

*What we  
don't know.*

*What we  
need to  
know.*

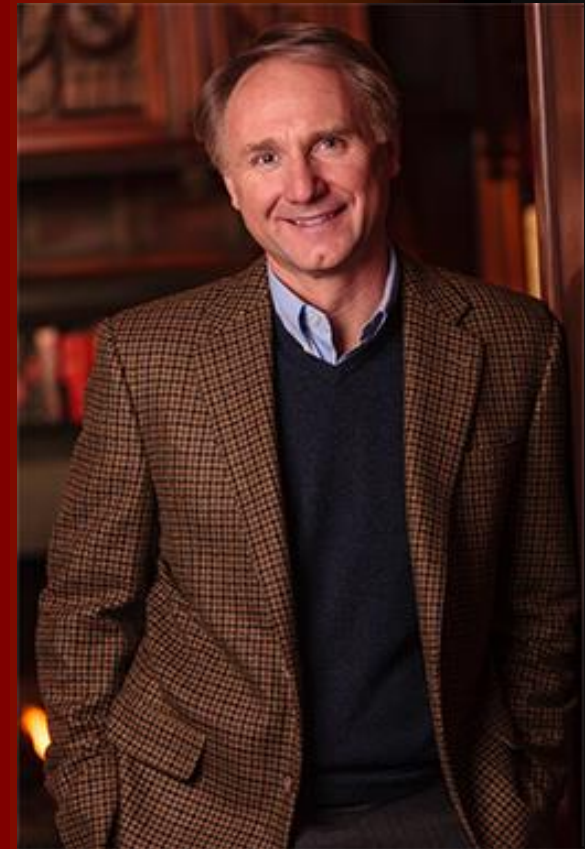
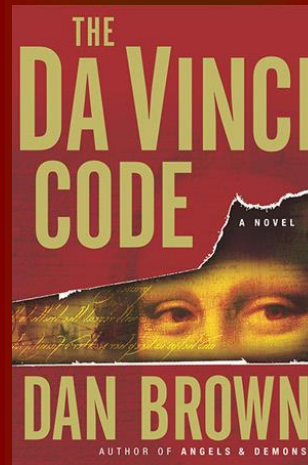
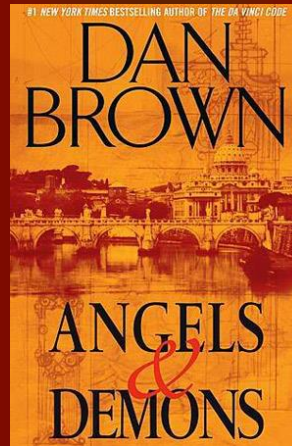
# What is the Da Vinci Code

Novel released in 2003,  
heavily promoted, debuted  
at #1 on the New York  
Times bestseller list.

Writer is Dan Brown, a former  
English teacher and author  
of 2 earlier techno-thrillers.  
Finally turns to novels  
involving religion starting  
with Angels and Demons.

The success of his religious  
thrillers revived the sale of  
his previously not so  
popular books

Religion: “Christian although  
not in the most traditional  
way”



# The Secret

Mary Magdalene, a descendent of the “royal house of Benjamin” and the most favored of Jesus followers becomes his secret wife who at the time of his death is pregnant with their child.

She escapes to France then called Gaul with the help of Jesus trusted uncle; Joseph of Arimathea

She delivers a daughter there naming her Sarah meaning princess and finds refuge among the Jewish community there that revere her daughter being the product of the union of 2 royal lines; The house of David and the house of Benjamin and also Mary as the progenitor of the royal line of kings.





# The Secret

The Jewish community documented the genealogy of the bloodline in the documents called Sangreal

They also document the Q documents which are supposed to be the teachings of Christ possibly written with his own hands as well as Mary Magdalene's diaries.

