

The DaVinci Code: Faith, Fact, or Fiction?
“Did a Council Vote on Which Books to Include in the Bible?”
2 Peter 1:20-21 – April 16, 2006

Overview of Our Study

<i>Date</i>	<i>Message Title</i>
April 16	Did a Council Vote on Which Books to Include in the Bible? (Merrell Ctr 10:00 am)
April 23	Was the Bible Edited to Make Jesus Appear Divine? (Grace Fellowship 9:00 or 10:45am)
April 30	Did Jesus and Mary Magdalene Marry and Have Children? (Grace Fellowship 9 or 10:45)
May 7	Is The Church in a Conspiracy to Hide the Sacred Feminine? (Grace Fellowship 9 or 10:45)

The Question of Epistemology and Jim’s Theory (1 Peter 3:15)

Some of the Claims of Dan Brown’s *The DaVinci Code*

- “Fact: All descriptions of artwork, architecture, documents, and secret rituals in this novel are accurate.” (p.1)
- “The Bible is a product of man... not of God.” (p.231)
- “Man created (the Bible) as a historical record of tumultuous times, and it has evolved through countless translations, additions, and revisions. History has never had a definitive version of the book.” (p.231)
- “More than 80 gospels were considered for the New Testament, and yet only a relative few were chosen for inclusion – Matthew, Mark, Luke, John among them.... The Bible, as we know it today, was collated by the pagan Roman emperor Constantine the Great.” (p.231)
- “At 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 the sacraments, and, of course, the divinity of Jesus.” (p.233)
- “Because Constantine upgraded Jesus’ status almost four centuries after Jesus’ death, thousands of documents already existed chronicling His life as a mortal man. To rewrite the history books, Constantine knew he would need a bold stroke. From this sprang the most profound moment in Christian history.... 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.... Anyone who chose the forbidden gospels over Constantine’s version was deemed a heretic.... Fortunately for historians, some of the gospels that Constantine attempted to eradicate managed to survive. The Dead Sea Scrolls were found in the 1950s hidden in a cave near Qumran in the Judean desert. And, of course, the Coptic Scrolls in 1945 at Nag Hammadi.” (p.234)

Just a Few of Brown’s Errors Not Dealing with The Bible

- Brown (p.1): “Fact: The Priory of Sion – a European secret society founded in 1099 – is a real organization. In 1975 Paris’s Bibliotheque Nationale discovered parchments known as Les Dossiers Secrets, identifying numerous members of the Priory of Sion, including Sir Isaac Newton, Botticelli, Victor Hugo, and L. da Vinci.”
- Truth: These parchments have been proven to be falsified and were written by an anti-Semite by the name of Plantard who had a criminal record for fraud. There is a social group called Priory of Sion but it was founded in 1956 (not 1099) and DaVinci and Newton could not have been members. (Laura Miller, “The DaVinci Con,” *The New York Times Book Review*, Sunday, February 22, 2004, p.23; Paul L. Maier, *The DaVinci Code: Fact or Fiction?* Wheaton: Tyndale House, 2004, p.12; http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Priory_of_Sion)
- Truth: History unequivocally records the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1946-1947. There was not a single gospel in the Dead Sea Scrolls. They were the library of an ascetic Jewish group called the Essenes, not Christians. (Peter Flint and James Vanderdam, *The Meaning of the Dead Sea Scrolls*, San Francisco: Harper, 2002, p.4)

How Did We Get Our Bible? (Answer from 2 Timothy 3:16)

- God _____ it out.

How Did God Do That? (Answer from 2 Peter 1:20-21)

- The human authors were _____ by the Holy Spirit.
- “carried along” = *feromenoi* = _____

Human book

ship/sails (human author)
humans wrote words
human personalities
specific human language
sometimes poor grammar

Divine Book

wind (Holy Spirit author)
God guided their thoughts
God shaped their lives
God’s universal message
always divine truth

- This would require a miracle the same magnitude of the _____

***How We Got These 66 Books:
The Process of Forming the Canon***

God reveals Himself in a special way

Moses
Prophets
Nation of Israel

Apostles

They recorded these events and truths

They recorded these events and truths

The Jewish people used these recorded accounts without doubting their authority

The early church used these recorded accounts without doubting their authority

People attempted to introduce books to the church that were not written by prophets or apostles and that had not previously been accepted by the Jews or early church

Series of councils and church leaders reject books that are not inspired and begin to form a list of canonical books. This process climaxes in the Council of Carthage in 397 A.D.

66 Books

Examples of Attempts to Add or Subtract Books (Ryrie, Lutzer)

- 1) **Montanus** (150 A.D.) - claimed that the _____ spoke directly to him and therefore more authoritative than past written documents.
- 2) **Marcion** (144 A.D.) - developed his own list of “canonical books”: threw out the Old Testament, Luke, and 12 epistles (anything that contained God’s _____ or punishment).

The Three Major Tests of the NT Canon Process (Ryrie, Lutzer)

- 1) **Apostolicity** - Was the author an _____ or did he have a close connection with an apostle? Did the writer experience God’s revelation first hand?
- 2) **Acceptance** - Was the book accepted by the _____ at large? Were the majority of churches already using this book?
- 3) **Conformity to the rule of faith** – Was the book’s teachings _____ with the Old Testament prophets and New Testament apostles?

