



Keys to the Da Vinci Code

Before I read the book, my reaction was much the same as most people's. "What's all the fuss about? It's just a novel! It's fiction! Can't people tell the difference between reality and fantasy?" Then I read the book.

The thing that makes Dan Brown's fantasy, *The Da Vinci Code*, such an effective tool of confusion and controversy, is that he takes so many fascinating not-so-famous curiosities, such as the Divine Proportion in nature (PHI), and mixes them with blatant errors about very important things, such as where the Bible came from. This is something that most people haven't researched.

Most interested readers typically begin to check out the true fascinating facts first, and are too overwhelmed to seek the truth further for themselves. Some may assume the rest of the trivia in the book is true. Why would anyone do that if it were just a novel? Because outside of the story, the start of the book *The Da Vinci Code* reads: "FACT: ... All descriptions of artwork, architecture, documents, and secret rituals in this novel are accurate."

The truth is, that it's surprisingly easy to verify that many of the facts in the book are not true. You don't have to look very far. The difficulty lies in the fact that most people don't know which statements are the dishonest ones, and which ones are not. Which claims should you check out? That's why I've written this. Not to tell you what to believe, but where to start looking if you want to find information.

There are so many errors though, that I only intend to cover the important ones. Anyone who thinks the main issue here is about whether or not Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene, is in the dark. This is about something far more serious.

In his book, Brown uses most of his artistic license to make historically inaccurate claims about where the Bible came from, and the original Christian belief that Jesus is God. The claims about Mary Magdalene just make the story flow better, as do the claims that the Priory of Sion existed before the 1950's (all evidence for this is based on forgeries), and the other errors about Opus Dei, the Knights of Templar and Leonardo Da Vinci, which are not important either, so I won't get started on them. www.Wikipedia.org is a reliable source of information on these if you are interested.

The first half of the book is very intriguing, and deserves more than a little praise. There were only a few historical facts that Brown has reshaped to make them fit into the jigsaw puzzle of his story from time to time, and for this I engaged in a willing suspension of disbelief so that I could enjoy the story.

But then I hit Chapter 55, and it's like someone tried to jam a whole bunch of elephants in between the pieces and hoped nobody would notice! This is because Chapter 55 is the part where the story stops moving and the character Sir Leigh Teabing tells Brown's version of the history of what this is really all about - where the Bible came from, and who Jesus was. Other chapters, such as 58 and 60, also seemed to be entirely devoted to rewriting history.

Just read the following quotes taken from chapter 55 (they won't spoil the story if you haven't read it), and you will see why at almost every sentence I gasped that there were critics actually calling this research!

The claim that Brown is trying to make with all this is that power hungry men desiring to control naive

masses created the Bible and the doctrine of the deity of Christ. Every historical event Brown uses to back these claims is completely made up. In fact, a quick overview of true history will reveal that if anyone like the Catholic Church tried to control the masses it was by *denying* them access to the Bible.

The fact that Dan Brown gets away with his (intentional?) sloppy research, just goes to show how widespread the ignorance is about the history of Christianity, and how many people are willing to avoid the responsibility of making informed decisions about such important things as eternal life.

Quotes from chapter 55 Of *The Da Vinci Code*

The Facts

“The Bible... has evolved through countless translations, additions, and revisions. History has never had a definitive version of the book.” (Page 231)

History actually shows that the Bible has always been the same definitive version. While there are many translations of the Bible into many languages, each translation utilizes the same basic set of Hebrew and Greek manuscripts. There are 24,970 ancient copies of New Testament manuscripts alone (no other work of antiquity comes close), with only 1% of the variants significant (even then, not important ones).

“More than eighty gospels were considered for the New Testament, and yet only a relative few were chosen for inclusion—Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.” (Page 231)

In fact, there were only twelve other gospels in existence at the time, and none of them could be argued to be “inspired Scripture.”

“The Bible, as we know it today, was collated by the pagan Roman emperor Constantine the Great.” (Page 232)

Constantine had absolutely nothing to do with the collation of the Bible. The informal recognition of the 27 New Testament Scriptures was long before Constantine was born. And the formal affirmation of the same 27 New Testament Scriptures as we know it today occurred decades after Constantine, to protect against fraud, etc. The Old Testament is simply the Jewish Scriptures. The same ones Jesus used.

