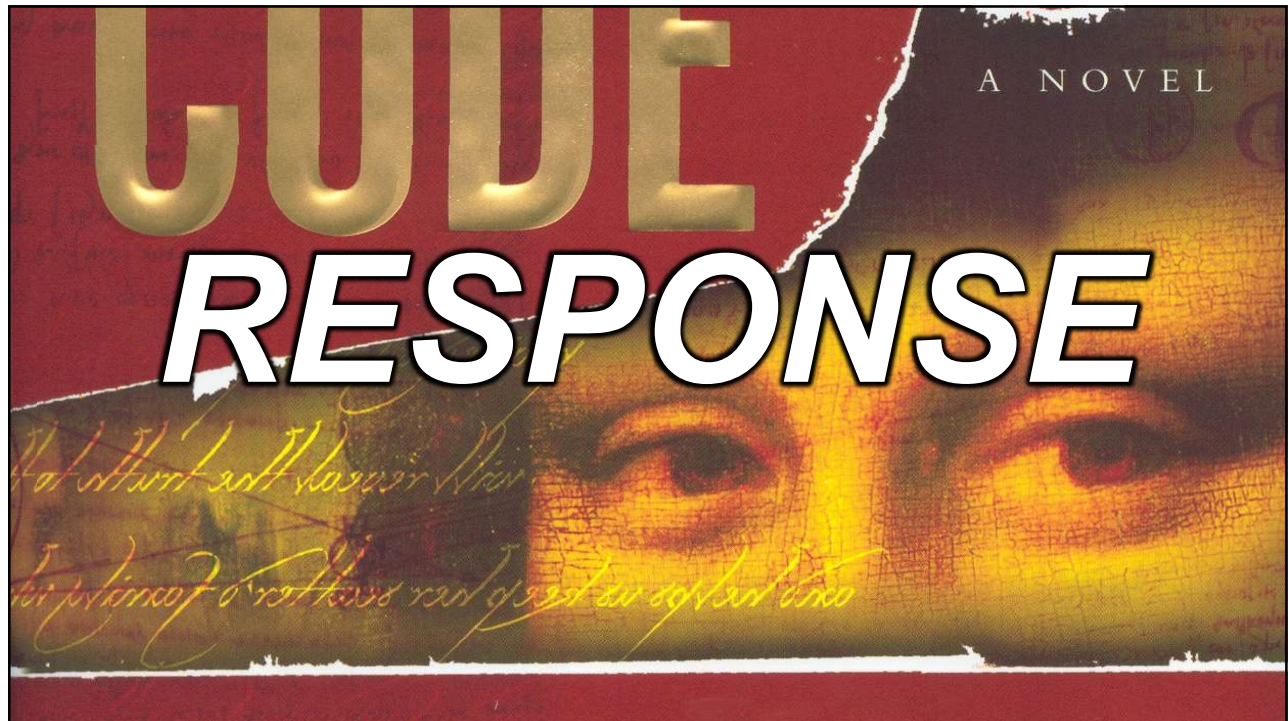
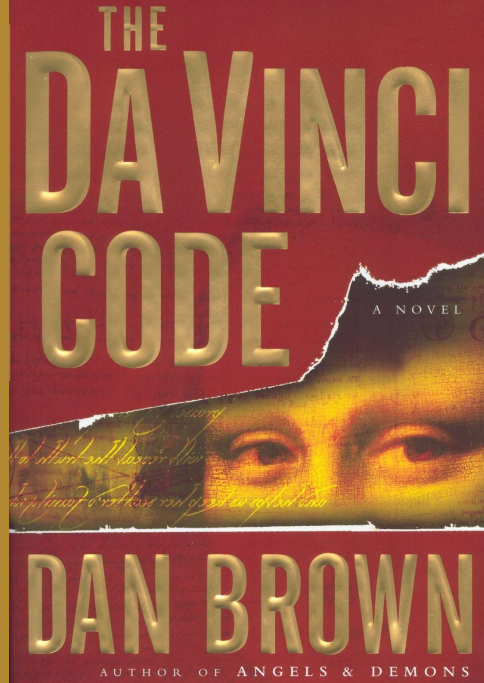
- ✓ All the church fathers before Nicaea acknowledged the deity of Christ.
- ✓ The church fathers often defended the deity of Christ against the heresies that denied it.
- ✓ Nicaea formalized what the Church already believed and was defending.