The Holy Grail is therefore Mary Magdalene who carried the holy royal blood in her womb therefore becoming the true "chalice"

The line goes on in a royal French family named the merovingians





# The Secret

The priory of Sion is a secret society founded in 1099 to protect the members of this lineage from the Vatican

They kept the information of all the members of the priory in their documents called "Les Dossiers Secretes" which were discovered in 1970's

The priory of sion formed the order of the knights templar that was entrusted with the protection of the members of this royal bloodline as well as the SANGREAL documents

The purpose of the crusade was to regain hold of Jerusalem to find these documents



The first siege of Jerusalem

# The Secret

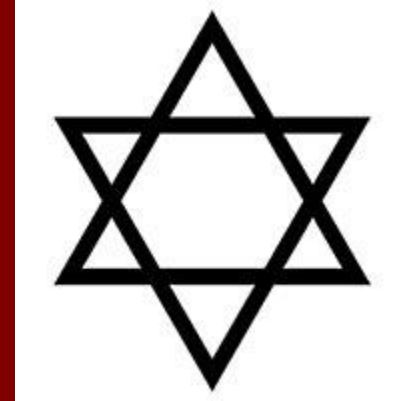
The hiding place of the holy grail contains both the body and the documents of SANGREAL

The quest for the holy grail is the quest to kneel before and pray at the bones of Mary Magdalene; the lost sacred feminine

The blade: symbol of male and chalice: symbol of female are the clue to the 2 parts of God: male and female

The early church needed to convince the world that the mortal Jesus was a divine being in order to augment it's power and influence over it's followers

Therefore, the church has suppressed the worship of the feminine counterpart "the sacred feminine" which believes that the door to heaven is through a woman's body and thus incorporates sexual rituals into it's worship



# *The Secret*

The church defamed Mary Magdalene, calling her a prostitute to cover up her dangerous role as the Holy Grail.

It was Mary who was going to carry the future church through her offspring and not the apostles.

This was implied in the Gnostic Gospels of Mary Magdalene and Phillip.

The Pagan Emperor Constantine called the Council of Nicaea to chose between the gospels and the only the gospels that didn't mention Mary were the ones selected

Christianity is a made-up religion and faith should a matter of choice

The Catholic church has formed the Opus Dei chapter which has one mission: to hunt down and eliminate members of this lineage as well as members of priory of sion

The royal line continues in France till this day awaiting the right moment to come out and dominate the world

The Roslyn church in France was built based on this secret and has many symbols hidden in it regarding it



# *The plot*

An elderly curator of the Louvre, Jacque Sonierre is murdered. He leaves an encrypted message that his granddaughter Sophie, a French cyptologist deciphers. It instructs her to recruit the help of a Harvard symbologist, Robert Langdon to find his killer and find out why he was murdered.

Sophie and Langdon are chased by that killer and the French police while they try to figure out the mystery.

They ultimately reveal that Sonierre is a grandmaster of the priory of sion. His killer is a member of the Opus Dei. Sophie is not his granddaughter but really one of the last of the royal line of Christ he was protecting.

Her family was also murdered decades ago by the Opus Dei and she was thought to have died but was hidden by the Grand master of the priory who claimed her as his granddaughter.

The book suggest that Mary Magdalene is buried under La Pyramide Inversee in France, the symbol of the blade and chalice (i.e. male and female)

# *Now: The Truth*

1- Why religion?

Things that sell: Politics, religion, sex.

2- What are the problems with the  
Da Vinci code?

- History
- Theology

# History

The “ Facts”:

- 1- Priory of Sion
- 2- Knights templar
- 3- Opus Dei
- 4- Leonardo Da Vinci
- 5- The Last Supper
- 6- La Pyramide Inversee



# *The Priory of Sion*

False:

A secret society founded in 1099 in Jerusalem by King Godefroi, (himself a descendant of the merovingians and Christ) to Protect a secret that has been in his family for generations and that he was afraid it would be lost if he died.

