

Examining the Da Vinci Code and the Bible
Worldview: “Discerning Fact from Fiction”

I. Introduction and Overview

- The *Da Vinci Code* was written by Dan Brown, 2 years ago.
- This is his spiritual journey, which is shaping and molding the worldview of others.

Why read the *Da Vinci Code*? Why should we be concerned about this book?

- We should read this book because your neighbor is reading it, and it is shaping his/her worldview.
- We will examine this book and *examine the Bible*, because many of us don't have a good understanding of *our faith and its history*.

Table Talk - take a few minutes and talk to the people around you. Share what has shaped your world view.

II. Book – Bible what should be examined?

Dan Brown challenges the following in his book:

- The Deity of Christ
- Cannon
- Inspiration of Scripture

- He undermines the Catholic Church and its institution.
He uses art, historical records, myth and conjecture to paint his belief structure.

Like many writers through out history there is more to the pages, ***there is a message, a motive a worldview to be passed on to others.*** We need to be very cautious when we read a book that challenges, undermines and/or refutes the Word of God.

Dan Brown's spiritual journey

- Shreds of mysticism, feminine deity, eastern mythology, and Gnosticism all rolled together
- Fueled by a shroud of conspiracy almost 2000 years old
- Desire not only to uncover truth, but to return to original practices

III. Cliff Notes from the Da Vinci Code:

- This book is a murder mystery
- This book is an account of the Holy Grail
- This book is an art and history lesson.
- This book uncovers a deep dark secret, “it reveals the meaning of lasting life.”
- Dan Brown refines the religious faith many experience today through persuasion, folklore and shreds of truth found through biblical, historical and scholarly evidence.
- This book challenges the role of women in the church, the goal and authority of the Apostles and the history of the Roman Empire.
- This book states Jesus was human only.

IV. Responding to the Questions/Challenges Found in the *Da Vinci Code*

- Dr. Jeffrey Neihaus, Gordon-Conwell Professor, teaches the best way to undermine the Christian faith is to demystify the works of God, discredit the divinity of Christ and uproot the Word of God.
- "If we would destroy the Christian religion, we must first of all destroy man's belief in the Bible." -Voltaire

Was the Bible written by men or by God?

Answer: **Yes!**

Two verses of Scripture help us understand this:

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17

“Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” 2 Peter 1:20-21

Archeology: because trusting the Bible is the cornerstone of Christian faith!

Old Testament

- Dead Sea scrolls verify that the Old Testament has survived through the years with great accuracy
- Only Esther differs from our version and the Scrolls; Esther was not a part of this document
- This similarity is exactly opposite of what Dan Brown states in the Code!

New Testament

- Dates composed (roughly):
 - Mark ~late 50’s – 70’s
 - Luke, Acts ~60’s – 80’s
 - Matthew ~80’s
 - John ~90’s

- For reference, works on Alexander the Great were composed over 400 years after his death, yet are considered accurate.

Manuscripts

- The earlier, the better and more accurate
 - History of Rome – earliest copy 1000 years older than original
 - Annals (of Roman history) – same as above
 - Homer’s Iliad – earliest copy from 13th century
- ***All considered credible!***
- The more copies of a manuscript, the better
 - Annals – 20 copies 1000 years after original
 - Homer’s Iliad – 643 copies
- Bible: 24,970 copies!
 - 5,684 Greek documents
 - 19284 from other languages
 - Dead Sea Scrolls again verify authenticity
- ***Conclusion: What we hold in our hands today is an authentic, reliable, translated document.***

V: Points for Reflection

- The Bible is reliable and made up of the Old and New Testaments.
- We hold a Christian worldview rooted in Christ and His Word.

Next Week

Historicity of Christianity: *“Is Christianity a Copy Cat Religion?”*