

The Divinity of Jesus Christ

On page 233 of *The Da Vinci Code* Dan Brown claims that before the Council of Nicea Jesus was not considered divine. He also claims the gospels in our New Testament paint a very divine picture of Jesus while the heretical gospels show more of His human side. Again, these claims are false. The gospels in the New Testament show both the human side of Jesus (These gospels record very human traits of Jesus such as eating, drinking, various emotions, bleeding, and dying) and the divine (John 1:1; Mark 1:1). In fact the heretical gospels paint a more divine picture of Jesus than the gospels in the New Testament (this is opposite of what Dan Brown claims).

There are many claims from Christians of Jesus' divinity before the Council of Nicea. It would be safe to say that this was the predominant view among Christians. Paul, around 60 A.D., wrote this about Jesus Christ "Who being in very nature God" (Phil. 2:6). At the end of the gospel of John, Thomas, after witnessing the resurrected Christ stated "My Lord and my God!" Ignatius of Antioch, in 110 A.D. described Jesus as "God come in the flesh." Many people prior to the Council of Nicea believed Jesus was divine. We can say with confidence that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came to earth, and died upon the cross so that we might have forgiveness of sins. When the Bible is examined, it is found to be true, unlike Dan Brown's book *The Da Vinci Code* which is found to be full of errors.

Seek the Truth

Fiction: "the social decorum during that time virtually forbid a Jewish man to be unmarried." (p.245 *The Da Vinci Code*)

Fact: Merrill C. Tenney, commenting on the Jewish group the Essenes stated "They were usually voluntarily celibate..." (p.111 *New Testament Times*)

Fiction: The priory of Sion was founded in 1099. (p. 1 *The Da Vinci Code*)

Fact: Dr. Paul Maier stated "the fact of the matter is that it was founded in 1956, in Paris by a crook and forger named Pierre Plantard." (p.19 *Exploring the Da Vinci Code*)

Fiction: Jesus was not considered divine until the Council of Nicea. (p. 233 *The Da Vinci Code*)

Fact: Jesus was considered divine long before the Council of Nicea. (Mark 1:1; John 1:1; Col. 1:15; Heb. 1:3)

Fiction: "The Dead Sea Scrolls were found in the 1950s..." (p. 234 *The Da Vinci Code*)

Fact: The Dead Sea Scrolls were found in 1947. (p. 19 *New Testament Times*)


The Da Vinci Deception

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The Da Vinci Deception



"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

John 8:32

While watching the trailer for the movie *The Da Vinci Code*, the phrase “Seek the Truth” flashed upon the big screen in between clips from the highly anticipated movie. I read the novel by Dan Brown and I must admit it was an exciting page turner, but there were some things about the novel that disturbed me. I hope everyone who reads the book or sees the movie will not just take Dan Brown’s word for everything, but “Seek the Truth” as the trailer for the movie suggests.

Although Dan Brown’s book is a work of fiction, he does claim the background information is factual. On the first page of his book, right before the novel begins, in bold print is the word “FACT.” On this page he makes the following claim, “All descriptions of artwork, architecture, documents, and secret rituals in this novel are accurate.” Is this true? Did Dan Brown do extensive research on all of the background information in his novel, or is this some kind of hoax? I hope people will ask themselves these questions and others like them before accepting a fictional book as truth without checking the facts.

After reading Dan Brown’s book, I decided to research some of the claims within the book myself. Since my background is in religion, I primarily focused on this aspect of the book. There were some problems with *The Da Vinci Code* that I recognized upon my first reading before I even began to do my research. First, Dan Brown claims, on page 234 of his novel, the Dead Sea Scrolls were found in the 1950’s, but this is simply untrue. The Dead Sea Scrolls were found

in 1947. They were one of the biggest discoveries in the 20th century and anyone who takes a college level intro class on Christianity or Judaism will more than likely study and learn about these documents. Dan Brown made another big mistake when it came to these documents. On page 245 of his book, he claims these documents are Christian documents. The Dead Sea Scrolls are not Christian documents. They are Jewish documents. The Dead Sea Scrolls belonged to a Jewish community known as Essenes. Essenes were a sect of Judaism like Sadducees and Pharisees. Many scholars believe the Dead Sea Scrolls predate Jesus, and the documents themselves are manuscripts of the Old Testament and not the New Testament. This information is very easy to find, and it makes one wonder how Dan Brown could have gotten simple and easily available information wrong.

As I began to research the claims of *The Da Vinci Code*, there were other things in the book that did not seem right. One claim the book makes is that Constantine is responsible for our New Testament canon (231-232). The word “canon” is used by religious people to refer to the books they believe are sacred. Did Constantine decide which books were to be included in our Bible and which were not? Absolutely not! This is another falsehood Dan Brown paints in his book. The Books of the New Testament were already being called Scripture, and canons were being suggested before Constantine was even born. The Muratorian canon was suggested in the late 2nd century and Constantine was not even born until the late 3rd century. Many early Christian writers were referring to the gospels and other books such as Paul’s letters as Scripture long before the Muratorian canon.

Another problem with Dan Brown’s novel is his questioning of the gospels. On page 231, he

claims that “more than eighty gospels were considered for the New Testament.” This is simply untrue. There are not eighty gospels known to exist. In fact, there are not even forty gospels known to exist. It is true there are other gospels, but not as many as Dan Brown claims. Why were these other gospels not included in the New Testament? There are many different reasons why they were not included, but one of the main reasons is they were not written by an apostle or anyone associated with an apostle. Some of these gospels were written much later than Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John and they contain radical teachings not accepted by early Christians. Some of these gospels are Gnostic gospels and they paint a very different picture of Jesus. The Gnostics believed that all material things are evil. Therefore, some believed Jesus Christ did not come in the flesh since they viewed flesh as being evil. The apostle John and other New Testament writers addressed these heretical teachings (2 John 8). The fact is, we have the most reliable gospels according to historians, and more importantly, we have the gospels that are inspired by God in our New Testament.

These are just a few of the problems I found with *The Da Vinci Code*. There are many more I could discuss, but I hope these are enough to make people realize Dan Brown’s book is more fiction than anything else. God created us to be intelligent creatures. He gave us a brain and the ability to reason. We should use these things to examine the evidence ourselves.