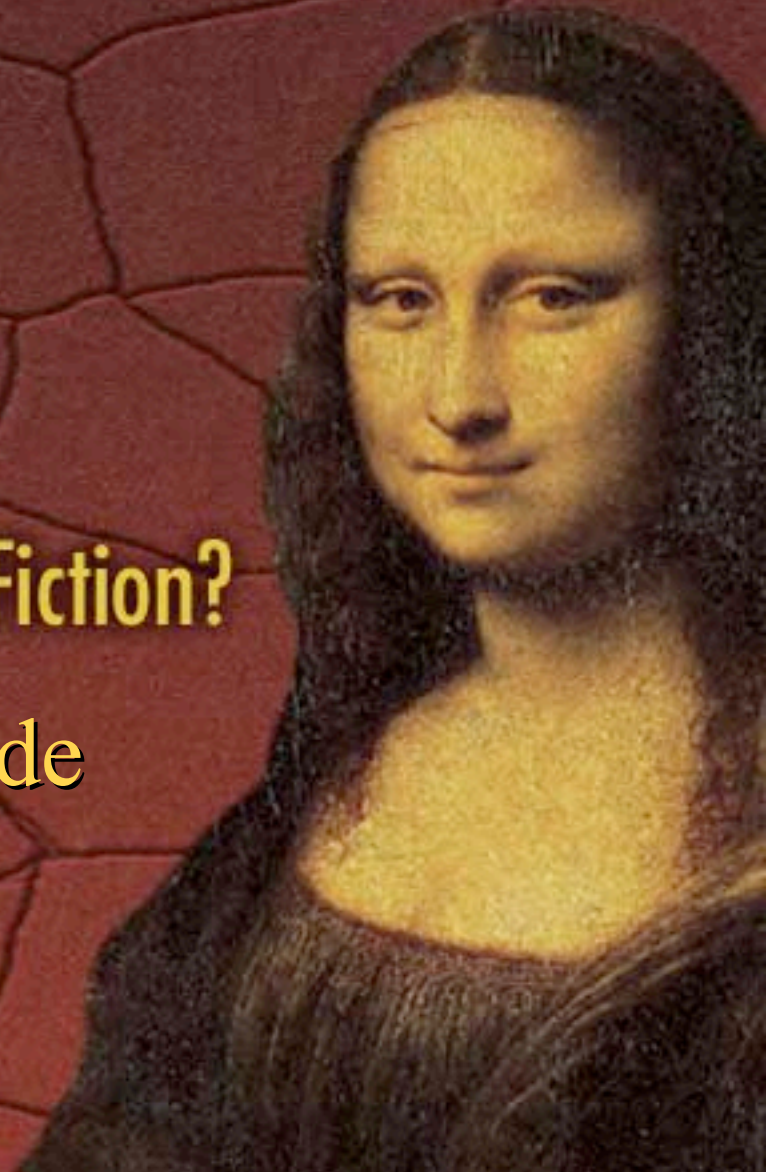


The DA VINCI CODE

Faith, Fact or Fiction?