“He [Constantine] was a lifelong pagan who was baptized on his deathbed, too weak to protest. . . . Rome’s official religion was sun worship—the cult of Sol Invictus, or the Invisible Sun—and Constantine was its head priest.” (Page 232)

Whether or not he was a true Christian (it doesn’t matter), Constantine was not a pagan. There is reason to believe that he delayed his baptism until the last moment to try to assure that all the sins of his life would be cleansed, based on a misguided belief in his day that the water baptism itself washes away sin.

“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.” (Page 232)

Mithras was never attributed with the titles ‘Son of God’ or ‘Light of the World’. There is also no mention of a death or resurrection motif in Mithraic mythology.

“By the way, December 25 is also the birthday of Osiris, Adonis, and Dionysus.” (Page 232)

There is no evidence of this.

“The newborn Krishna was presented with gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” (Page 232)

There is no record of this anywhere, including the *Bhagavad-Gita* (1st century), *Harivamsa Purana* (c. A.D. 300) or *Bhagavata Purana* (c. A.D. 800-900). Even if there were, it would still have to be written after the Gospels anyway.

“Even Christianity’s weekly holy day was stolen from the pagans.” (Page 232)

“Christianity honored the Jewish Sabbath of Saturday, but Constantine shifted it to coincide with the pagan’s veneration day of the sun.” (Page 232)

“To this day, most churchgoers attend services on Sunday morning with no idea that they are there on account of the pagan sun god’s weekly tribute—Sunday.” (Page 232)

Long before Constantine was born, Christians always observed Sunday as the Lord’s Day, a day of assembly and breaking of bread (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2; Revelation 1:10). Saturday was the Sabbath; a day of rest, and this has never changed (Luke 4:16; Hebrews 4:4). Although the majority of Christians today don’t observe the Sabbath (Saturday), this has never meant that it shifted to Sunday as a day of rest. All days of the week were a tribute by the pagans to some god, which is where their current names came from, meaning Sunday is not the pagans’ only special day.

“At [the Council of Nicea] . . . 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 . . . 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.”

The Council of Nicea only debated one issue: Arianism. Until that moment in history, all Christians believed that Jesus was divine. This is the single most important issue the Da Vinci Code falsifies. Christians willingly sacrificed their lives for proclaiming that Jesus was indeed God in the flesh. (John 20:19-28, 31; 2 Peter 1:16-18; Philippians 2:5-11)

Jesus himself claimed to be God (John 5:16-18; 10:24-33; 8:56-59 - compare Exodus 3:13-14), therefore He could not have been a great mortal prophet, but either a liar, a fruitcake... or God.

“Jesus’ establishment as the ‘Son of God’ was officially proposed and voted on by the Council of Nicea.... [and it was] a relatively close vote at that.” (Page 233)

Jesus called himself the “Son of God” and that He was, was always a defining belief of Christians who always held Him to be divine, and human at the same time. The only vote at the Council of Nicea is whether or not Jesus was coeternal with God the Father, and that was 300 to 2.

“Many scholars claim that the early Church literally stole Jesus from His original followers, hijacking His human message, shrouding it in an impenetrable cloak of divinity, and using it to expand their own power.” (Page 233)

Name any scholars who claim this (the Characters in the book don’t count).

“Because Constantine upgraded Jesus’ status almost four centuries after Jesus’ death, thousands of documents already existed chronicling His life as a mortal man.” (Page 234)

From the beginning, Christians always believed that Jesus is God, and Constantine did not affect this. Dan Brown made up the “thousands of documents” out of thin air.

“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.” (Page 234)

Never happened! Constantine never had anything to do with how we got the Bible.

“Fortunately for historians... some of the gospels that Constantine attempted to eradicate managed to survive. The Dead Sea Scrolls were found in the 1950’s hidden in a cave near Qumran in the Judean desert.” (Page 234)

Constantine was never involved in any attempt to eradicate any gospels. The Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in 1947 and contained no gospels, nor any reference to Jesus. The fact that Dan Brown dares to bring up the The Dead Sea Scrolls, which are a powerful witness to the accuracy of the Old Testament, and to pretend they help his story is mind-boggling!

The Nag Hammadi gospels “highlight glaring discrepancies and fabrications ... [in] the modern Bible.” (Page 234)

Again, the opposite is true. Three of the four Gospels of the New Testament date earlier than A.D. 70, and are the earliest Christian records. The Gospel of John may be as late as A.D. 90.

The Nag Hammadi scrolls are “the earliest Christian records.” (Page 245)

The earliest Nag Hammadi gospels may date as early as A.D. 150, but most date from A.D. 200 to A.D. 400.