Why Certain Books Did Not Make It Into The Bible

- Shepherd of Hermes – fails all 3 tests (Lutzer, The DaVinci Deception, p.73)
- Gospel of Thomas – fails all 3 tests (Lutzer, p.73) Examples: vv.7, 114.
- Gospel of Nicodemus, The Acts of Pilate, the Proto-Gospel of James, and the History of the Childhood of Thomas – fails all 3 tests (Garlow, p.146).
- Gospel of Philip/Gospel of Mary – fails all 3 tests (Witherington, pp.86-92).

How Do We Know the Bible is True? (message 8-18-2002 and 11-29-98)

1. The Deductive Test (2 Timothy 3:16)
2. The Inductive Test (what the Bible says about itself)
3. The Archaeology Test (Lutzer’s Seven Reasons Why You Can Trust the Bible)
4. The Prophecy Test (statistical odds of 333 prophecies all coming true in one Man)
5. The Indestructibility Test (Kennedy’s What If The Bible Had Never Been Written)
6. The Scientific Test (Holye, Parker, Smoot, Jastrow)
7. The Life-Change Test (Hebrews 4:12)

The #1 Reason Why I Trust The Bible as Fully True: Because Jesus Christ said that the Scriptures were true and then authenticated this through His _____ from the dead

- **Jesus repeatedly stated that the Bible was _____ and fully true**
 1. Matthew 5:17-18 – Jesus declared that the Bible will be accomplished down to the last letter
 2. Matthew 22:41-45 – Jesus based His point in a debate on the word “my” which is really just a tittle/stroke in Hebrew
 3. John 10:30-38 – Jesus declared that Scripture cannot be broken; He based His argument and life on one word from Psalm 82:6
 4. Matthew 12:40 – Jesus accepted as true the account of Jonah and the great fish
 5. Matthew 24:37-39 – Jesus spoke of Noah and the flood as a real person and a real event
 6. Luke 17:28-29 – Jesus spoke of Lot and the destruction of Sodom as a real historical event
 7. John 17:17 – Jesus declared God’s Word as truth
 8. 2 Peter 3:16 – The apostle Peter referred to Paul’s writings as “Scripture”
 9. 1 Timothy 5:18 – The apostle Paul referred to the Gospels as “Scripture”

▪ **The evidences of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ authenticate Jesus’ statements about the truthfulness of the Bible**

1. The preponderance of evidence that He was _____ and placed in a tomb (1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Matthew 27; Mark 15; Luke 23; John 19)
2. The _____ (1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20)
 - **Luke 24:1-8** - *On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb, 2 They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3 but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. 5 In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? 6 He is not here; He has risen! Remember how He told you, while He was still with you in Galilee: 7 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" 8 Then they remembered His words.*
3. The eye witness accounts of Jesus’ _____ (1 Corinthians 15:5-6)
4. The conversions of _____ (1 Corinthians 15:7-9; Acts 8:1; 9:1-31)
5. Changed _____! (1 Corinthians 15:8-10; 1 Timothy 1:15-16)

A Decision We Each Must Make (Hebrews 11:1)

- What is going to be the authority in my life? What will I look to for truth: myself, other people, human books, science, school?
- Will I accept the Bible by faith as _____?
- And, if the Bible is God’s Word, will I do what it says?

Application: Because The Bible is Your Word, God, I Will...

- ❑ **Invite Jesus Christ into my life** (and tell someone I have done this)
- ❑ **Get baptized** – next immersion baptism is Sunday, April 30, 4pm. Contact Joe Peeler at 281-646-1903 x.117 to get scheduled for this baptism.
- ❑ **Develop a plan for getting into God’s Word** – reading plan, study plan in a small group
- ❑ **Obey what God’s Word says about...**
 - My marriage (Genesis 2:24-25; Eph. 5:21-33; 1 Peter 3:1-7; Malachi 2:16)
 - My parenting (Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 24:14-15; Ephesians 6:1-4)
 - My sexuality (Exodus 20:14; 1 Corinth 6:9-20; 7:1-7)
 - My finances (Proverbs 3:9-10; 6:1-11; 2 Corinth 9:6-11; 1 Timothy 6:6-10)
 - My priorities (Matthew 6:33; Ephesians 5:15-20)
- ❑ **Share my faith** – Use this season of the DaVinci Code as an opportunity to dialogue with my unchurched friends/neighbors/relatives about God, Jesus Christ, Bible
- ❑ **Get more equipped on DaVinci:** Jim Garlow’s Cracking DaVinci’s Code; Darrell Bock’s Breaking the DaVinci Code; Erwin Lutzer’s The DaVinci Deception

Discussion Questions with Family, Friends, and Small Group

1. Have you read the book *The DaVinci Code*? Do you know anyone who has read it? Have you had conversations with anyone about it? How did the conversations go?
2. Do you plan on seeing the movie? Why or why not?
3. What is something new you learned about how we got our Bible? What questions do you have about “The Process of Forming the Canon”?
4. Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and 2 Peter 1:20-21. What do these verses say about how we got our Bible? What did that look like?
5. Look up some of the verses under “Jesus repeatedly stated that the Bible....” What did Jesus think about the Bible? How does His resurrection authenticate His view?
6. What is your opinion on the DaVinci Code’s view of the Bible?
7. What are your action steps/applications from this message?