*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)

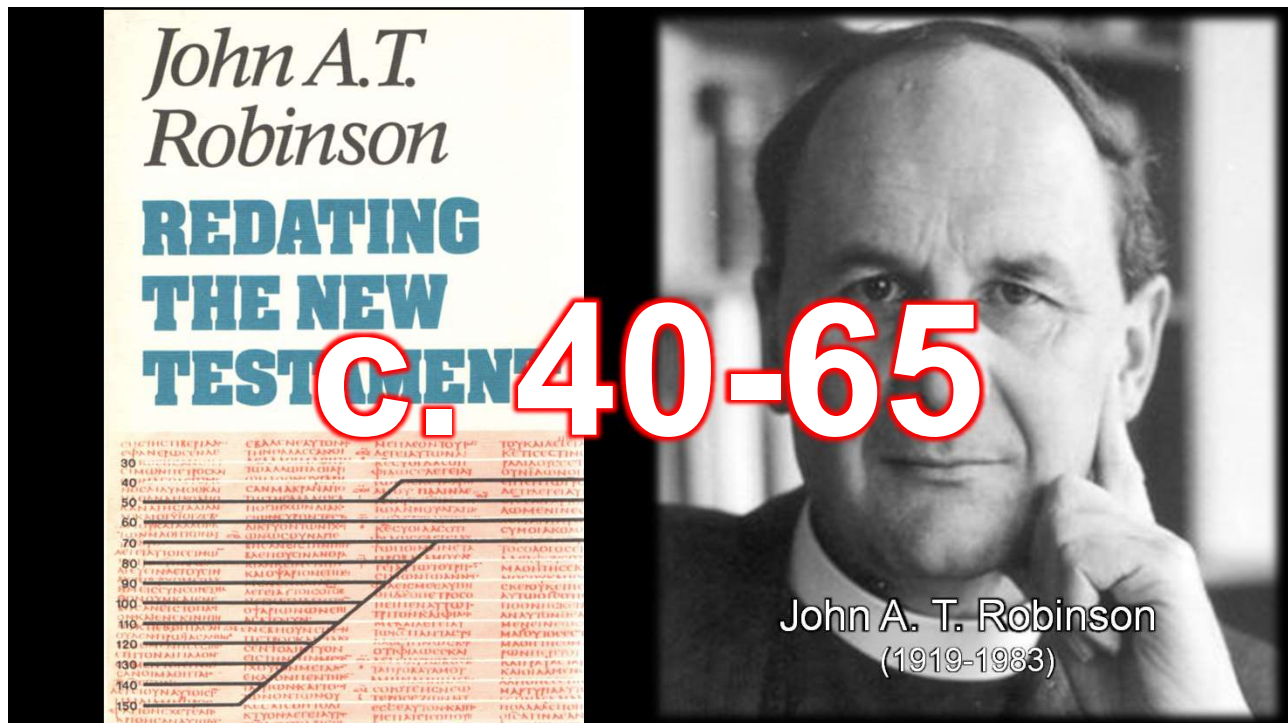


# The four Gospels of the New Testament were attested to long before Constantine and Nicaea.

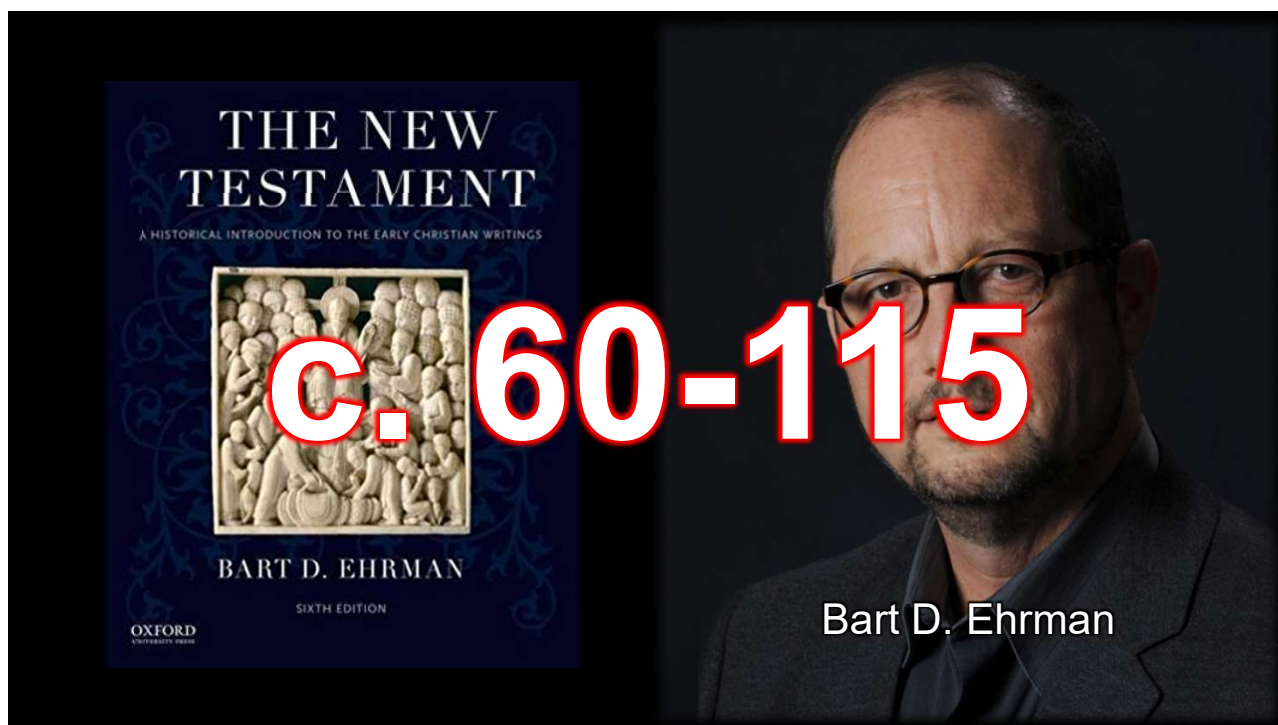
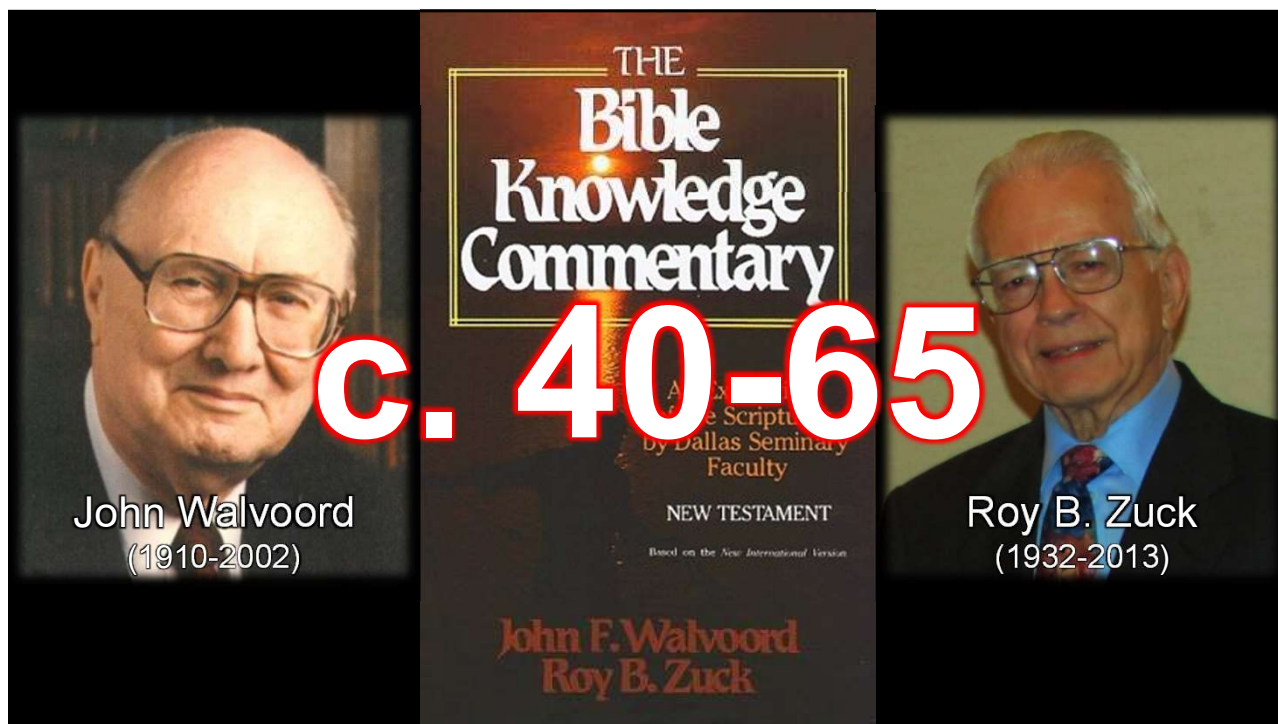
- *Epistle of Barnabas* (c. 70-79)
- *Didache* (c. 70-130)
- Papias (c. 70-163) *Interpretation of the Oracles of the Lord*
- Josephus' *Antiquities* (93-94)
- Clement of Rome (c. 95-97) *Epistle to the Corinthians*
- *Epistles of Ignatius* (c. 110-117)
- Irenaeus (c. 130-202) *Against Heresies*
- Marcion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



