



From the Desk of Victoria

The infamous book by Dan Brown called The Da Vinci Code has been made into a movie. Promoted as fiction, Mr. Brown alleges that his premise - that Jesus Christ married Mary Magdalene and had a daughter named Sarah who was "the real Holy Grail containing the bloodline of Jesus" - is based on fact. WHAT fact? WHOSE fact?

In order to understand where the idea that Jesus may have been married came from, you must understand "gnosticism." "Gnosis" is a Greek word usually translated as "knowledge." Someone who is not certain that GOD exists is called "agnostic" ("not knowing"). Gnostics are considered to be a heretical Christian sect primarily headquartered in Egypt, where many of their writings were found. Some of those manuscripts are called "the gnostic gospels." It is these false gospels that have given rise to the notion that Jesus and Mary Magdalene were married.

The gnostic gospels have been dated approximately between 120-150 AD and 400 AD. The TRUE gospels of the Bible are dated circa 60-110 AD. Irenaeus, the orthodox Christian bishop of Lyons, wrote in the year 180 AD that the heretics (gnostics) "put forth their own compositions, while boasting that they have more gospels than there really are...They really have no gospel which is not full of blasphemy. For what they have published...is totally unlike what has been handed down to us from the apostles."

The exact dates of the gnostic writings may be disputed, yet their contents reveal the marked difference between them and the orthodox TRUTH of the Bible. Gnosticism was apparently influenced by the introduction of Buddhism and Hinduism into Egypt. Elaine Pagels has written in her book The Gnostic Gospels, "Although they claim to offer secret teaching, many of these texts refer to the Scriptures of the Old Testament, and others to the letters of Paul and the New Testament gospels. Many of them include the same *dramatis personae* as the New Testament - Jesus and His disciples. Yet the differences are striking.

"Orthodox Jews and Christians insist that a chasm separates humanity from its Creator: GOD is wholly Other. But some of the gnostics who wrote these gospels contradict this: self-knowledge is knowledge of GOD; the self and the divine are identical.

"Second, the 'living Jesus' of these texts speaks of illusion and enlightenment, not of sin and repentance, like the Jesus of the New Testament. Instead of coming to save us from sin, He comes as a guide Who opens access to spiritual understanding. But when the disciple attains enlightenment, Jesus no longer serves as his spiritual master: the two have become equal - even identical.

"Third, orthodox Christians believe that Jesus is Lord and Son of GOD in a unique way: He remains forever distinct from the rest of humanity whom He came to save. Yet the gnostic Gospel of Thomas relates that as soon as Thomas recognizes Him, Jesus says to Thomas that they have both received their being from the same source: 'Jesus said, "I am not your master. Because you have drunk, you have become drunk from the bubbling stream which I have measured out...He who will drink from My mouth will become as I am: I Myself shall become he, and the things that are hidden will be revealed to him.'"

"Does not such teaching - the identity of the divine and human, the concern with illusion and enlightenment, the founder Who is represented not as Lord, but as spiritual guide - sound more Eastern than Western? Some scholars have suggested that if the names were changed, the 'living Buddha' appropriately could say what the Gospel of Thomas attributes to the living Jesus. Could Hindu or Buddhist tradition have influenced gnosticism?"

The gnostic Gospel of Philip ridicules Christians who take the resurrection of Jesus literally because gnostics believed that He rose spiritually, not bodily. Elaine Pagels states in her book, "Some gnostics called the literal view of resurrection the 'faith of fools'."

I believe that says it all. Gnosticism is not another form of Christianity, it is today's New Age Religion. Whether new or old, it is not the TRUTH! A lie, repeated for 2000 years, is still a lie.





We are warned over and over again in the New Testament to beware of false teachers. Jesus said that false prophets and false christs would come. The apostle Peter, who walked and talked with Jesus and was an eyewitness to the Lord's death and resurrection, wrote concerning heretical teachers, "...there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord Who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed." (2 PETER 2:1,2)

Now, as regards Jesus' relationship with Mary Magdalene, the gnostic Gospel of Philip says, "...the companion of the (Savior is) Mary Magdalene. (But Christ loved) her more than (all) the disciples, and used to kiss her (often) on her (mouth). The rest of (the disciples were offended)...They said to Him, 'Why do you love her more than all of us?' The Savior answered and said to them, 'Why do I not love you as (I love) her?'"

Some of you may say, "Ah hah! That proves Jesus and Mary were married!" Ah hah! No, it doesn't. It only proves that somebody wrote a "gospel" that is not substantiated by any earlier witness or any New Testament documents. **NOWHERE IN THE BIBLE IS IT WRITTEN OR EVEN HINTED AT THAT JESUS MARRIED ANYONE. NO GOSPEL - Gnostic OR ORTHODOX - CLAIMS OUTRIGHT THAT JESUS WAS MARRIED.** Both conservative and liberal Bible scholars agree on that fact.

In the British Broadcasting Company video documentary titled "The Real Da Vinci Code," Dr. Anna Graham Brock, author of Mary Magdalene, The First Apostle, said, "The Gospel of Philip says that 'Jesus used to kiss her often on the' and there, intriguingly enough, the manuscript breaks off. People have frequently reinserted 'He used to kiss her often on the mouth,' but that's a scholarly interpolation of what might have been there. We don't know where Jesus kissed her. It might have been on the cheek, the forehead, the nose. Could've been the mouth. But that doesn't necessarily have to have been sexual. We have six or seven references to kissing in the New Testament that was part of the kind of Christian greeting. It doesn't necessarily have to have anything sexual to it."

Even though Elaine Pagels inserted the word "mouth" in the missing part of the text, she, too, admits that "The hint of an erotic relationship between Him and Mary Magdalene may indicate claims to a mystical communion; throughout history, mystics of many traditions have chosen sexual metaphors to describe their experiences."

Are you beginning to get the picture? Jesus the Messiah said to His disciples, **"If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the TRUTH, and the TRUTH shall make you free."**

People have been trying to knock GOD off of His throne for 2000 years without success. So let's not get hysterical over what poor Dan Brown and other heretical writers are putting out on the street. Let us pray that they will discover the TRUTH that they now deny, and that the TRUTH will set them free.

PS: Dan Brown bases his book on parchments discovered in the National Library of Paris in 1975 that purported to prove the existence of a "secret society called the Priory of Sion," allegedly founded in 1099. The Priory was supposed to be the guardian of the "Holy Grail," namely, the so-called secret bloodline of Jesus. Unfortunately for Mr. Brown, the "Priory of Sion" was exposed as a HOAX perpetrated by 3 Frenchmen who forged the parchments and planted them in the National Library. Why would they do such a thing? One of the 3 hoaxers was a man named Pierre Plantard. He wanted to put his name in the line of ancient kings of France, so his little group of 3 - **THE ONLY KNOWN TRUE MEMBERS OF THE FRAUDULENT "PRIORY OF SION"** - created genealogies that included Mr. Plantard's name. They also forged a list of "Grand Masters" of the Priory which included such notables as Sir Isaac Newton, Victor Hugo, and the ever popular Leonardo Da Vinci! One of Mr. Plantard's partners admitted to the hoax. (Watch the BBC video "The Real Da Vinci Code" available at **PRAISE PRODUCTIONS CHRISTIAN STORE** in Ridgway!)

