

# THE THREE FACTS THAT CRACK THE DA VINCI CODE



## What makes the Bible of today reliable?

More than **24,000 copies** or manuscripts of the OT and NT were found.

By comparing the various texts, scholars could ascertain the copies to be accurate reflections of the original texts. In comparison, other ancient texts, like Caesar's Gallic Wars has only 10 surviving manuscripts and Tacitus' Annals can only be checked with 20 copies. Yet no one would argue that the Gallic Wars and Annals that we have today were not the original words of Caesar and Tacitus.

The OT and NT have manuscripts that are far **nearer** to the original date of composition, compared to other accepted works of old, ensuring less textual distortion through the ages.

Most of the NT, including all the Gospels, are available in the John Ryland and Chester Beatty Papyri, which dated back to 40 yrs of writing of gospel of John. In contrast, the earliest copies of the Gallic Wars are dated back to 900 AD, 1000 years after it was written.

The New Testament books were the earliest witness of the life and teaching of Christ. They were written either by the **apostles** or **eyewitnesses** of the events.

## The "Gnostic Gospels" are not the earliest "Christian" records.

**Gnosticism** was a system of non-Christian ideas expressed in Christian terms.

These so-called "gospels" were forgeries which claimed the authorship of some significant figures from the New Testament, the most well-known being "Thomas, Mary, Judas, etc"

Beginning 200 years after Christ, Gnostics began to write what they called "gospels" in order to communicate their worldview which can be most **ridiculous**.

For example, the Gnostic gospels present a distorted picture of the feminine. Look at this quotation from the "gospel" of Thomas:

The apostles said to Jesus, "Make Mary leave us, for females don't deserve life." Jesus (*supposedly*) replied, "Look I will make her male, so she too may become a living spirit. Every female that makes himself male will enter the kingdom of heaven."

2 Peter 1:16 We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eye-witnesses of his majesty.

*The Bible was written by more than 40 different authors and across a period of 1600 years. Yet amidst the diversity of authorship, there emerges a single unified theme, the coming of Jesus our Saviour, His person and His work.*

AUTHOR	BOOK	WRITTEN	EARLIEST COPIES	GAP FROM ORIGINAL	NO OF COPIES
Livy	History of Rome	59 BC - AD 17	part-4th cent. most-10th cent.	400 yrs 1000 yrs	1 partial 19
Caesar	Gallic Wars	100 - 44 BC	c. AD 900	1000 yrs*	10*
Tacitus	Annals	AD 100	c. AD 1100	1000 yrs	20
Demosthenes		300 BC	c. AD 1100	1400 yrs	200
Homer	Iliad	800 BC	c. 400 BC	400 yrs	643
Old Testament		1450 - 400 BC	c. 300 BC	100 - 1000 yrs	11,000
New Testament		AD 40 - 100	most-c. AD 250	150 yrs	13,000

Extracted from Josh McDowell, *Evidence That Demands A Verdict*  
 \*Gallic Wars (1000 years) vs Old Testament (150 years) -> Shorter time span -> Less textual distortion through time.  
 ^13,000 MSS of New Testament vs 10 MSS of Gallic Wars. The greater number of MSS -> The greater number of sources for comparison of the contents -> The higher the accuracy.

Dan Brown asserts that "all descriptions of artwork, documents and secret rituals in this novel are accurate."

## FACT 1: The Four Gospels were recognized by almost all believers 150 years before Constantine

The Bible was not invented by Constantine, the Roman Emperor, in the Council of Nicea in AD 325.

The Bible Gospels were already read and revered as Scripture by 1st century churches. For example, Muratorian Fragment (ca. 150 AD) lists the Bible's Gospels among writings regarded as authoritative. Irenaeus (an early church father, ca 178) quotes 1,075 passages from 22 NT books, 626 times from our 4 Gospels. Formal affirmation of all the NT books was in the Synod of Carthage (AD 397).

His thesis that early Jewish tradition involved ritualistic sex as the pathway to God is ridiculous.