Named after Mount Zion in Jerusalem

Devoted to worshipping the sacred feminine through Mary Magdalene

Uses sexual rituals as part of it's worship

Has famous members like botticelli, Victor Hugo, Sir Isaac Newton and Leonardo Da Vinci

Is persecuted by the catholic church till this day to prevent them from revealing the secret to the world



The first home of the Knight Templars, the Temple mount

# *The Priory of Sion*

True:

A club founded in 1956 by a young frenchman named Pierre Plantard

Named after a nearby local mountain in France ( col du mont Sion)

The club shortly thereafter dissolved

Mr Plantard tried to revive it a few years later claiming that it has ancient roots and creating more lies about its purpose and past members. He even claimed himself to be a descendant of the merovingian family and to be the true king of France

Mr Plantard had spent 6 months in prison prior to forming the club for fraud and embezzlement

In 1975 , Plantard started calling himself, plantard de st claire to pretend to be connected to a noble scottish family involved with free masonry who built the peculiar chapel of Rosslyn near Edinburgh. Thus the book claims that the bloodline of Jesus continues in the Plantard ans St Claire families.



# *Priory of Sion*

In 1996 the first president of the priory of sion Mr. Andre Bonhomme denied the allegations made by Plantard and said in a statement to the BBC:

“ The priory of Sion doesn't exist anymore. We were never involved in any activities of a political nature. It was four friends who came together to have fun. We called ourselves the priory of sion because there was a mountain near-by the same name.I haven't seen Pierre Plantard in over 20 years and I don't know what he's up to but je always had a great imagination. I don't know why people try to make such abig thing out of nothing” .

In the 1990's, a judge ordered a search of plantard residence discovering documents where he claims to be the “true king of France”. After questioning, he admitted that he made everything up

For more on the priory of sion, visit:  
<http://www.priory-of-sion.com/>



# Knights Templar

False:

A group of nine knights formed by the priory of sion to find a collection of documents tracing the family line of Jesus and proofing the secret.

The documents were supposed to be hidden under Herod's temple which was built on the ruins of Solomon's temple.

They called them the order of the poor knights of Christ and the temple of Solomon or Knights templar.



Knight templars burnt at the stake

It is believed that they found the treasure, took it to Europe and by way of pressure on the church become declared as “ a law unto themselves” by Pope Innocent II. Finally Pope Clement V and King Phillip IV decide to get rid of them. The pope issued secret sealed orders to be opened across Europe on Friday, October 13, 1307 when they are captured and executed.

# Knights Templar

True:

IN 1119 after the first crusades and the capture of Jerusalem, pilgrims flocked to the holy places. They were attacked by bandits and slaughtered by the hundreds. The order was formed to protect the pilgrims by a French Knight. It relied on donations for financial support. They lived in the Al-Aqsa part of the temple which was built above the ruins of the temple of Solomon. Their symbol was 2 knights riding one horse, emphasizing their poverty.



Seal of the knight templars

# Knights Templar

True:

Later on they were officially endorsed by the church and became a favorite charity receiving a lot of financial support and they eventually grew to help with the crusades. They were also entrusted by pilgrims with their money and property to protect until they would come back from pilgrimage.

King Phillip was heavily indebted to them financially and had suspicions that they wanted to form their own state in Europe. They were already a state within a state, were institutionally wealthy, paid no taxes, and had a large standing army which by papal decree could move freely through all European borders



Pope Clement V



# Knights Templar

In 1306, the Templars had supported a coup on the island of Cyprus, which had forced King Henry II of Cyprus to abdicate his throne in favor of his brother, Amalric of Tyre. This probably made Philip particularly uneasy, since just a few years earlier he had inherited land in the region of Champagne, France, which was the Templars' headquarters.

At dawn on Friday, October 13, 1307, scores of French Templars were simultaneously arrested by agents of King Philip .

The accusations included heresy, blasphemy, corruption and homosexuality. The majority were burnt at the stake including Jaques de Molay the grandmaster at the time

To learn more :

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knights\\_templar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knights_templar)



Jacques de Molay

# Opus Dei

False: Opus Dei is a deeply devout sect of the catholic church that has been the topic of controversy due to reports of brainwashing, coercion, and a dangerous practice known as corporal mortification.

The organization has just finished constructing a \$47 million dollar headquarters in New York City.

