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Table listing books for sale with prices. Includes titles like 'The Da Vinci Code' and 'The Gnostic Gospels'.

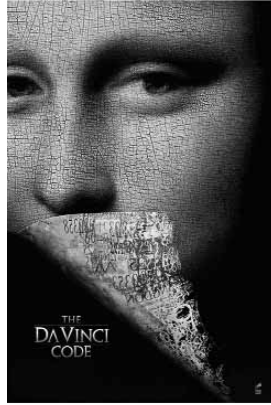
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Text describing various books for sale, including 'The Da Vinci Code' and 'The Gnostic Gospels', with prices and descriptions.

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Column containing various news items, including mentions of 'The Da Vinci Code' and other religious topics.

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Was Da Vinci Code a real earthquake to Christians?

Part 2 By Susanga Costa

3. Were the original records of Jesus destroyed? Brown asserts; 'The modern Bible was compiled and edited by men who possessed a political agenda... to solidify their own power base' (page 317).

It's important to note that thousands of copies of Bible were dispersed all over the world within the first few centuries of Christianity. By the time of Constantine, the church was widespread encompassing millions of believers who were thoroughly familiar with the New Testament and the whole Bible as well.

Da Vinci Code states, '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' (page 313).

Such a view is absolute nonsense. History reveals there were only 12 gospels circulating during this time other than the four canonical gospels.

Why were the Gnostic gospels excluded from the Bible? Again, it was not Constantine who condemned them as heretical. It was the apostles themselves. Gnosticism was slightly growing already in the first century.

The origins of gnosticism are obscure. As Christianity spreads, gnostics stole and mixed some doctrines and elements of Christianity into their beliefs, perhaps to keep their recruitment number up.

Testament were authored by eyewitnesses and their immediate successors of events reported. All these gnostic gospels have been dated too late to be reliable. The earliest gnostic gospels may date as A.D. 150 (but most date in 3rd or 4th century) whereas canonical gospels are dated from A.D. 50 to A.D.

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150 - approximately a century ahead. Luke's gospel is dated at A.D. 60. For one simple fact, scholars have often emphasized that all four canonical gospels must date prior to A.D. 70.

Scholars have pointed out one more simple fact. If Christians corrupted and reinvented the New Testament for the betterment of themselves wouldn't they have eliminated the unflattering verses about the Christians (like Peter denying Christ three times and the disciples scattering like a bunch of faithless cowards when Christ was arrested)?

4. Do recently discovered manuscripts tell the truth about Jesus?

In Brown's words, 'Constantine commissioned and financed a new Bible, which omitted those gospels that spoke of Christ's human traits and embellished those gospels that made him godlike. The earlier gospels were outlawed, gathered up and burned' (page 317).

Dan Brown seems to think that Dead Sea Scrolls support his position. Among these scrolls discovered at Qumran in 1947, are Old Testament manuscripts that date around 150 B.C. almost a thousand years earlier than the previous existed manuscripts (which date A.D. 980).

mission. Scholars who examined both the A.D. 980 and B.C. 150 copies were impressed by this astounding accuracy. For example, the book of Isaiah possesses 95 percent accuracy. The rest 5 percent accounts for obvious slips of pen and variations in spelling.

Within this brief letter, I have tried to summarise how the base of Dan Brown's Da Vinci Code has been challenged by the true evidence of history and the scriptures. I expect this would be a consoling revelation for the faithful Christians and enlightenment for others who dabble in darkness without ascertaining the truth.

Da Vinci Code was not at all a shocking earthquake, a volcano eruption, a tsunami or any other disaster to the Catholic Church or to the Christian world. This was merely one of the many attacks that the church has come across right from the beginning.

Neither Jesus had a political base nor did He hail from a royal family. But He changed the entire world in three years. There is no any religious leader (or anybody) who has shown a greater love towards mankind in the history than Jesus Christ who Himself was God in human flesh.

(compiled in association with the writings of Dr. Ron Rhodes and other authors)

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