

Examining The Da Vinci Code and the Bible
Week 4: Truth, Knowledge, and Wisdom

I. Review:

Week 1: Foundations of the Bible

- Bible inspired by God, recorded by man

Week 2: Are we copycats?

- Our traditions are the original ones; it is all a matter of dates

Week 3: The Holy Grail

- No grand cover-up: Jesus was divine and unmarried

II. Dan Brown's Final Stabs at the Church: Our faith is incomplete

- The Bible is incomplete because up to 80 other gospels were excluded from it
- Our idea of God is incomplete and lacks balance because it does not include a feminine aspect
- *From DVC*: pp 231, 238, 246, 247, 309

III. The Bible

A. D.B.'s Claims

1. Many people followed Jesus to record his life
2. Over 80 other gospels record his life and sayings
3. Other works were destroyed in order to subvert them

B. Canon

- *Formally* recognized in 397 AD at the Council of Carthage (70 years after the Council of Nicea)
- Set up 27 books of the New Testament, and 46 books of the Old Testament
- Canon (Rule) 24 from Carthage establishes that nothing shall be read in church other than prescribed divine scriptures

C. Gnosticism

- Popular movement in and around the time of Christianity
- Many traveling speakers, "preachers"
- Gnosis = Knowledge
- Search within for enlightenment
- Focus inward for salvation, not outward
- Christ's knowledge came from within, and he teaches us to do the same
- *The Matrix*

D. Old Testament

- Today's Bible reflects Hebrew Bible
- Extra 7 books of original canon: Judith, Tobit, Wisdom of Solomon, 1 & 2 Maccabees, Sirach, Baruch
- **Apocrypha**: information of suspicious or untrustworthy origin; not *necessarily* heretical
- Return to Hebrew Bible at reformation (KJV)

E. New Testament

- Revelation of John only disputed book
- Unused texts were not burned; they faded away because no one felt the need to copy them!

F. N.T. Apocrypha

1. Emphasis on **within**
2. Concentration on **knowledge**
3. Use of **primary** or **secondary** characters interacting with one another
4. Generally takes place in between **resurrection** and **ascension**
5. Diminished attitude of **women**

IV. Feminine Deity

A. D.B.'s Claims

- O.T. times featured Temple sex to achieve gnosis
- Early Church founders repressed sacred feminine as a pagan symbol
- "Sacred feminine" added balance to Godhead

B. Jewish Traditions

- Regulations about sex (Ex 20:14, Lev 1-18)
- Regulations about inner rooms (Lev 16:2-4)
- Goddess worship forbidden (II Chr 24:18)
- *Shekinah*: God's **glory**
- *Jehovah*: 16th Century rendering of **YHWH** using vowels of "Adonai"

C. Balance of femininity

- God is **infinite** – has no need of gender
- He created male *and* female with specific roles
- We are the **BRIDE** of Christ! (II Cor 11:2)
- Church leaders lifted up the role of woman, not suppressed it!