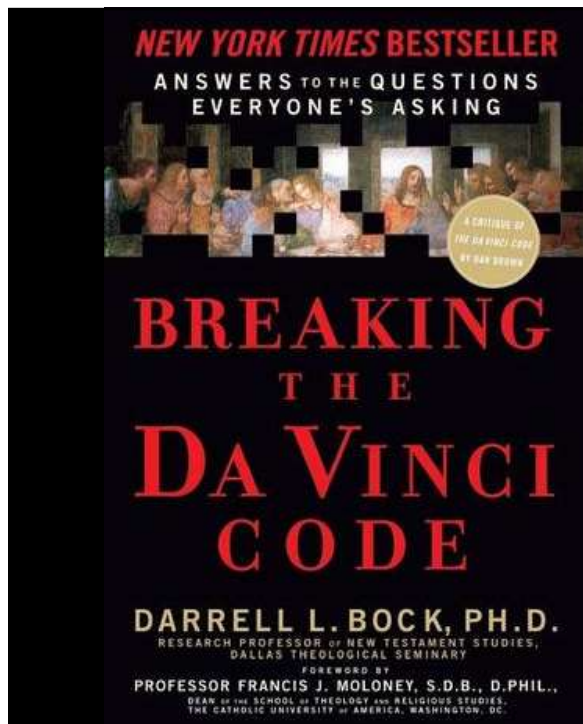
*Some scholars give the four Gospels relatively early dates, even within the first century.*



John A. T. Robinson  
(1919-1983)







