

THE DA VINCI CODE is a very controversial book that has gripped the imagination of millions of people around the world. Written in the form of a novel but claiming to be based on accurate historical facts, the book is a not-so-clever fabrication that has been condemned by the Roman Catholic Church, and by Christians generally.

The basic controversy is the book's central theme: that Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene (before He was crucified). They had children who intermarried with the French royal line. And all of this has been known for centuries, says the theory, but the truth has been kept from the public for fear of destroying the power of the church! In fact, it says, there is a highly secret organization that guards documents that, if made public, would destroy Christianity as we know it!

There is not one shred of evidence in the Bible for such an outrageous story. But for centuries there have been many erroneous documents available that give a person with an imaginative mind and a cunning hand, a great opportunity to make a packet of money.

But "we did not follow **cunningly devised tales** when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord, Y'shua the Messiah. On the contrary, we were eyewitnesses of His majesty." (2 Peter 1:16)

CRITICS CRUCIFY DA VINCI FILM

MAY 17, 06. The most hotly-awaited movie of the year "The Da Vinci Code" failed to impress an audience of movie critics at a preview of the film at the Cannes Film Festival. According to an AFP report, there were several whistles but no applause at the end of the screening.

"I didn't like it very much. I thought it was almost as bad as the book. Actor Tom Hanks was a zombie," said a critic for *The Boston Globe*.

The great controversy was the central theme that Jesus Christ married and had children whose descendants still survive today. At the movie's key moment when Hanks reveals who is supposedly the last surviving descendant of Jesus, the 2,000-strong audience couldn't hold back their laughter. "At the high point, there was

laughter among the journalists. Not loud laughs, but a snicker and I think that says it all,” said Gerson Da Cunha from *The Times of India*.

Other critics said the film was confusing to those who hadn't read the book. “People were confused, there was no applause, just silence,” said a reporter for the Italian television Rai 3. “I have only read half the book, and then I got bored. It's terrible,” she added.

The Daily Variety, the top Hollywood trade magazine, gave the film a blistering review. Brown's mega best-selling novel “has become a stodgy, grim thing in its exceedingly literal-minded film version,” it said. Director Howard and screenwriter Akiva Goldsman have “conspired to drain any sense of fun out of the melodrama, leaving expectant audiences with an oppressively talky film that isn't exactly dull but comes as close to it as one could imagine with such provocative material.”

THE DA VINCI CODE

The Errors & Inaccuracies

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DAN BROWN struck gold with his *Da Vinci Code*. It is a phenomenon. Its sales figures shot through the roof and its serious following skyrocketed since its April 2003 release. It caught the attention of young and old everywhere and captured their hearts and minds like no other novel before it. It also gave him fame and made him a fortune.

Translated into more than 40 languages and sold over 50 million copies worldwide, *The Da Vinci Code* has become one of the best selling novels of all time. This No. 1 New York Times bestseller is also a best seller in 150 countries around the world.

In the preface, the opening sentence of this fast-paced murder mystery teases the readers who are assured of this: “FACT: All descriptions of artwork, architecture, documents and secret rituals in the novel are accurate.”

However, the stark reality is that Dan Brown yielded to journalistic temptation and didn't and/or wouldn't allow the truth to get in the way of a good story. Consequently the reader and now the viewer ends up with a faulty product filled with simple errors, serious inaccuracies, sinister half-truths and straight out lies.

In fact, considering the numerous errors and many inaccuracies in the *Da Vinci Code*, the film's promotion slogan - “seeking the truth” should really be changed to “skipping the truth.” This represents better the author's dubious claims and reflects best the novel's deceptive contents.

This mother of all fiction is filled with flaws, fallacies, and fails miserably on historical, theological, Scriptural, artistic and architectural fronts. Here are just a few examples.

- The Gospel of Phillip is NOT written in Aramaic BUT in Coptic.
- The glass pyramid does NOT have 666 panes of glass, BUT 673.
- The community at Qumran responsible for the Dead Sea Scrolls was NOT Christian, BUT Jewish.
- Paris was NOT founded by the Merovingians, BUT by the Parisi, a Gallic tribe, called Lutetia.
- The Templars' arrest, trial and execution did NOT happen in one day, BUT over a couple of years.
- Walt Disney was NOT alive when The Lion King and Little Mermaid were made, BUT dead for years.
- The Priory of Sion did NOT begin in the Middle Ages BUT in the 1960s (by a French con-man Pierre Plantard).
- The Holy Grail legend is NOT “the most enduring legend of all time,” BUT known only since the 12th century.
- Constantine was NOT baptized against his wishes BUT upon his request by Eusebius - the bishop of Nicomedia.
- The Council of Nicea did NOT vote to determine the divinity of Jesus BUT to discuss and debunk the Arian view about Him.
- The Olympic Games were NOT celebrated as a tribute to the planet Venus BUT in honour of Zeus. Its five rings are NOT a secret tribute to goddess Aphrodite BUT symbolise the five continents.
- etc.. etc... etc...

