

THE TOILET PAPERS

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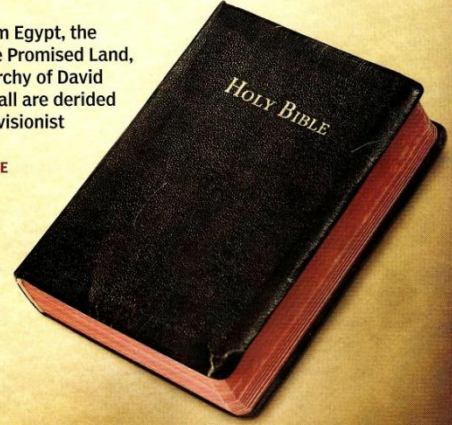
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IS THE GOOD BOOK BAD HISTORY?

'The exodus from Egypt, the conquest of the Promised Land, even the monarchy of David and Solomon—all are derided as fiction by revisionist academics.'

BY BRIAN BETHUNE

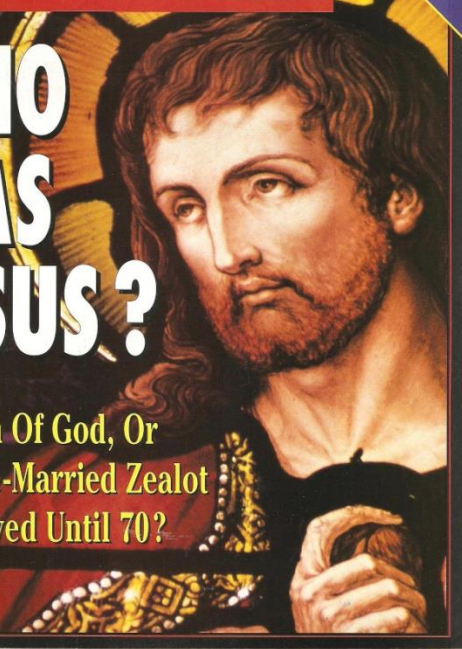


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WHO WAS JESUS?

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A Twice-Married Zealot
Who Lived Until 70?



U.S. News & WORLD REPORT

DECEMBER 16, 2006

IN SEARCH OF THE REAL JESUS

New research questions whether he was more teacher than savior



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CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE | www.macleans.ca

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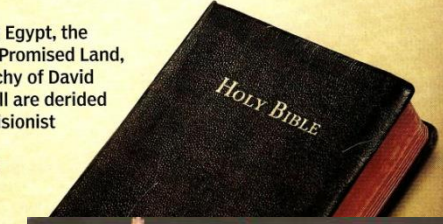
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CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE DECEMBER 21, 1992 \$2.50

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Rethinking Iraq • The Amazing Vitamin D

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REGULAR GUY

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RABBI

COMPANY MAN

SON OF GOD

STREET PREACHER

REVOLUTIONARY

JESUS HAS AN IDENTITY CRISIS

Scholars are casting new doubt on the divinity of Christ—and even wondering if the church would be better off without Him P.38

(Happy Easter)

ISSN 0891-9898

Of God, Or Married Zeal Until 70?

Newsweek

Rethinking the Resurrection

A New Debate About the Risen Christ

ISSN 0028-2895

"The discovery of
the Gospel of Judas is astonishing."