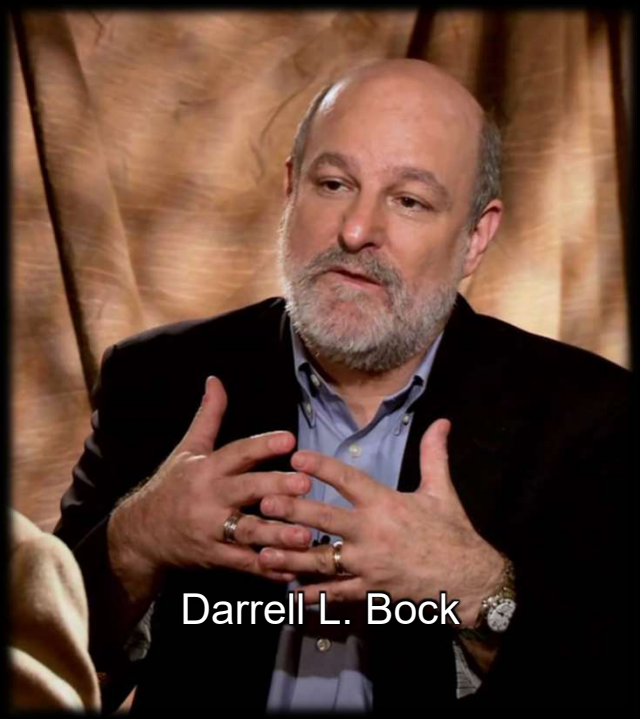
Darrell L. Bock

***"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."***



Darrell L. Bock

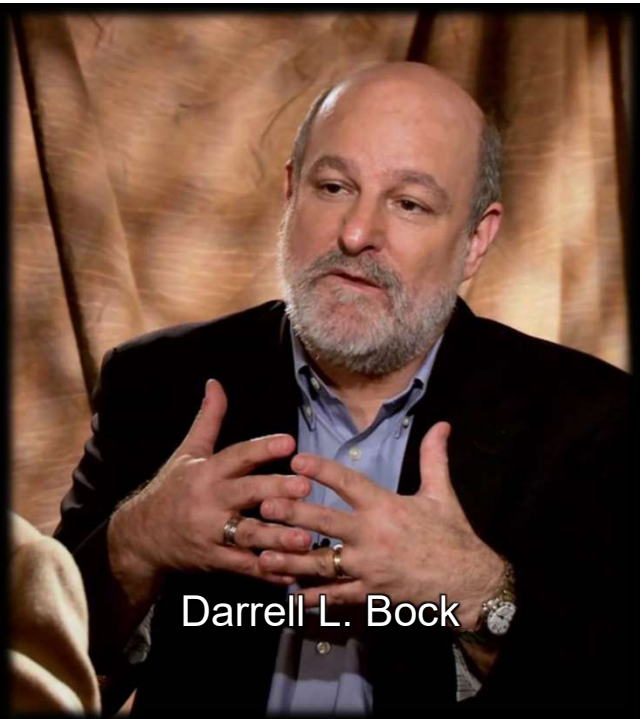
***"What is more, the four Gospels highlighted at this council had been solidly established and recognized in these communities for more than a century before Nicaea."***



Darrell L. Bock

***"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]



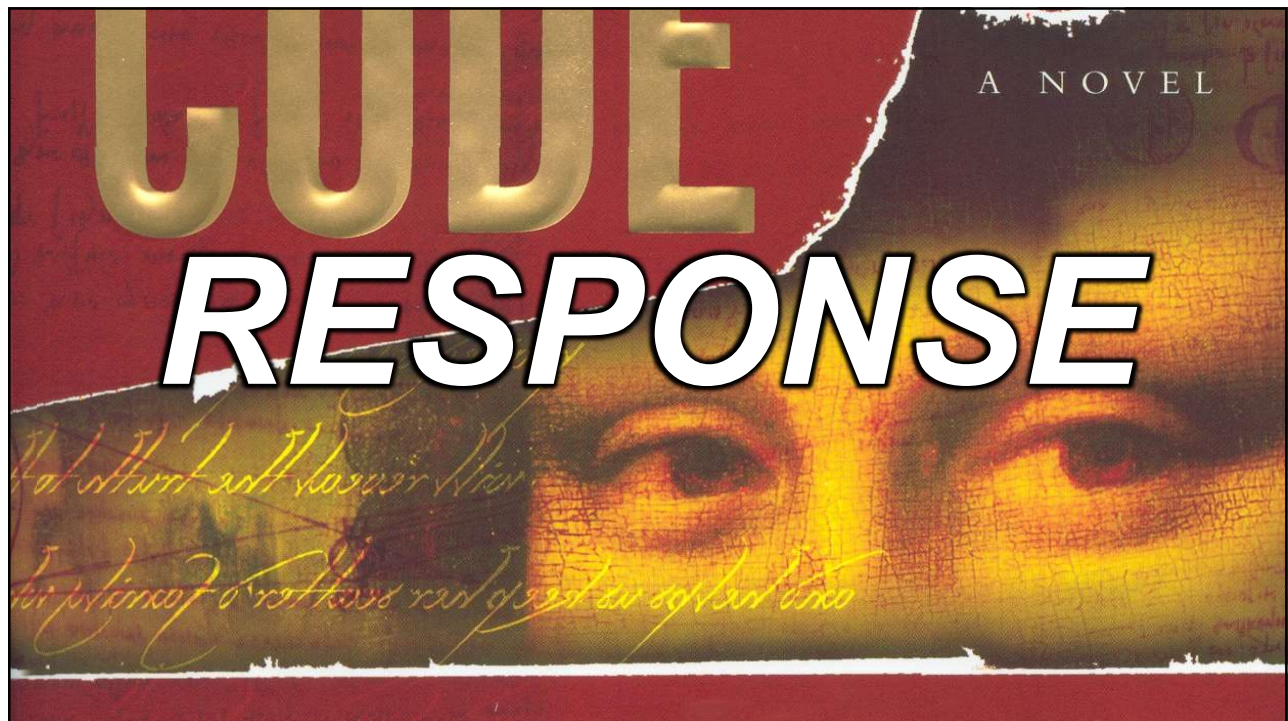
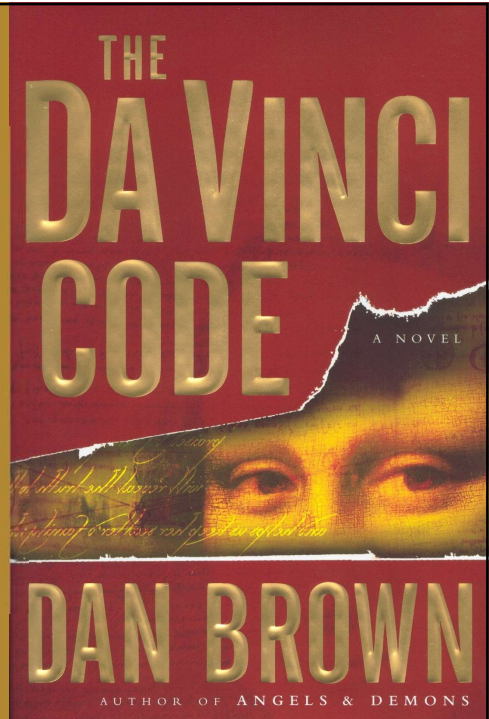
Darrell L. Bock