Monk members serve as assassins, one of whom "Silas" is the killer of the grandmaster of the priory in the novel.



# Opus Dei



True:

- Opus Dei is a Catholic institution founded by Saint Josemaría Escrivá in 1928. Its mission is to help people turn their work and daily activities into occasions for growing closer to God, for serving others, and for improving society.
- Opus Dei complements the work of local churches by offering classes, talks, retreats and pastoral care that help people develop their personal spiritual life and apostolate.
- More than 70% of members live in their private homes.
- Some of the celibate members of Opus Dei use the cilice. It's a small, light, metal chain with little prongs worn around the thigh. The cilice is uncomfortable--it's supposed to be--but it does not in any way hinder one's normal activities and there's absolutely no *Da Vinci Code* gore
- In 2002 it's founder was finally canonized by Pope John Paul calling him " saint of ordinary life".

Learn more at :

Official website <http://opusdei.org/>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Opus\\_dei](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Opus_dei)



# Leonardo Da Vinci

False:

Lenoardo Da Vinci is one of the members of the priory of sion alone with other well known figures including Isaac Newton and Victor Hugo

He was the infact 12<sup>th</sup> Grandmaster of the Priory

He worshiped The divine order of nature

Da Vinci embedded signs of this message in his paintings like the last supper

True:

In his last days, Leonardo sent for a priest to make his confession and to receive the Holy Sacrament clearly displaying a devout Christian behavior.





# *The Last Supper*

False:

A painting in which Da Vinci reveals clues to his secret. he depicts the image of Mary sitting next to Jesus, beardless, soft features and a hint of bosom.

Mary and Jesus clothes depicted in colors mirroring each other  
The V between them representing the chalice , i.e. the symbol of the womb of a woman

The common misconception is that it is the image of saint John the apostle

The unaccounted hand holding a dagger is a symbol of the apostles hatred to Mary with the another hand positioned like a knife at her throat

True:

The depiction conforms to traditional Florentine portrayal of the last supper of the moment of betrayal.

John, Peter and Judas are grouped together to portray the 3 different aspect. Judas betraying Jesus, Peter denying but then returning and John not denying or betraying.

John is not the only beardless figure in the painting

# *The Last Supper*



# *La Pyramide Inversee*

False: the tiny stone pyramid is actually only the apex of a larger pyramid (possibly the same size as the inverted pyramid above), embedded in the floor as a **secret chamber**.

This hidden submerged pyramid holds the remains of Mary Magdalene, plus the Sangreal hidden away by the priory when the new Louvre foyer was constructed in the 1980s and 1990s.

The Inverted Pyramid is the **Chalice**, a feminine symbol, whereas the stone pyramid below is the **Blade**, a masculine symbol: the whole structure symbolizes the union of the genders

To learn more visit :

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/La\\_Pyramide\\_Invers%C3%A9e](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/La_Pyramide_Invers%C3%A9e)





# *La Pyramide Inversee*

True: The pyramid marks the intersection of two main walkways and orients visitors towards the museum entrance