Since Dan Brown cannot be trusted to know the facts and/or tell the truth about simple things such as the above dates and details, people and places (*the list mentioned is only the tip of the iceberg*), surely his Da Vinci Code cannot also be trusted when it comes to spiritual matters such as the humanity and divinity of Jesus Christ and His death and resurrection, nor be taken seriously in regards to the corrupt Gnostic gospels and the crazy idea of Mrs Jesus.

It is simplistic to think and naive to say that the Da Vinci Code is pure fiction. IT IS NOT!! While it pretends to be a highly entertaining thriller, it presents a hugely erroneous theory. Through his fictional characters, Dan Brown not only re-writes history but warps it to fit his pagan mythology belief system. The outside package may appear to be harmless, but the product inside is definitely harmful.

DON'T BE FOOLED!!

Don't allow its foolish doctrine to capture your soul or corrupt your mind. Stay away from its falsehoods and steer clear from its fabrications

Dan Brown's Da Vinci Code is a classic illustration of how the finest philosophers in the world, if they're unable and/or unwilling to step outside the box of human reasoning and refuse and/or reject to see inside the Book of divine-revelation, they will be unreliable in their definition of God of all the earth and unreasonable in their description of the Lord of Glory.

The best that their finite mind can come up with, in a sort of a hit-or-miss approach or a sincere-but-poor attempt, is to present Jesus Christ as a mythological person, a mysterious puzzle, a mystical poet, a melancholy philosopher, a mad preacher or at best a mortal prophet.

On the other hand, the infinite wisdom of God proclaims Jesus Christ as the Light of the World, the Bread of Life and the Hope of Glory.

**By Him all things were created,
In Him all things consist,
With Him all things are possible,
and Through Him all things can be done.**

The Bible also says that Jesus Christ was without sin (Hebrews 4:15); in Him is no sin (1 John 3:5); He did no sin (1 Peter 2: 22); and He knew no sin (2 Corinthians 5: 21)

The Old Testament points to His eternal person and the New Testament paints His excellent portrait. Here is how the Spirit of God, through the word of God, reveals the humanity and deity of the Son of God...

- ◆ Righteous God! *The holiness of His deity is awesome!*
- ◆ Royal Baby! *The humility of His birth is amazing!*
- ◆ Real Man! *The healing of His presence is astounding!*
- ◆ Redeeming Saviour! *The horror of His death is astonishing!*
- ◆ Risen Lord! *The hope of His resurrection is assuring!*
- ◆ Returning Messiah! *The hour of His 2nd coming is approaching!*
- ◆ Ruling King! *The honour of His millennial reign is anticipated!*

**His life is unique and His love is unparalleled.
His person is unequal
and His power is unmatched.**

He calmed storms and cast out demons. The wind and the waves obeyed His voice. Death and disease jumped at His command. Because of Him the deaf could hear, the lame walked and the hungry were fed.

- *By His cross and resurrection, Jesus defeated the devil, destroyed his works and disarmed all the spiritual forces of darkness in the universe.*

- *Through* His cross and resurrection, Jesus washes and wipes away our sins and acquits and absolves us of our guilt.
- *With* His cross and resurrection, Jesus paid the full price for ALL the dead in sin and paved the final path for ALL the dead in Christ.



In Closing

An encounter with Jesus Christ is an encounter with God. His authentic figure is true and His authority on faith is trustworthy. He paid for your sins in full, provided your salvation for free and promised your security forever. He says:

**“I am the way, the truth, and the life:
no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.”**

(John 14:6)

The Bible also says:

**“For by grace are you saved through faith, and that not of yourselves:
it is the gift of God: not of works lest any man should boast.”**

(Ephesians 2:8-9)

Like millions before you, the moment you respond to His great invitation and receive His gift of salvation, you enter into a dynamic relationship with the Living God and enjoy a deep fellowship with the Loving Father.

To do that, the Bible says that you simply need to:

Acknowledge that you are a sinner. (Psalm 32:5)

Believe that Jesus Christ died for your sins and rose again. (1 Thessalonians 4:14)

Call upon His Name to save you in time for eternity. (Romans 10:13)

Your decision here and now on earth will determine your destiny there and then in Eternity!

If you refuse and reject Jesus Christ, you are in fact choosing to spend Eternity in hell. But if you receive HIM you will spend Eternity in heaven and rejoice evermore.

The following simple prayer is the most important request you'll ever ask God for in your lifetime!

