

The Christian Arsenal

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The Da Vinci Code

The Da Vinci Code ... a sad excuse for a book or a movie.

Ecclesiastics 1:9-10 *"The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun. Is there any thing whereof it may be said, See, this is new? It hath been already of old time, which was before us."*

The Da Vinci Code is proof of this scripture. Dan Brown's novel is saturated with a plethora of heresies, misnomers and misinformation concerning Jesus Christ, the Bible and Christianity. To make matters worse, it seems that in a couple of years this will be made into a movie. So what of it? Why should we care about books that non-believers write and the movies that Hollywood makes? No one consults Hollywood for their knowledge of the Bible or do they? Besides this is a work of fiction. Does it matter? In a word, YES!

"It is just a work of fiction and it should be enjoyed as such." is the cry made when dealing with criticism of this book. There are a few issues here. First, the author acknowledges that this book is fiction but is based on facts. What needs to be explained is what the author considered facts. The documents that the author considers facts are writings that the Church fathers considered spurious and rejected or writings of heretics. Mr. Brown considers these to be "FACTS".

A second issue here is that of content. Of those who say that this book is merely entertainment and good reading, I can only say that they are "clueless.". Entertainment can be defined as the way in which we amuse ourselves. The Da Vinci Code provides the following points of "entertainment":

1. Jesus is only a man.
2. Jesus is not God.
3. The story of the Virgin Birth is a lie so that would make his mother Mary a what?
4. If Jesus did not rise from the dead, then we are all a deceived bunch of lunatics.
5. The term the blood of Jesus has no more meaning than the term the blood of anyone else.
6. The Disciples lied about many things.
7. The Disciples schemed to maintain their power.
8. The Bible cannot be trusted.
9. The early Church hid the truth to keep the real message about Jesus from being known.
10. Christianity is really just a myth-based system of morals with no afterlife.

I do not find any of the above items on the list a fit item for entertainment. With the number of movies, books and other things available today, there is no excuse for a travesty of a book like this to be written let alone be made into a movie. The sacredness and holiness of Jesus puts Him off limits in my mind to this type of "entertainment writing."

While there is certainly nothing in this book new to Bible Scholars, sadly, this information is new to probably 99 % of the rest of the country and that is why this book is so dangerous. Our culture is Biblically illiterate. Much of what the average non-churched individual knows and/or believes about the Bible or Christianity comes from the media. This in itself is a huge problem. The liberal bias of the media makes it almost certain that what is told is a lie or a half-truth at best.

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The book and the soon to be movie has already and will introduce the public to issues dealing with the canon of the scriptures, the deity of Christ, and more from a very stilted one-sided liberal bias.

The Da Vinci Code introduces the Biblically uneducated person to concepts that will darken their view of Church, Christianity, and most important, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. With the immense popularity of "The Passion of the Christ", the media will no doubt seize this opportunity to style this as a "if you have seen the Passion you must see this one too."

The theories and allegations set forth in the Da Vinci Code are at best ludicrous. They are both non-scholarly and non-Christian. There are many wonderful sites out there that already deal with this preponderance of ignorance and we will not attempt to duplicate so many masterful jobs of dismantling this dismal book and movie to be.

We recommend:

- ***The Da Vinci Code: Fact or Fiction*** by Paul Maier, Hank Hanegraaff
- ***Cracking Da Vinci's Code*** by Dr. James Garlow and Dr. Peter Jones

The following websites will also provide great information on this subject:

- <http://www.christianitytoday.com/history/newsletter/2003/nov7.html>
- <http://www.crisismagazine.com/september2003/feature1.htm>
- <http://www.crosswalk.com/news/weblogs/mohler/?adate=7/29/2003>
- <http://tektonics.org/davincicrude.htm>