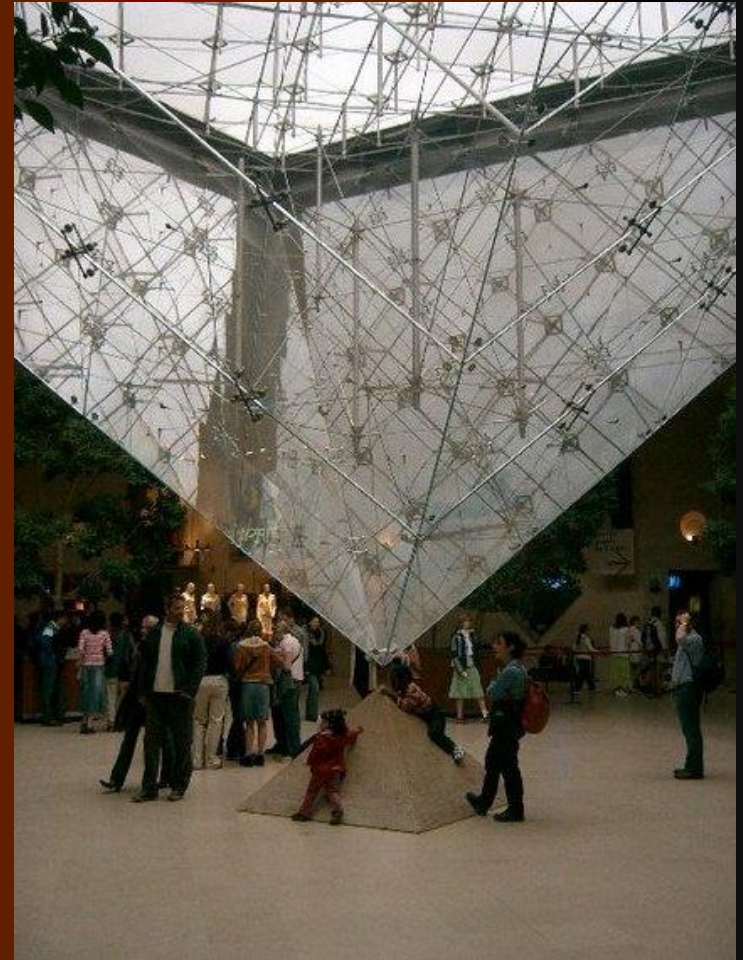
Up close, it is obvious that the stone pyramid below La Pyramide Inversée is merely sitting on top of the floor and **does not really extend** below floor level (it was indeed so designed that it can be slid aside when the floor is being cleaned).

According to I.M. Pei's the architect biographer Carter Wiseman, the artist is interested almost solely in **abstract geometrical forms**.

The inverted Pyramid was built to function as a light-well in the underground shopping area where it is suspended

To learn more visit :

<http://www.sacred-destinations.com/france/paris-louvre-inverted-pyramid.htm>





# Theology

- 1- The divinity of Jesus: Why do we believe that he is not just a “good prophet”?
- 2- Is God masculine or feminine?
- 3- Does science now replace God?
- 4- Who is Mary Magdalene in christianity?
- 5- What does the Star of David symbolize?
- 6- The role of the catholic church in Christianity old and modern
- 7- Who built the Roslyn church ?
- 8- The Holy Grail between mythology and reality
- 9- The Gnostic versus canonical gospel.
- 10- Is Christianity really the product of multiple pagan practices and a made-up religion or a divine teaching?

# Is Jesus a God

1- The divinity of Jesus: Why do we believe that he is not just a “good prophet”?

Forget about the new testament, how about the old testament...

Isaiah 7: 14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

*Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. and he will be called*

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. *7 Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.*

# Is God masculine or feminine?

- God has traditionally been described using masculine terms in Christian scripture and theology. While this has sometimes given rise to the idea that Christians consider God to be male, the majority of Christian denominations (with the notable exception of Mormonism) accept a God who transcends gender



# Science vs. God

3- Does science nowadays replace God?

The argument of the book: God was an idea created to explain supernatural phenomenon and occurrences

As science explains more we will no longer have a need for God or miracles

Consider this:

Science attempts to explain how the universe was created through the big bang theory and quantum physics but still they refuse to answer the question : “ well, why was the universe created and what started the big bang?”

The possible theories are:

1- Something caused it to happen.

2- Nothing caused it to happen but it happened nonetheless

3- It was always there.

Science's unanswered question:

Why are we here?

What brought us here?

Where do we go after we leave here?

# Mary Magdalene

4- Who is Mary Magdalene in christianity?

Eastern tradition:

Luke 8: 1 After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, 2 and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; 3 Joanna the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means.