Decoding the Da Vinci Code

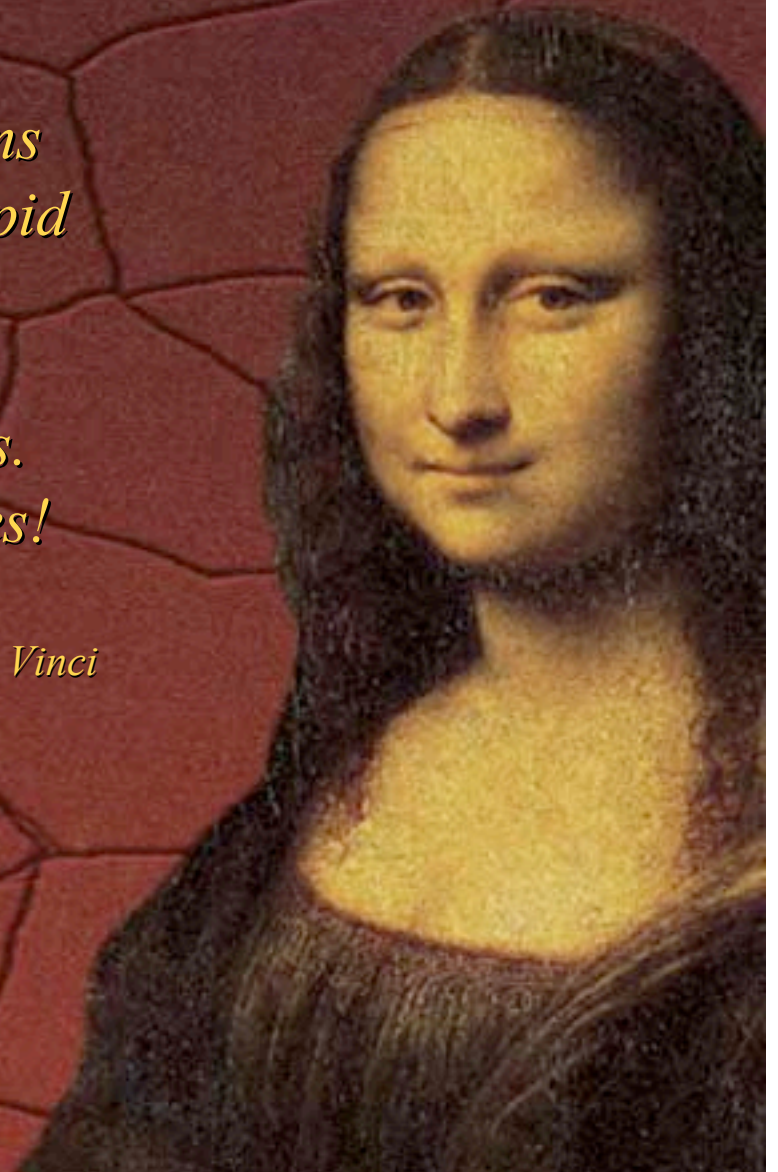
John M. Quay



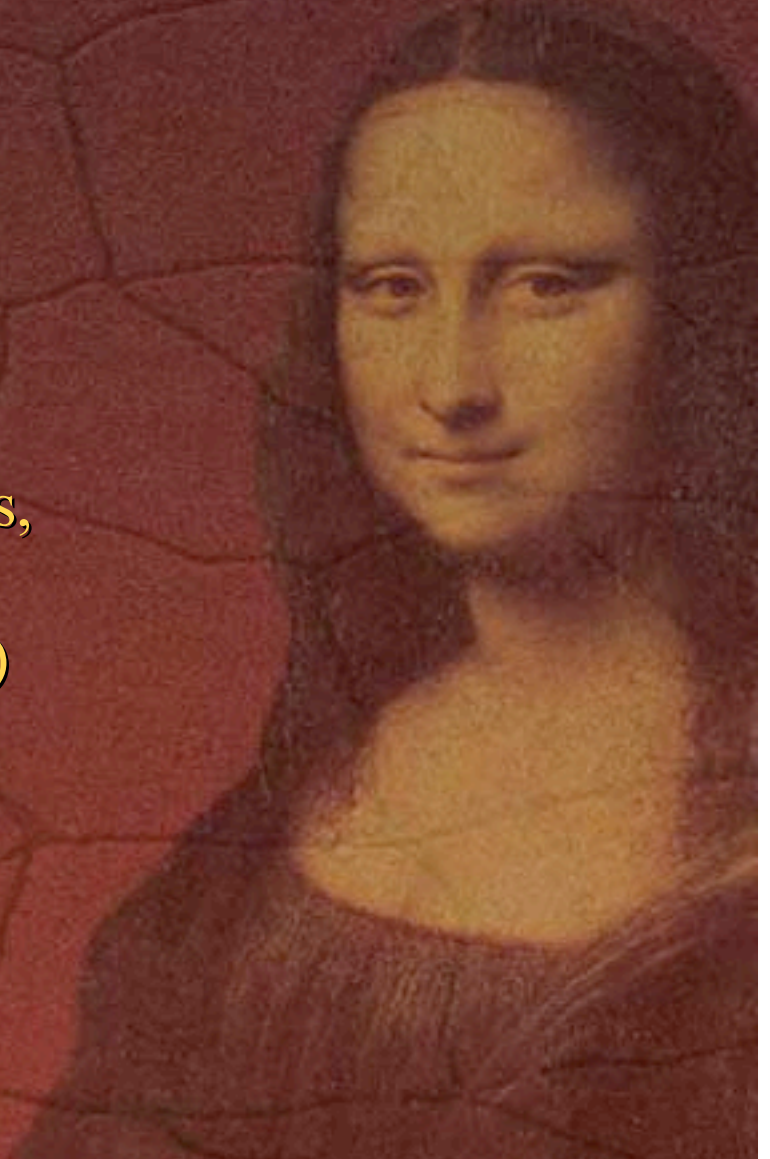
*Many have made a trade of delusions
and false miracles, deceiving the stupid
multitude.*

