

THE DA VINCI CODE EXAMINED

QUICK REFERENCE

Setting: Modern day murder mystery

We can respond to the claims of the DaVinci Code using the acrostic C.O.D.E.S.

C – Corruption of scripture

O – Origin of Deity

D – Development of Sunday Worship

E – Establishment of the Canon

S – Singleness of our Lord

C – CORRUPTION OF SCRIPTURE

Claims:

“...The Bible did not fall magically from the clouds. Man created it as a historical record of tumultuous times, and it has evolved through countless translations, additions, and revisions. History has never had a definitive version of the book.” (p. 231)

Truth:

There is sufficient manuscript and archeological evidence to discredit this claim.

O – ORIGIN OF DEITY

Claims:

“At this gathering [the Council of Nicea] many aspects of Christianity were debated and voted upon – the date of Easter, the role of the bishops, the administration of sacraments, and, of course, the divinity of Jesus....until that moment in history, Jesus was viewed by His followers as a mortal prophet, a great and powerful man, but a man nonetheless. A mortal.”

Truth:

The council of Nicea was convened to dispute the heresy of Arianism and simply confirmed the well established beliefs of Jesus’ divinity.

There were 318 bishops that were called to the meeting in Nicea.

As for the vote that was finally taken, only five out of 318 dissented; and only two of those five refused to sign the resulting resolutions, which reaffirmed the prevailing view of the church: Jesus was and is God.

Hardly a close vote, as Brown suggests in his book!!!

D – DEVELOPMENT OF SUNDAY WORSHIP

Claims:

“Christianity honored the Jewish Sabbath of Saturday, but Constantine shifted it to coincide with the pagan’s veneration day of the sun. To this day, most churchgoers attend services on Sunday morning with no idea that they are there on account of the pagan sun god’s weekly tribute—Sun-day.” (p. 232-233)

Truth:

All available evidence indicates that Christians were meeting together on Sundays long before Constantine.

Acts 20:7, as well as 1 Corinthians 16:2, written two hundred years before Constantine was born, talk about believers...

- coming together
- breaking bread
- and studying the Word, on QUOTE, “the first day of the week” which would have been Sunday, a day that the early church referred to as “the Lord’s day” (Rev. 1:10).

It had nothing to do with Constantine. He wasn’t even born yet.

It had everything to do with the fact that Sunday was the day of Christ’s...

- resurrection (John 20:1)
- and post-resurrection appearances (Jn. 20:19, 26).

E – ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CANON

Claims:

Leigh Teabing: “More than eighty gospels were considered for the New Testament, and yet only a relative few were chosen for inclusion – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John among them.”

Sophie: “Who chose which gospels to include?”

Teabing: “Aha! The fundamental irony of Christianity! The Bible as we know it today, was collated by the pagan Roman emperor Constantine the Great.” (p. 231)

Truth:

Even counting all the heretical, apocryphal writings about Jesus there were less than 20 documents in the first four centuries that

could even be called gospels or accounts of Jesus’ life.

Secondly, Constantine had nothing to do with the collation (or canonization) of the Bible. The Old Testament had been compiled by the Jews long before Jesus was even born. As for the New Testament, its formation began by the end of the first century, nearly two hundred years before Constantine was even born. (Again, Constantine was born about 274-280 A.D.)

Most of the canon of the New Testament was well known long before Constantine. In fact, by the time of Constantine, the early church had already dismissed the many fraudulent apocryphal gospels that had arisen later in the second century.

S – SINGLENES OF OUR LORD

Claims:

“The early Church needed to convince the world that the mortal prophet Jesus was a divine being [italics in the original]. Therefore, any gospels that described earthly aspects of Jesus’ life had to be omitted from the Bible. Unfortunately for the early editors, one particularly troubling earthly theme kept recurring in the gospels. Mary Magdalene. More specifically, her marriage to Jesus Christ. It’s a matter of historical record.” (p. 244)

Truth:

It has long been believed by scholars from every persuasion that Jesus, Jesus of Nazareth, was unmarried.

--There is no mention of a wife when He was in ministry.

--There was no mention of a wife at His trial and crucifixion.

--There was no mention of a wife after His resurrection
...even though repeatedly Jesus’ other family members--

--His mother

--brothers

--and sisters

...were mentioned.