Western tradition:

Considers Mariam, sister of martha, mary magdalene and the sinful woman mentioned in Luke 7: 36 as one person

In 1969 the Roman Catholic church corrected this position to say that they are different people

# Magdalene in the bible

- **Matthew 27:56** Among them were **Mary Magdalene**, **Mary** the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.
- **Matthew 27:61** **Mary Magdalene** and the other **Mary** were sitting there opposite the tomb.
- **Matthew 28:1** [ *Jesus Has Risen* ] After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, **Mary Magdalene** and the other **Mary** went to look at the tomb.
- **Mark 15:40** Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were **Mary Magdalene**, **Mary** the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and Salome.
- **Mark 15:47** **Mary Magdalene** and **Mary** the mother of Joseph saw where he was laid.
- **Mark 16:1** [ *Jesus Has Risen* ] When the Sabbath was over, **Mary Magdalene**, **Mary** the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body.
- **Mark 16:9** *When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to **Mary Magdalene**, out of whom he had driven seven demons.*
- **Luke 8:2** and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: **Mary** (called **Magdalene**) from whom seven demons had come out;
- **Luke 24:10** It was **Mary Magdalene**, Joanna, **Mary** the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles.
- **John 19:25** Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, **Mary** the wife of Clopas, and **Mary Magdalene**.



# *The royal union*

- The claim is that the Mary Magdalene, the sacred feminine, Goddess of the “royal house of Benjamin” and Jesus a mortal man of the “Royal house of Judah” united to have a child that carries both royal blood lines in a lineage that will one day rule the world.
- *Arguments:*
  - 1– The only royal house of the tribes of Israel according to the old testament is Judah due to the lineage of David the king.
  - 2– If Mary was a goddess and Jesus was a mortal man, why would it be important for her to carry his blood line?
  - 3– If they are both mortal then wouldn't it be that the union of any man and women from these “ 2 royal tribes” would have resulted in a new royal blood line?
  - 4– There is no mention in the bible, old or new testament that Mary Magdalene is from the tribe of Benjamin
  - 5– There is no mention in the old testament that any kings will come out of any tribe other than Judah.
  - 6– Jesus himself declares : My kingdom is not of this world. Why would we then believe a claim that he had a blood line that was supposed to rule the earthly world.

# *Mary Magdalene heads the New church*

- If she was goddess and Jesus was mortal why would she have needed him to pass the authority of the church on to her.
- How could a goddess receive authority and instructions from a mortal on how to run the church
- Dan Brown argues that the return of the worship of the goddess will elevate the place of women in society and that women in christian societies are oppressed.
- IN reality, “ the goddess” never did any miracles or acts to reveal her supposed diety.
- As a matter of fact: In cultures that worship both male and female, the position of the women ins not higher than that of it in chritian communities (e.g.: Hindu, Pharonic, Aramaeans of Syria, Greek, phoenicians etc) Also the Female goddess was always inferior nonetheless to her male counterpart.
- Really Dan Brown is advocating the return of the concept of pagan worships where nature itself is worshipped in a do-it- yourself type of spirituality

# *The Star of David*

The earliest known text related to Judaism which mentions a sign called the "Shield of David" is *Eshkol Ha-Kofer* by the Karaite Judah Hadassi, in the mid-12th century CE:

- Seven names of angels precede the mezuzah: Michael, Gabriel, etc. ...Tetragrammaton protect you! And likewise the sign, called the "Shield of David", is placed beside the name of each angel.
- Although it is now the most common and universally recognized sign of Judaism and Jewish identity, both within and outside of the Jewish community, it has only achieved this status in the last two hundred years.
- Although scholars have attempted to trace the Star of David back to King David himself or other historical Rabbis, no Jewish literature or artifacts document this claim. Rather, all evidence suggests that the early use of the hexagram was limited to "practical Kabbalah," that is, Jewish magic, probably dating back to the 6th century C.E. Legends connect this symbol with the "Seal of Solomon," the magical signet ring used by King Solomon to control demons and spirits