PRAYER

Dear Lord God,

I am sorry that I have sinned against You. I turn away from my sins. Please forgive me, and be merciful to me a sinner.

I believe Jesus Christ died for my sins and rose from the dead. I receive You, Lord Jesus, into my heart as my Saviour and Lord.

Thank You dear Lord for saving me, and for giving me a new and eternal life. Live Your live through me, and make me the person that You want me to be.

In Jesus' Name, I pray. Amen.

(C) Text -Peter Rahme AD 2006 – For more copies write to: Inner West Baptist Church, 9 Exeter Rd, Homebush West, NSW 2140. Tel (02) 9742 5719; Fax (02) 9742 5715; Website – www.innerwestbaptist.org.au; Email: pastor@innerwestbaptist.org.au



ARROW MISSILE CAPABLE OF INTERCEPTING IRANIAN MISSILES

Israel's Arrow 2 anti-ballistic missile system is capable of intercepting and destroying any Iranian missiles, even were they to carry nuclear warheads, a high-ranking IDF officer told *The Jerusalem Post* recently. While Iran is Israel's most serious strategic and existential threat, the country, he said confidently, was sufficiently protected by the Arrow, which plays a major role in maintaining Israel's protective envelope.

"We will shoot all of [Iran's missiles] down," he told *the Post*. "The Arrow knows how to intercept the Shihab missile."

But should a demented Iran actually launch nuclear missiles at Israel, it would bring awesome retaliation and destruction upon itself.

"IRAN ALSO CAN BE WIPED OUT"

Vice Premier Shimon Peres declared that "the president of Iran should remember that Iran can also be wiped off the map. Tehran is making a mockery of the international community's efforts to solve the crisis surrounding Iran's nuclear program. Iran presents a danger to the entire world, not just to us."

Peres' vehement expressions came the same day that Ahmadinejad wrote to George Bush proposing "new solutions" to their differences in the first letter from an Iranian leader to an American president in 27 years.

Iran's top nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani said that the Iranian president's letter to Bush could create a "new diplomatic opening," but also warned that the letter did not reflect a softening in Iran's position.

Peres urged China and Russia to join Western efforts to impose sanctions on Iran. The two countries have been reluctant to back such proposals in the UN Security Council. "If all world powers are united against Iran, military action can be avoided. We can prevent all of this threat without weapons if there will be unity," Peres said. "The Security Council has to act on the matter. If the crucial moment comes and they are incapable of taking [action] or making a policy ... then they endanger their existence as an important world body." - *The Jerusalem Post* / 8 May 06

I suspect that Iran is not actually planning to nuke Israel, but rather to use the nuclear issue to provoke reactions that will bring about a terrorist war with both Israel and the West which will ultimately lead to world war.

The prophecy of Ezekiel reveals that Iran (Persia) will be a major part of the Northern Confederation, led by Russia, that will invade the Promised Land.

“Son of man, set your face against Gog of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him, and say, The Sovereign Master, YHWH, says: ‘Listen! I am against you, O Gog, chief prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal (*Russia*). I will turn you around, put hooks into your jaws and bring you out with your whole army - your horses and horsemen all fully armed, and a great horde with large and small shields, all of them brandishing swords. **Persia (Iran)**, Cush (*Ethiopia*), and Put (*Libya*) will be with them, all with shields and helmets; Gomer (*Germany*) also with all its troops; and the House of Togarmah from the far north (*Turkey and the Turkic people of Central Asia*) with all its troops - many nations with you.

“Get ready; be prepared, you and all the hordes gathered about you, and take command of them. After many days you will be summoned; in the latter years you will invade the land that has recovered from the sword, whose people have been gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel which had long been desolate. Its people had been brought out from the nations, and now all of them are living securely. You and all your troops and the many nations with you will go up, advancing like a storm; you will be like a cloud covering the land’.” (Ezekiel 38:2-9)

This invasion will be part of the World War that takes place early in the Tribulation. Nuclear weapons will be used extensively at that time, although not in Israel itself – there would be no point in annihilating the land they are fighting for. But many nations around will be left desolate. (Ezekiel 29:9-13. Isaiah 17:1; Jeremiah 50-51)

And Ezekiel 38:22, & 39:1-6 foretells the utter destruction of the Northern Confederation including Iran.

That’s during the world war. And the present crisis with Iran may well be kept simmering until that war takes place. But should Israel or the US feel compelled to take action soon, Iran’s response will be terrorist attacks – not a nuclear holocaust. □

ISRAEL OK’S BUILDING FENCE AROUND JERUSALEM



The Israeli Cabinet voted to reroute an area near the major settlement of Ariel deep in the West Bank and approved putting temporary fencing around areas of Jerusalem abutting the West Bank. The moves will put thousands of Palestinians on the “Palestinian” side of the enclosure.

