

BREAKING THE CODE:

WHY DO I BELIEVE WHAT I BELIEVE ABOUT JESUS?

APRIL 23, 2006

If you had to summarize your beliefs about Jesus in **FIVE WORDS**, what would they be?

What are **FOUR ROTTEN REASONS** to believe the Bible?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

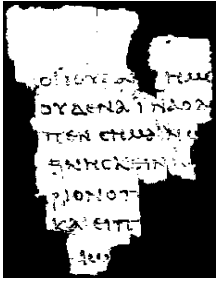


WHICH GOSPELS WERE THE RIGHT ONES?

Most of the “other Gospels” come from a religious movement known as **GNOSTICISM**. The Gnostics tried to combine the Greek philosophy of Plato with Christian faith and with mystery religions from tribes that lived east of the Roman Empire.

According to Gnosticism, **EVERYTHING** _____ **WAS EVIL**. Most Gnostics also believed that the God of the Old Testament—the one who created the physical world—was an evil deity. They viewed the God of the New Testament—the God represented in Jesus Christ—as a different God from the God of the Old Testament. The God of the New Testament, according to the Gnostics, was a completely spiritual being who created nothing physical; everything that he created was spiritual.

THE “OTHER GOSPELS”	What does this Gospel claim about Jesus?	When was this Gospel written?
GOSPEL OF THOMAS		
GOSPEL OF HEBREWS		
GOSPEL OF JUDAS		
GOSPEL OF MARY		
GOSPEL OF PETER		
GOSPEL OF PHILIP		



The four Gospels in the New Testament were in wide circulation **NO LATER THAN A.D. 100**. How do Bible students know this?

WHEN approximately were **THE NEW TESTAMENT GOSPELS** written?

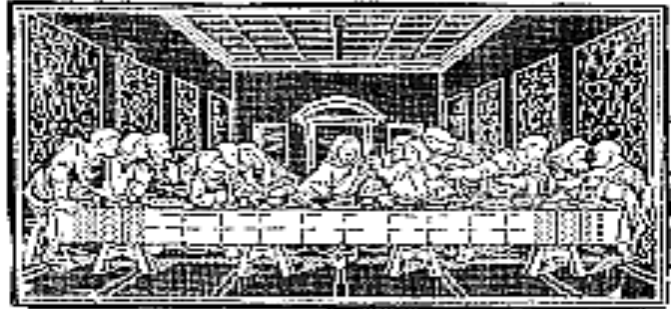
When deciding which books belonged in their Scriptures, early Christians recognized that ...

1. Faith in Jesus is rooted in **HISTORY**; so, each book must be connected to an _____.
2. There is only **ONE GOD**, and—because he is a God of truth—he cannot contradict himself; so, **THE CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURES SHOULD NOT CONTRADICT** one another.
3. Faith in Jesus is for _____; so, the writings in the Christian Scriptures must be writings that Christians use **THROUGHOUT THE KNOWN WORLD**.

WAS JESUS MARRIED?

If someone discovered that **JESUS** had been **MARRIED**, would the results really be **DISASTROUS** for the Christian faith, as *The Da Vinci Code* claims?

What is **THE PROBLEM WITH THE EVIDENCE** that *The Da Vinci Code* and other books use to “prove” that Jesus was married?



DID JESUS REALLY RISE FROM THE DEAD?

Why is it unlikely that what the disciples called a *resurrection* was actually an **ILLUSION**?

Why is it unlikely that the apostles **LIED** about the resurrection?



ONLY SOMETHING AS UNEXPECTED AS A RESURRECTION CAN EXPLAIN WHY PEOPLE IN THE ANCIENT WORLD WOULD WORSHIP A MAN WHO HAD BEEN CRUCIFIED. Why is this statement true? Why would people in the ancient world have such a difficult time believing that God would have anything to do with a cross?

“TAKE UP YOUR CROSS, AND FOLLOW ME.” —

JESUS