# The catholic church and the council of Nicaea

- The council was called by the Emperor Constantine. Leading bishops in the church agreed to participate.
- Having consolidated his hold on the Empire, Constantine promoted unity in every way possible. He recognized that a schism in the Christian church would be just one more destabilizing factor in his empire, and he moved to solve the problem. While he had encouragement from men like Hosius, bishop of Cordova, and Eusebius of Caesarea, Constantine was the one who officially called for the council
- The Council of Nicea was mostly Eastern. According to tradition, 318 bishops were in attendance, though most historians believe this number is a bit high. The vast majority came from the East, with less than a dozen representing the rest of the Empire.
- The “orthodox” group was led primarily by Hosius of Cordova and Alexander of Alexandria (accompanied by his brilliant young deacon, and later champion of the Nicene position, Athanasius<sup>6</sup>). They represented the view that Christ was of the *same substance* (Greek: *homo-ousios*<sup>7</sup>) as the Father, that is, that He has eternally shared in the one essence that is God and in full deity



# The catholic church and the council of Nicaea

- What really was Constantine's role? Often it is alleged (especially by Jehovah's Witnesses, for example) that, for whatever reasons, Constantine forced the "same substance" view upon the council or, at the very least, insured that it would be adopted.
- This is not the case. There is no question that Constantine wanted a unified church after the Council of Nicea. But he was no theologian, nor did he really care to any degree what basis would be used to forge the unity he desired.
- Later events show that he didn't have any particular stake in the term *homoousios* and was willing to abandon it, if he saw that doing so would be of benefit to him
- The resulting creed, signed by all but Arius and two bishops, was quite clear in its position:
- Nicea did not come up with something "new" in the creed. Belief in the deity of Christ was as old as the apostles themselves, who enunciated this truth over and over again.

# The catholic church and the council of Nicaea

- While the creed of the council was its central achievement, it was not the only thing that the bishops accomplished during their meeting. Twenty canons were presented dealing with various disciplinary issues within the church. Of most interest to us today was the sixth, which read as follows:
- Let the ancient customs in Egypt, Libya, and Pentapolis prevail, that the Bishop of Alexandria have jurisdiction in all these, since the like is customary for the Bishop of Rome also. Likewise in Antioch and the other provinces, let the Churches retain their privileges.<sup>20</sup>

# The catholic church and the council of Nicaea

- This canon is significant because it demonstrates that at this time there was no concept of a single universal head of the church with jurisdiction over everyone else. While later Roman bishops would claim such authority, resulting in the development of the papacy, at this time no Christian looked to one individual, or church, as *the* final authority
- This is important because often we hear it alleged that the Trinity, or the Nicene definition of the deity of Christ, is a “Roman Catholic” concept “forced” on the church by the pope. The simple fact of the matter is, when the bishops gathered at Nicea they did not acknowledge the bishop of Rome as anything more than the leader of the most influential church in the West.<sup>21</sup>
- Constantine put little stock in the definition of Nicea itself: he was a politician to the last. Upon his death, his second son Constantius ruled in the East, and he gave great aid and comfort to Arianism
- Yet, in the midst of this darkness, a lone voice remained strong. Arguing from Scripture, fearlessly reproaching error, writing from refuge in the desert, along the Nile, or in the crowded suburbs around Alexandria, Athanasius continued the fight

# Who built the Roslyn church ?

- The chapel was built 150 years after the dissolution of the Knights Templar.
- The claim that the layout of Rosslyn Chapel echoes that of Solomon's Temple<sup>[22]</sup> has been analysed by Mark Oxbrow and Ian Robertson in their book, *Roslyn and the Grail*:

“Rosslyn Chapel bears no more resemblance to Solomon's or Herod's Temple than a house brick does to a paperback book.

If you superimpose the floor plans of Rosslyn Chapel and either Solomon's or Herod's Temple, you will actually find that they are not even remotely similar. Writers admit that the chapel is far smaller than either of the temples.

They freely scale the plans up or down in an attempt to fit them together. What they actually find are no significant similarities at all.

If you superimpose the floor plans of Rosslyn Chapel and the East Quire of Glasgow Cathedral you will find a startling match: the designs of these two mediaeval Scottish buildings are virtually identical.

They both have the same number of windows and the same number of pillars in the same configuration.

The similarity between Rosslyn Chapel and Glasgow's East Quire is well established.



