

Da Vinci Code- A Christian perspective (1)

Grace Church Dulwich- Sunday 14th May 2006

Table 1- Dan Brown and general historical facts

“The pyramid of the Louvre contains 666 panes of glass.” (pg 40)	Fact or fiction? (www.louvre.fr)
“The ancient Greeks used an eight year cycle to organize their Olympic games as a tribute to the goddess Venus.” (pg 61)	A. 8 year cycle to Venus C. 4 year cycle to Venus B. 8 year cycle to Zeus D. 4 year cycle to Zeus (http://multimedia.olympic.org/pdf/en_report_658.pdf)
“The Merovingians founded Paris.” (pg 345)	A. Merovingians C. Vercingetorix B. Parisii D. Melun (www.reference.com/browse/wiki/History_of_Paris)

Table 2- Dan Brown and Les Dossiers Secret

“the Dossiers Secrets had been authenticated by many specialists and incontrovertibly confirmed.” (pg 280)	Fact or fiction?
“ FACT: <i>The Priory of Sion- a European secret society founded in 1099- is a real organisation...</i> ” (pg 1) “ <i>...In 1975 Paris’ Bibliotheque Nationale discovered parchments known as Les Dossiers Secrets, identifying numerous members of the Priory of Sion, including...Leonardo da Vinci.</i> ” (pg 1)	FICTION: Les Dossiers Secrets were a hoax dreamed up by the con artist Pierre Plantard and forged by his friend: Philippe de Chérisey. In September 1993 under oath before the French Judicial system, Plantard admitted that he made everything up about the Priory of Sion. (French press- 1993) (www.priory-of-sion.com) (Books written by French journalist Jean-Luc Chaumeil)
“Everything our fathers taught us about Christ is false.” (pg 318)	This claim attacks Christianity on two fronts: the divinity of Christ (talk 1- this Sunday) and the reliability of the bible (talk 2- next week)

Table 3- Constantine and the divinity of Christ

<p>“The divinity of Jesus was the result of a vote at the council of Nicea in 325 AD” (pg 315)</p>	<p>Actually, the vote concerned the relationship between God, the Son (Jesus) and God, the Father. Jesus’ divinity was already established! (www.ccel.org)</p>
<p>“A relatively close vote at that.” (pg 315)</p>	<p>A. 181 – 171 B. 186 – 166 C. 191 – 161 D. 250 – 2 (www.ccel.org)</p>
<p>“Until that moment in history Jesus was viewed by His followers as a mortal prophet...a great and powerful man, but a man nonetheless.” (pg 315)</p>	<p>Ignatius: “God Himself was manifested in human form.” (AD 105) Clement: “It is fitting that you should think of Jesus Christ as of God (AD 150) Justin Martyr: “Being the first-begotten Word of God, is even God.” “The Father of the universe has a Son. And He...is even God.” (AD 160) Irenaeus: “Our Lord, and God, and Saviour, and King”; “He is God, for the name Emmanuel indicates this” (AD 180) Tertullian: “Christ our God” (AD 200) Origen: “No one should be offended that the Savior is also God” (AD 225) Novatian: “He is not only man, but God also” (AD 235) Cyprian: “Jesus Christ, our Lord and God” (AD 250) Methodius: “He truly was and is...with God, and being God” (AD 290) Lactantius: “We believe Him to be God.” (AD 304) Arnobius “Christ performed all these miracles...the duty of Divinity (AD 305) (www.ccel.org/fathers2/)</p>

Table 4- Jesus Christ and his resurrection

<p>Proof: his resurrection</p>	<p>“...no sign will be given except the sign of Jonah. For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.” (Matthew 12:39-40)</p>
<p>Evidence for resurrection:</p>	<p>1. The empty tomb (1 Corinthians 15:4) 2. The eye-witness sightings (1 Corinthians 15:5-8) 3. The changed lifestyles (1 Corinthians 15:9-11)</p>
<p>So what?</p>	<p>- We can have real confidence that Jesus Christ rose from the dead. (1 Corinthians 15:20) - We can have real confidence that we too will have life after death just like Jesus. (1 Corinthians 15:21-23) - We can have real confidence as we speak to readers of the Da Vinci Code about Jesus- this is the truth! (1 Cor 15:2)</p>