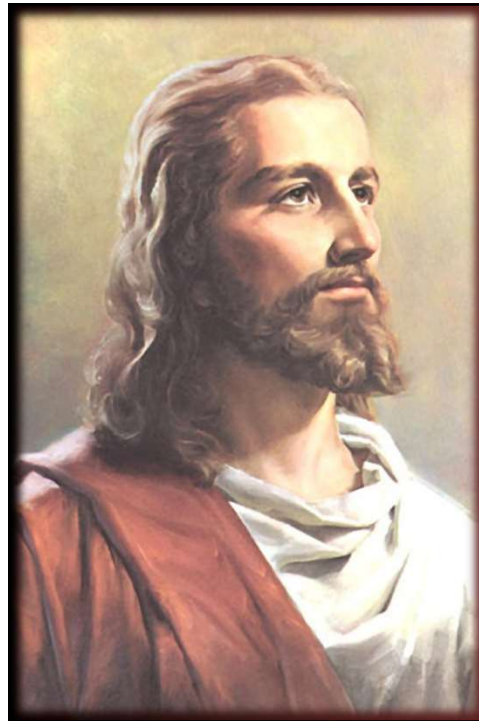


*According to the novel, the story of Jesus is more accurately contained within the Gnostic documents than in the New Testament and shows a mere human Jesus.*

"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)



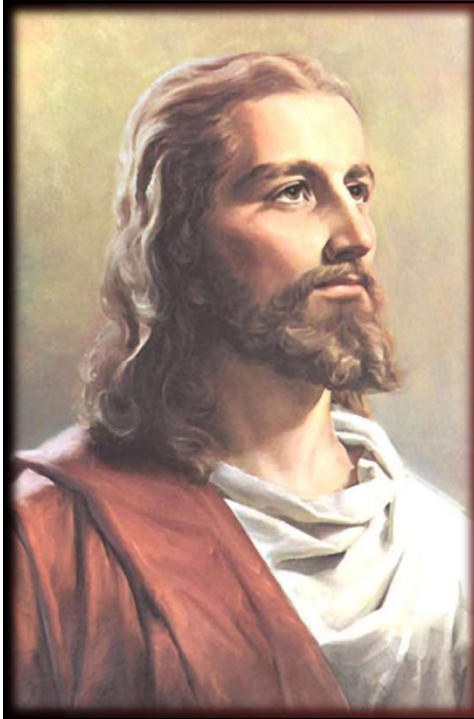




Jesus had a human ancestry. (Matt. 1:20-25)