# Who built the Roslyn church ?

- With regards to a possible connection between the St. Clairs and the Knights Templar, the family testified against the Templars when that Order was put on trial in Edinburgh in 1309.
- Historian Dr. Louise Yeoman, along with other mediaeval scholars, says the Knights Templar connection is false, and points out that Rosslyn Chapel was built by William Sinclair so that Mass could be said for the souls of his family.[\[23\]](#)
- It is also claimed that other carvings in the chapel reflect Masonic imagery, such as the way that hands are placed in various figures.
- The carving has been eroded by time and pollution and is difficult to make out clearly.
- The chapel was built in the 15th century, and the earliest records of Freemasonic lodges date back only to the late 16th and early 17th centuries.
- A more likely explanation however is that the Masonic imagery was added at a later date. This may have taken place in the 1860s when James St Clair-Erskine, 3rd Earl of Rosslyn instructed Edinburgh architect David Bryce, a known freemason, to undertake restoration work on areas of the church including many of the carvings.

# The Holy Grail between mythology and reality

- The Grail legend became interwoven with legends of the Holy Chalice. The connection with Joseph of Arimathea and with vessels associated with the Last Supper and crucifixion of Jesus, dates from Robert de Boron's *Joseph d'Arimathie* (late 12th century) in which Joseph receives the Grail from an apparition of Jesus and sends it with his followers to Great Britain.
- Building upon this theme, later writers recounted how Joseph used the Grail to catch Christ's blood while interring him and how he founded a line of guardians to keep it safe in Britain. The legend may combine Christian lore with Celtic myth.

# The Gnostic versus canonical gospel

- Development of the New Testament canon
- Irenaeus quotes and cites 21 books that would end up as part of the New Testament, the excluded ones being Philemon, Hebrews, James, 2 Peter, 3 John and Jude.
- By the early 200's, Origen of Alexandria may have been using the same 27 books as in the modern New Testament, though there were still disputes over the canonicity of Hebrews, James, 2 Peter, 2 and 3 John, and Revelation.
- Likewise by 200 the Muratorian fragment shows that there existed a set of Christian writings somewhat similar to what is now the New Testament, which included four gospels and argued against objections to them.
- Thus, while there was plenty of discussion in the Early Church over the New Testament canon, the major writings were accepted by almost all Christian authorities by the middle of the second century Council of nicaea was at 325AD



# The Gnostic gospels

- The **Gnostic Gospels** are a collection of about fifty-two ancient texts based upon the teachings of several spiritual leaders including Jesus, written from the 2nd to the 4th century AD (after the council of nicaea)
- The Gospel of Thomas is held by most to be the earliest of the "gnostic" gospels composed. Scholars generally date the text to the early-mid 2nd century
- The Book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ is believed to have been penned by the Apostle John between A.D. 70 - 95.
- The name Christian gnostics came to represent a segment of the Early Christian community that believed that salvation lay not in merely worshipping Christ, but in psychic or pneumatic souls learning to free themselves from the material world via the revelation.
- According to this tradition, the answers to spiritual questions are to be found within, not without.

# The Gnostic gospels

- Furthermore, the gnostic path does not require the intermediation of a church for salvation. Some scholars have suggested that gnosticism blends teachings like those attributed to Jesus Christ with teachings found in Eastern traditions.
- The documents which comprise the collection of gnostic gospels were not discovered at a single time, but rather as a series of finds.
- The Nag Hammadi Library was discovered accidentally by two farmers in December 1945.
- Other documents included in what are now known as the gnostic gospels were found at different times and locations, such as the Gospel of Mary, which was recovered in 1896 as part of the Akhmim Codex and published in 1955.
- Some documents were duplicated in different finds, and others, such as with the Gospel of Mary Magdalene, only one copy is currently known to exist

# THEOLOGY

- Who is the true holy grail?
  - 1- Who carried divine blood in her womb?
  - 2- Who carried a sacred fruit in her womb?
  - 3- Who is the chalice that held the blood of Christ?
  - 4- Who is of the royal bloodline of Judah?





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