

## Da Vinci Code- A Christian perspective (2)

Grace Church Dulwich- Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2006

Table 1- Dan Brown's attack on Constantine and the Bible

<p>“The Bible, as we know it today, was collated by the pagan Roman emperor Constantine.” (pg 313)</p>	<p>Fact or fiction?</p>
<p>“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.” (pg 313)</p>	<p>Jesus began life as a baby, born from a woman (Luke 2:6-7)                  He went through the development stages of childhood (Luke 2:52)                  He worked as a carpenter (Mark 6:3)                  He was hungry and thirsty (Matthew 4:2, Luke 4:2, John 19:28)                  He was tired and fatigued (Mark 4:38, Luke 8:23)                  He experienced sadness and sorrow (John 11:35)                  He was amazed (Matthew 8:10)                  He was angry (Mark 11:15-16, John 2:13-17)                  He was fearful of impending suffering (Matthew 26:38)                  He was disappointed (Matthew 26:40-45)                  He bled and died (John 19:33-34)</p>
<p>“More than <i>eighty</i> gospels were considered for the New Testament, and yet only a relative few were chosen for inclusion- Matthew, Mark, Luke and John among them.” (pg 317)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Clement</u> (c.AD95) In his epistle to the Corinthians, he cites portions of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, and introduces them as the actual words of Jesus.</li> <li>2. <u>The Didache</u> (c.AD100) cites portions of the three synoptic Gospels and refers to them as the words of Jesus. This manual quotes extensively from Matthew's gospel.</li> <li>3. <u>Papias</u> (c.AD130) cites the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, presumably as canonical. He specifically refers to John's Gospel as containing the words of Jesus.</li> <li>4. <u>Justin Martyr</u> (AD140) considered all four Gospels to be Scripture.</li> <li>5. <u>Polycarp</u> (c.AD150) quotes Matthew, Mark, and Luke, and refers to them as the words of Jesus.</li> <li>6. <u>Irenaeus</u> (c.AD170) “Since there are four zones of the world,...and four principal winds...it is fitting that she (the church) should have four pillars...the Gospel under four aspects,...”</li> <li>7. <u>The Muratorian Fragment</u> (c.AD175) lists the four canonical gospels. Indeed, it lists 22 of the 27 books in the New Testament.</li> <li>8. <u>Papyrus 45</u> (c.AD200) has all four canonical gospels together. (www.ccel.org/fathers2/)</li> </ol>

Table 2- Dan Brown's evidence for his attack

<p>“The <b>Dead Sea Scrolls</b> were found in the 1950s hidden in a cave near Qumran in the Judean desert.” (pg 317)</p>	<p>A. 1946 C. 1948</p>	<p>B. 1947 D. 1950s (www.physics.arizona.edu/physics/public/dead-sea.html)</p>
<p>“In addition to telling the true Grail story, these documents speak of Christ's ministry in very human terms.” (pg 317)</p>	<p>A. 0 C. 254</p>	<p>B. 10 D. 397 (www.ibiblio.org/expo/deadsea.scrolls.exhibit/overview.html)</p>
<p>And, of course, the <b>Coptic scrolls</b>... speak of Christ's ministry in very human terms.” (pg 317)</p>	<p>“The Savior said to me, “He whom you saw on the tree, glad and laughing, this is the living Jesus. But this one into whose hands and feet they drive the nails in his fleshy part,... is the substitute being put into shame, ...” Apocalypse of Peter (www.webcom.com/gnosis/naghamm/apopet.html)</p>	

Table 3- Jesus Christ and the Bible (2 Timothy 3:14-17)

<p>Bible's own evidence:</p>	<p>“These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to remembrance all that I have said to you.” (John 14:25-26)          “For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” (2 Peter 1:21)</p>																
<p>Internal evidence: - unity - prophecy</p>	<p>1. The Bible was written over a span of 1500 years.          2. It was written by more than 40 people from all walks of life.          3. It was written in many different places covering three continents.          4. It was written under many different circumstances.          5. It was written with different individual purposes.          (The Bible)</p>																
<p>External evidence: - archaeological  - manuscript</p>	<p>“No archaeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical reference.”- Nelson Glueck (www.evangelical-times.org/articles/dec03/dec03a05.htm)          “There can be no doubt that archaeology has confirmed the substantial historicity of the Old Testament.”- Dr William Albright (www.biblecentre.org/ebooks/so_whatdiff_2_ch1.htm)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Text</th> <th>Approx interval b/w writing &amp; 1<sup>st</sup> manuscript</th> <th>Number of copies</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Julius Caesar- Gallic Wars</td> <td>900 years</td> <td>9-10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Livy- History of Rome</td> <td>400 years</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tacitus- Histories and Annals</td> <td>800 years</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The New Testament Gospels</td> <td>300 years</td> <td>&gt;2,300</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(F F Bruce- The New Testament Documents: Are they reliable?)          “The only textual variants which affect more than a sentence or two are John 7:53-8:11 and Mark 16:9-20...But over all, 97-99% of the New Testament can be reconstructed beyond any reasonable doubt.” -Craig Blomberg (The Historical Reliability of the Gospels)</p>		Text	Approx interval b/w writing & 1 <sup>st</sup> manuscript	Number of copies	Julius Caesar- Gallic Wars	900 years	9-10	Livy- History of Rome	400 years	20	Tacitus- Histories and Annals	800 years	2	The New Testament Gospels	300 years	>2,300
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<p>So what?</p>	<p>The Bible contains the only path to wisdom (2 Tim 3:15)          The Bible contains the only path to wisdom for salvation (2 Tim 3:15)          The Bible contains the only path to wisdom for salvation- which is immortal life with Jesus (2 Tim 1:10) SO GET WISE!</p>																