—ELAINE PAGELS

The Gospel of
Judas

EDITED BY Rodolphe Kasser, Marvin Meyer, AND Gregor Wurst

WITH ADDITIONAL COMMENTARY BY BART D. EHRMAN



**Exposing
the Greatest
Cover-Up in
History**

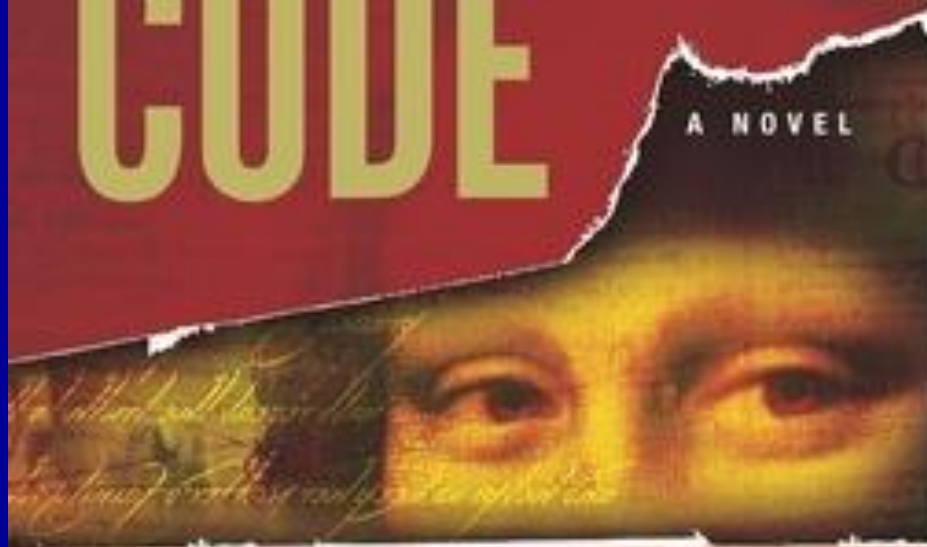
**THE
JESUS
PAPERS**

MICHAEL BAIGENT

*Bestselling co-author of **Holy Blood, Holy Grail***

THE
**DA VINCI
CODE**

A NOVEL



DAN BROWN


AUTHOR OF ANGELS & DEMONS

THREE QUESTIONS TO ANSWER:

- 1) Are the Gospel books reliable history?
- 2) Were there really many different gospel books floating around and competing for the first three centuries after Jesus?
- 3) Did the church decide on the deity of Jesus and the canon in 4th century?

How can you say you didn't commit the crime when I have presented ten witnesses who saw you do it?





How can you say you didn't commit the crime when I have presented ten witnesses who saw you do it?

But I can show you a hundred witnesses who *DIDN'T* see me do it!

WHEN WERE THE GOSPEL BOOKS WRITTEN?

- The Gospel According to Matthew was published 8 years after the ascension of Christ (= AD 41-42)
- The Gospel According to Mark was published 10 years after the ascension of Christ (= AD 43-44)
- The Gospel According to Luke was published 15 years after the ascension of Christ (= AD 48-49)
- The Gospel According to John was published 32 years after the ascension of Christ (= AD 65-66)

Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. And **he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe.... This is the disciple who testifies of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true.**

(John 19:32-35, 21:24)

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us

(1 John 1:1-3a)

For **we did not follow cunningly devised fables** when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” And **we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.**

(2 Peter 1:16-18)

PAPIAS (ca.AD 60-130)

- Hearer of John the Apostle
- Companion of Polycarp
- “If ever anyone came who had followed the elders, I inquired into the words of the elders, what Andrew or Peter or Philip or Thomas or James or John or Matthew, or any other of the Lord’s disciples, had said...For I did not suppose that information from books would help me so much as the word of a living and surviving voice.” (*HE* 3:39.1-4)

IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH (ca.AD 35-117)

- Student of John the Apostle
- Wrote seven extant letters that quote or allude to at least 7 NT books (perhaps as many as 16)

POLYCARP (AD 69-155)

- Converted by the apostles
- Student of John the Apostle
- Quoted or referenced 14-16 NT books

IRENÆUS (AD 120-202)

- Student of Polycarp
- Identified as many as 24 NT books as Scripture

FLAVIUS JOSEPHUS (ca. AD 37-100)



Now there was about this time **Jesus**, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man; for **he was a doer of wonderful works**, a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews and many of the Gentiles. **He was [the] Christ**. And when **Pilate**, at the suggestion of the principal men amongst us, had **condemned him to the cross**, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him; for **he appeared to them alive again the third day**; as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him. And the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct at this day.

(“Testimonium Flavianum,” *The Antiquities Of The Jews*, 18.3.3.)

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For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,” and, “The laborer *is* worthy of his wages.” (1 Timothy 5:18)

...our beloved brother **Paul**, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in **all his epistles**, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable *people* twist to their own destruction, as *they do* also **the rest of the Scriptures**. (2 Peter 3:15b-16)

There was a continuous stream of early Christians writing and quoting the New Testament Gospel books in their writings:

- *Clement of Rome (AD 70)*
- *Epistle of Barnabas (AD 70+)*
- *Ignatius of Antioch (AD 107-110)*
- *Polycarp (AD 110)*

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- **JOHN 1:1** “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”
- **JOHN 20:28** “And Thomas answered and said to Him, ‘My Lord and my God!’”
- **ROMANS 9:5** “...Christ, who is over all, the eternally blessed God.”
- **TITUS 2:13** “...our great God and Savior Jesus Christ”
- **HEBREWS 1:8** “But to the Son He says: ‘Your throne, O God, is forever and ever...’”

But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

All Scripture *is* God-breathed and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:13-17)

THE END