

# THE REAL JESUS

## THE DA VINCI HOAX UNCOVERED

By Carl E. Olson and Sandra Miesel

A frequent question asked by readers of Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code* is "How much of the novel's depiction of historical events, people, artwork, and institutions is correct?" The short answer is "Not much." In fact, the only thing more amazing than Brown's consistent misrepresentation of facts is a widespread acceptance of his claims, with both reviewers and readers praising the "research" and "knowledge" supposedly evident in his novel. *The Da Vinci Hoax: Exposing the Errors in The Da Vinci Code* examines, in much detail, the lengthy list of claims made in the *Code*. Here is a brief look at just a few of the claims made in Brown's novel and on his web site.

### THE DIVINITY OF JESUS

Much attention has been given to *The Da Vinci Code's* claim that Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene. But an even more audacious claim of the novel is that the divinity of Jesus was first raised and established at the Council of Nicaea in A.D. 325, and that prior to that time, no one—even Jesus' followers—believed Jesus was anything more than a "mortal prophet" and great man. The fact that this has caused hardly a ripple among fans of the novel indicates a revealing (and hardly surprising) lack of knowledge about early Church history and belief.



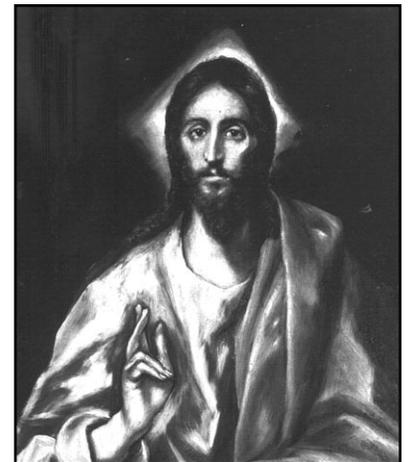
most primitive confession had been 'Jesus is Lord' [Rom 10:9; Phil 2:11], and its import had been elaborated and

deepened in the apostolic age."

The Council of Nicaea did not define that Jesus, the Son of God, was divine (since that was accepted by all Christians) but addressed the issue of the exact relationship between the Son and the Father: Are they equal? One in substance? Two Persons? The Council specifically addressed and condemned the popular heresy of that time, called Arianism, which insisted that the Son was a lesser god, created by the Father at some point in time and not eternally existent.

### THE REAL JESUS VS. THE Gnostic JESUS

One of the more laughable claims of Brown's novel is that the early Christians "literally" stole Jesus and shrouded his "human message . . . in an impenetrable cloak of divinity, and using it to expand their own power". The novel claims that the gnostic Jesus is far more human than the divinized Jesus of the four canonical Gospels contained in the Christian Bible.



That sounds fine—unless you actually read the so-called "gnostic gospels" and compare them to the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The Jesus of the gnostic writings is rarely recognizable as a Jewish carpenter, teacher, and prophet dwelling in first century Palestine; instead, he is often described as a phantom-like creature who lectures at length about the "deficiency of aeons", "the mother", "the Arrogant One", and "the archons"—all terms that only the gnostic elite would comprehend, hence their secretive, gnostic character.

In reality, the "gnostic gospels" aren't gospels at all in the sense of the four canonical gospels, which are filled with narrative, concrete details, historical figures, political activity, and details about social and religious life. On this point, as on others, Brown has it completely wrong and backwards. ❖

For more information on The Da Vinci Hoax, go to [www.davincihoax.com](http://www.davincihoax.com), or call 1-800-651-1531 to order the book

# UNCOVER the HOAX

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