

***Cracking the DaVinci Code***  
Week 1 – Can the Bible Be Trusted?  
May 7, 2006

Eyewitnesses are important

***Many people have set out to write accounts about the events that have been fulfilled among us. They used the eyewitness reports circulating among us from the early disciples. Having carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I also have decided to write a careful account for you...so you can be certain of the truth of everything you were taught.***

*Luke chapter 1 verses 1-4 (778)*

***I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve (disciples). After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles.***

*1 Corinthians chapter 15 verses 3 - 7 (879)*

How did we get our Bible?

- Jesus was crucified, rose again, ascended in about 33 AD
- Soon thereafter, people started writing accounts (letters) of Jesus' life & what he did
- These letters were read by their recipients then circulated further, copied, circulated further, copied, etc.
- As this was done, certain of these "letters" started to rise to the top and were accepted as being inspired by God

What criteria were used to determine which of these letters were scripture?

- The letter was written by an Apostle (someone who worked with Jesus)
- It was accurate to the eye-witness accounts
- It agreed with existing doctrine
- Within the Christian community, there was wide-spread agreement about the letter being inspired

**Comparing The DaVinci Code & The Bible to the historical evidence**

DC states that there were some 80 gospels written, with only 4 kept (*Matthew, Mark, Luke & John*) because these were most favorable to show Jesus was God

- There is no supporting historical evidence that 80 gospels were written
- The 4 gospels that were kept show Jesus as God / man
- The gospels that were rejected (*The gospel of Thomas, Philip, Judas, Peter, Mary Magdalene & others*) show spectacular miracles, magical stuff
- If there were some elaborate scheme to "make" Jesus God, wouldn't it make sense to keep the spectacular magical stuff?

DC states that the omitted gospels are most accurately describe the real Jesus

- When trying to determine what happened in history, it is important that you find primary sources as close to the event you are investigating
- Matthew was probably written about 50-70 AD, Mark in the 60s AD, Luke in the 70s AD & John in the 80s AD
- The omitted gospels were not written until well into the 100s & 200s AD

DC states that the reliability of the 4 gospels cannot be trusted

- The 4 gospels have been studied for 2000 & have withstood the testing & scrutiny of thousands of investigators and their investigations
- Their historical data has been found to be supported in history
- Luke names 32 countries, 54 cities & 9 islands...and all have been supported in history. Luke also names rulers & historical events which have been substantiated in history
- DC, when speaking about The Gospel of Thomas, states that it was written in Aramaic...when it was written in Greek
- DC states that Sophie was able to bend “The Madonna of the Rocks”...when it is actually more than 6 feet tall and painted on wood (*Bruce Boucher, curator, Art Institute of Chicago in “Does ‘The DaVinci Code’ Crack Leonardo?”*)

DC states that Constantine established the “cannon” & then commissioned & financed a new Bible

- History tells us that the 27 New Testament books were all written & accepted as scripture by the church at large sometime around 100 AD
- These 27 books are all recognized & quoted as scripture by 2nd & 3rd century church writers
- Constantine lived from 273 AD - 337 AD
- He did commission 50 copies of the Bible to be written & then given to the church for study / reading / teaching
- The Bibles Constantine commissioned contained the same 66 books in them that the early church recognized as scripture as early as 100 AD

DC states that by a “relatively close vote” at The Council of Nicea, Jesus was declared to be God, because prior to this “Jesus was viewed as His followers as a mortal prophet....” (*p. 253 paperback*)

- The Council of Nicea (*Nicaea*) took place in 325 AD
- Church Councils were meetings attended by church leaders to settle doctrine
- It never dealt with the divinity of Jesus
- It did deal with the issue of whether the divine Jesus was an eternal being or if God the Father created him as well
- This was put to a vote, and by a vote of 298 - 2 it was agreed that Jesus was eternal, not that Jesus was God

Seek the truth!

***Jesus said, “You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”***

*John chapter 8 verse 32 (817)*

Next Sunday: Were Jesus & Mary Magdalene married? Did they have kids? How did Jesus view women? How did the early church treat women?