“The modern Bible was compiled and edited by men who possessed a political agenda ... to solidify their own power base.” (Page 234)

The modern Bible was chosen by early Christians who were persecuted and killed for their faith by those with a political agenda.

If you would like to know the truth about Christianity, drop into the Garden’s Point Chaplaincy and ask someone about the free Christianity Explained course. You’ll also find more in-depth articles there about *The*

Da Vinci Code with proper references. You can also find some at www.JesusAndDavinci.com

Here are some more funny quotes from *The Da Vinci Code*.

Quotes from *The Da Vinci Code*

Corrections

“During 300 years of witch hunts, the Church burned at the stake an astonishing five million women” (Page 125).

More like 30,000-50,000 women and men during 400 years (1400 to 1800), and not just burned at the stake. Besides history doing so, common sense should tell you that “five million women” (40% of Europe’s female population at the time) is absurd! 46 women would have to be burned at the stake *each day* for the entire 300 years!

“The Jewish tetragrammaton YHWH—the sacred name of God—in fact derived from Jehovah, an androgynous physical union between the masculine Jah and the pre-Hebraic name for Eve, Havah.” (Page 309)

In fact, the opposite is true! Jehovah (a modern English word) is derived from the ancient Hebrew Tetragrammaton YHWH, (how embarrassing!) which has no etymological connection with Havah, the Hebrew (not “pre-Hebraic”) name for Eve.

“Early Jews believed that the Holy of Holies in Solomon’s Temple housed not only God but also His powerful female equal, Shekinah.” (Page 309)

This is absurd! Strong monotheism (belief in one God) is a defining characteristic of the early Jews. The “Shekinah” (meaning “presence”) refers only to the glory of God, not to some “powerful female equal.”

“The rock on which Jesus built His Church ... was not Peter ... It was Mary Magdalene.” (Page 248)

Neither! As Peter himself said, Jesus Himself is the “chief cornerstone” on which the rest of us “living stones” are built (1 Peter 2:4-7).

“For the early church, mankind’s use of sex to commune directly with God posed a serious threat to the Catholic power base. It left the Church out of the loop, undermining their self-proclaimed status as the sole conduit to God. For obvious reasons, they worked hard to demonize sex and recast it as a disgusting and sinful act. Other major religions did the same.” (Page 309)

God created sex to be a beautiful way for a man to commune directly with his wife. Early Christians never believed it could be used to achieve gnosis. Christians still do not view sex within marriage as sin.

“Constantine and his male successors successfully converted the world from matriarchal paganism to patriarchal Christianity by waging a campaign of propaganda that demonized the sacred feminine, obliterating the goddess from modern religion forever.” (Page 124)

The Christian Gospels of the New Testament consistently show Jesus raising woman’s status above what was accepted at the time, while it is the Gnostic Gospels that demonize women. Brown’s book claims the opposite of this throughout.

“Powerful men in the early Christian church ‘conned’ the world by propagating lies that devalued the female and tipped the scales in favor of the masculine.” (Page 124)

“The marriage of Jesus and Mary Magdalene is part of the historical record.” (Page 245)

No marriage of Jesus was mentioned anywhere, including the Gnostic Gospels mentioned in *The Da Vinci Code*. Such a marriage should at least be mentioned in 1 Corinthians 9:5. If Mary Magdalene was married, she would have been referred to by her husband’s name rather than the town from which she came, Magdala.

“The Last Supper practically shouts at the viewer that Jesus and Magdalene were a pair.” (Page 244)

It apparently didn’t shout loud enough, and needed *The Da Vinci Code* to make up what it said. Da Vinci himself (who, let’s not forget, didn’t live anywhere near the time of Jesus) labeled the figure on Jesus’ right side (which has no breasts) as “Johannes,” referring to John, the beloved disciple who, if left out, would leave only eleven disciples in the painting.

“Every faith in the world is based on fabrication. That is the definition of faith—acceptance of that which we imagine to be true, that which we cannot prove.” (Page 341)

Speak for yourself! I truly understand that my faith (Christianity) is based on fact, and am reminded of it by *The Da Vinci Code* which cannot challenge it without lying, exaggerating and inventing information and history.

“Those who truly understand their faiths understand the stories are metaphorical... Religious allegory has become a part of the fabric of reality. And living in that reality helps millions of people cope and be better people.” (Page 342)

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