That Yahweh and Shekinah were male and female deities, respectively, is blasphemous - as is the contention that the sacred name "Jehovah" came from sex between the male "Yah" and pre-Hebrew female name for Eve, "Havah." Actually, "Jehovah" resulted from a spelling error when the vowels of the name "Adonai" (Lord) were wrongly added to the sacred name of consonants only "YHWH." Thus "**Yahweh**" is **correct**. Further, "Shekinah" refers to God's glory dwelling with his people as a cloud at daytime and a pillar of fire at night in Exodus 40:38. Nothing about these two terms relate being male and female. Simply put, Brown claims that Christianity was originally goddess worship, but this was changed two hundred years later. He implies that, to be truly Christian, believers today should admit that Jesus needed Mary Magdalene as a feminine consort and be involved in goddess worship today.

## The hypothesis is based on distortion of a fact.

*The founder of the Priory of Sion admitted fraud in 1993*

Contrary to Brown's claims, the Priory did not begin in the Middle Ages. Nor was it created as a secret society committed to protecting the truth about Mary and Jesus. Plantard started his Priory in the 1960s, then placed forged documents in numerous libraries throughout Europe in an effort to prove that his group had an illustrious past, complete with notable leaders such as Sir Isaac Newton, Victor Hugo, and Leonardo Da Vinci.

These forgeries are the very same "historical documents" Dan Brown appeals to in his book.

In 1953 Plantard was jailed for fraud.

## FACT 2: The church has the highest respect for women

Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Acts 21:9 He had four daughters who prophesied.

Romans 16:7 Greet Andronicus and Junias, my relatives who have been in prison with me. They are outstanding among the apostles, and they were in Christ before I was.

In 1993, Plantard admitted under oath to a French judge that he had fabricated all the documents related to the Priory of Sion. Brown has used Plantard's documents to prove that Da Vinci and Isaac Newton were members of the Priory.

### FACT 3: The early church fathers believed in the Deity of Christ long before Constantine

Brown says Emperor Constantine invented the deity of Christ at the Nicea Council (AD 325), but the Council only **affirmed** this teaching – it did **not create** it. While he claims the Council vote was “close,” in reality it was **297-3** in favor of upholding Christ's deity.

The New Testament books and letters from early Christian leaders attest to the belief that Jesus is God **long** before Constantine.

Matthew – written around AD 40

John – written around AD 100

Letters and statements of early Christian leaders before Constantine

We have many pre-325 A.D. quotes from Christians wherein Jesus is referred to as "God" (Justin Martyr, 150 A.D.), "Lord, and God" (Irenaeus, 185 A.D.), and "most manifest Deity" (Clement of Alexandria 200 A.D.).

### Hundred of years before Jesus was born, the Messiah was anticipated in the Old Testament:

Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Born of a **virgin**. Isa 7:14

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel (*God with us*).

Born in **Bethlehem**. Mic 5:2

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose **origins** are from of old, from **ancient** times."

Enter Jerusalem **humbly** on a donkey.

Zechariah 9:9

Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

**Crucifixion**. Isa 53 Zech 12:10 Mat 27

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

**Resurrection**. Ps 16:10 Acts 2: 31 Isa 53:10



### All the NT books attest to the deity of Christ:

All 27 books of the New Testament can be dated to the first century and each one of them made references to the deity of Christ.

Luke 7:22 ... the **blind see**, the **lame walk**, the lepers are cleansed, the **deaf hear**, the **dead are raised**, the **poor** have the **Good News** preached to them.

John 20:28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Romans 9:5 ... according to the (*human*) flesh, Christ came, who is **over all**, the eternally **blessed God**. Amen.

Titus 2:13 ... looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great **God** and **Savior** Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 1:1 ... to those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our **God** and **Savior** Jesus Christ:

John 8:58 "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, **I am!**"

John 10:30-33 Jesus said, "I and the **Father** are **one**." Again the Jews picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many great miracles from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?" "We are not stoning you for any of these," replied the Jews, "but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, **claim** to be **God**."

John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

### The MAIN attacks over the centuries were over the person and work of Christ. Why?

Romans 3:23 ... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God ...



Isa 53:5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

Rom 4:25 He died for our sins and rose again to make us right with God, filling us with God's goodness. TLB

The full weight of the wrath of God against sin was poured on Jesus at the cross. But how can one person die for all the people of the world? The superlative value of the one life, being God Himself, is more than enough to pay the full penalties of all our sins. His resurrection shows that all the penalty have indeed been paid. Hell had no right to hold him. He was raised for our justification.

### The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From there He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.