Jesus had a human birth. (Luke 2:4-7)

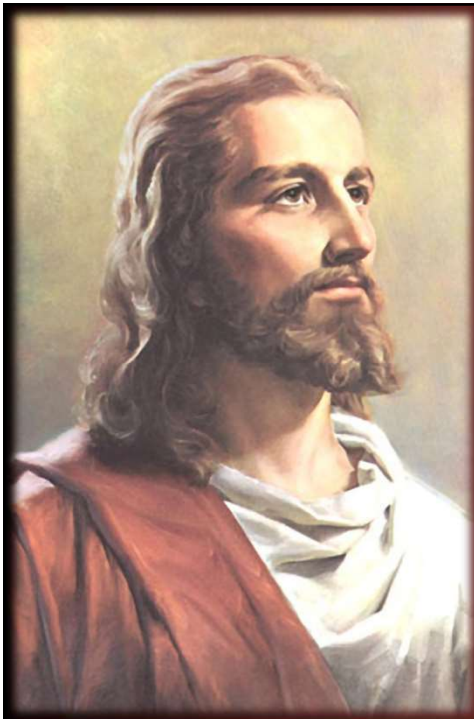
Jesus was human flesh and blood. (John 19:34; Heb. 2:14)



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)

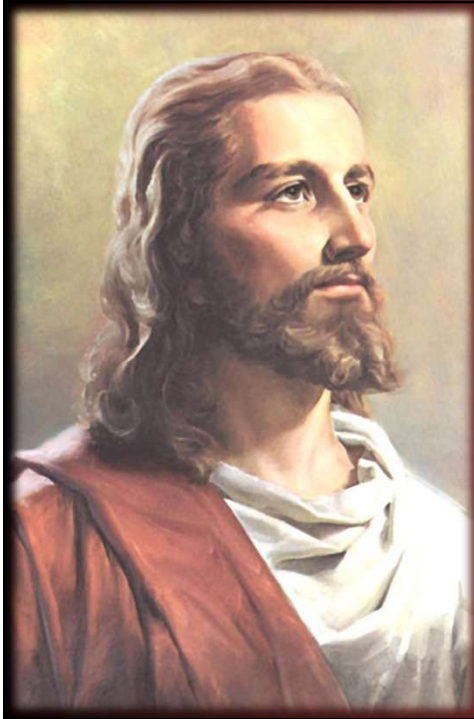


Jesus experienced human  
fatigue. (John 4:6)

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)



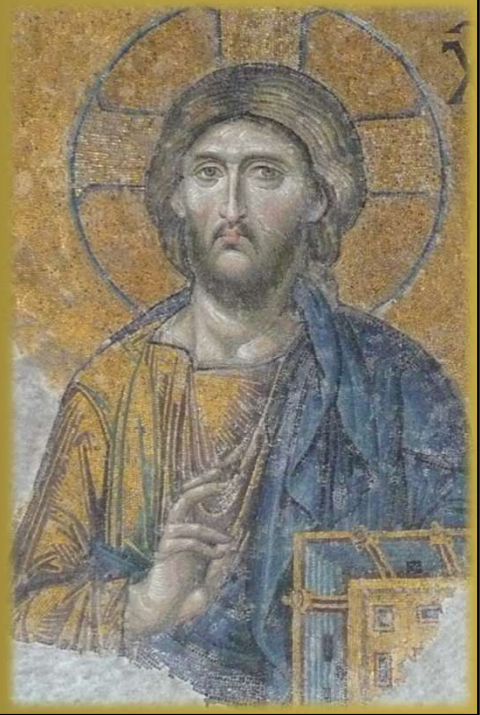
Jesus claimed to come forth from God. (John 8:42-47)  
Jesus claimed to be the only access to the Father. (John 14:6)





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