“We must make a supreme effort to complete the security barrier wherever possible,” Olmert told the ministers. “The decisions we take today will allow us to complete the construction of the fence very quickly in critical areas, and therefore improve our ability to thwart attempted attacks.”

Israel began construction of the barrier four years ago, saying it needed to keep suicide bombers out of the country. Olmert says the barrier will serve as the basis for Israel’s final border with the West Bank, which Israel won from Jordan in the 1967 Middle East war.

“MOST OF SECURITY FENCE TO BE COMPLETED IN 6 MONTHS”

Members of the defence community promised the newly-appointed Israeli Justice Minister, Haim Ramon, that 95% of the West Bank security fence will be complete by the end of 2006.

350 kilometers of the fence has been completed so far. And 470 kilometers will be completed in six months.

Palestinians say Israel is imposing its will over disputed land and trying to strengthen its claim to sovereignty over Jerusalem.

BARRIER PROMPTS ARABS TO MOVE ACROSS TOWN

An unanticipated consequence of Israel’s West Bank security barrier has been an influx of Israeli Arabs into Jewish neighborhoods in East Jerusalem; they hope to remain on the Israeli side of the barrier.

A growing number of Palestinians with Israeli citizenship have moved across the highway from Arab neighborhoods in search of cheaper housing and a better quality of life in the Jewish suburb of Pisgat Ze’ev.

The security barrier, designed to seal off Jerusalem from the West Bank, has driven up real estate and rental prices in Arab neighborhoods of Jerusalem as thousands of Palestinians return to the city limits.

Fearing that they may be stripped of residency rights that give them access to Israeli government social services, they are willing to pay higher prices for small dwellings on the Israeli side of the barrier. - Jerusalem /- The Washington Times /8 May 06

HAMAS WEBSITE ENCOURAGES CHILDREN TO BE MARTYRS

The Palestinian Authority's ruling Hamas group has launched a website for children, preaching the moral desirability of being a suicide terrorist, through cartoons and children's stories.

The Hamas-run Al-Fateh.net glorifies *shahada*, martyrdom, and presents the deaths of terrorists attacking Israelis as a time of celebration, according to a report by Palestinian Media Watch.

One of the stories on the site quotes a mother saying that when she heard her son had become a *shahid*, a martyr, she bought dates, candies and coffee to give out.

An entire section of the site is called "Stories of the *Shahids*" and the most recently posted story honors Hamas terrorist Naseem Ja'abari, who murdered 16 people when he blew himself up on a bus in Beersheba on August 31, 2004.

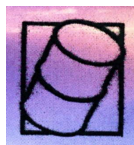
ABBAS APPROVED MONTHLY GRANT TO FAMILIES OF SUICIDE BOMBERS

PA president, Mahmoud Abbas, is supposed to be a moderate and a partner for peace with Israel. But in December, Abbas approved a new law, providing monetary grants to the families of suicide bombers.

The legislation refers to the suicide terrorists as *shahids* (martyrs), a term generally applied to a person who dies in an operation fighting against Israel.

Under the new law, the terrorist's family will be paid a base sum of \$250 per month. The law takes into account extended family arrangements commonplace in Arab societies. The families of married terrorists are entitled to an additional \$50 per month, and \$15 is added for each child, \$25 for each parent, and \$15 for each brother who lived with the terrorist prior to his death.

Both Israel and the United States have taken legal action in recent years to shut down organizations that distribute money to the families of terrorists, especially suicide bombers. -- Dec 15, 05



OIL AND THE DOLLAR



IRAN REJECTS DOMINANCE OF THE US DOLLAR

In March, an international oil exchange was opened in Iran, with trading taking place using Euros. This move has set a precedent: in modern history oil has been quoted exclusively in dollars.

Alarmists and anti-globalists from all countries have rushed to describe this as yet another sentence against the hegemony of the dollar and the USA.

But it could be dangerous to Iran itself. It is logical to assume that with the slightest danger to the American financial world order, the White House will put an end to the Iranian experiment in trading oil for euros, with the use of winged missiles and Abrams tanks.

Another example of a revolt against the oil dollar took place in Iraq. Two years before the US invasion of Iraq, Saddam Hussein switched from the dollar to the euro. This was one of the reasons for the aggression of American forces against this country.

CHAVEZ THREATENS TO CUT OIL

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez is backing Iran's nuclear policy, and has warned he could cut off oil exports to the United States if Washington goes "over the line" in what he has said are attempts to destabilize his left-leaning government.

SYRIA SWITCHES TO EURO

Syria has switched all of the state's foreign currency transactions to euros from dollars because of political confrontations with the United States.

The Syrian government said the decision is to protect its export, import and services payments, and to protect the national economy.