*Blinding ignorance does mislead us.
O! Wretched mortals, open your eyes!*

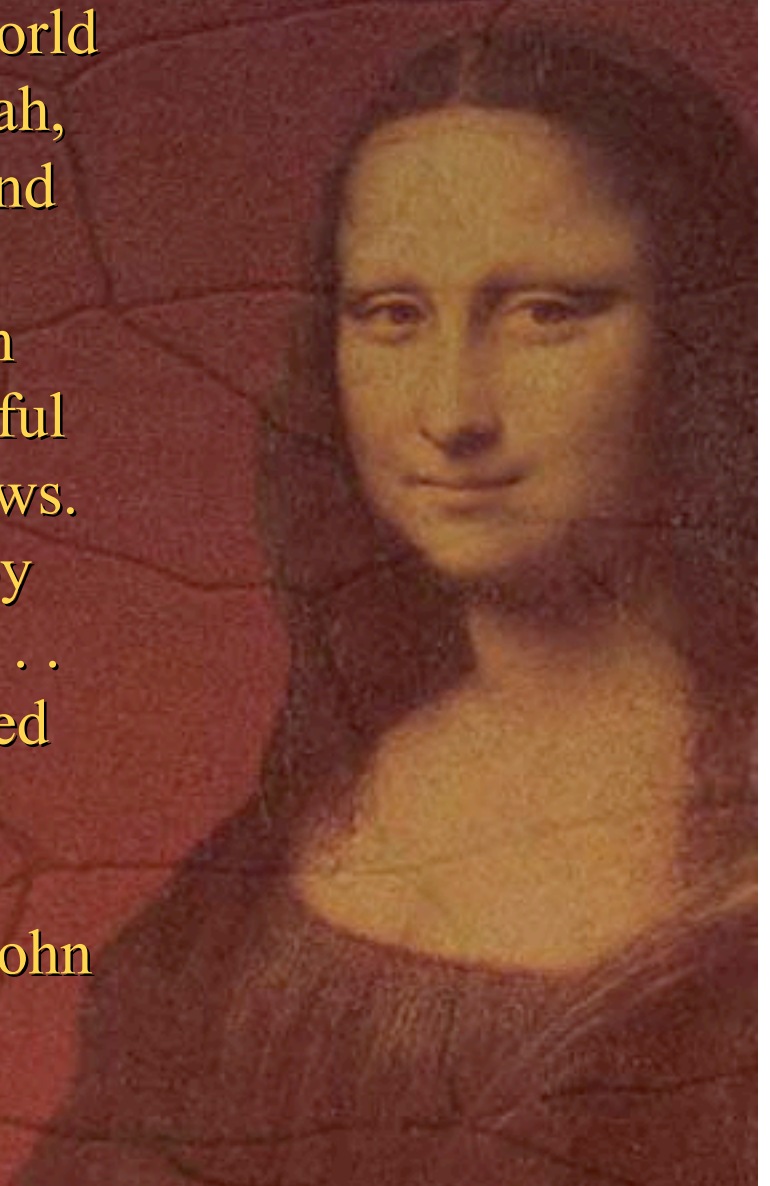
Leonardo da Vinci



The Bible did not arrive by fax from heaven. . . . The Bible is a product of *man*, my dear. Not of God. The Bible did not magically fall from the clouds. Man created it as a historical record of tumultuous times, and it has evolved through countless translations, additions, and revisions. History has never had a definitive version of the book. (pg. 231)

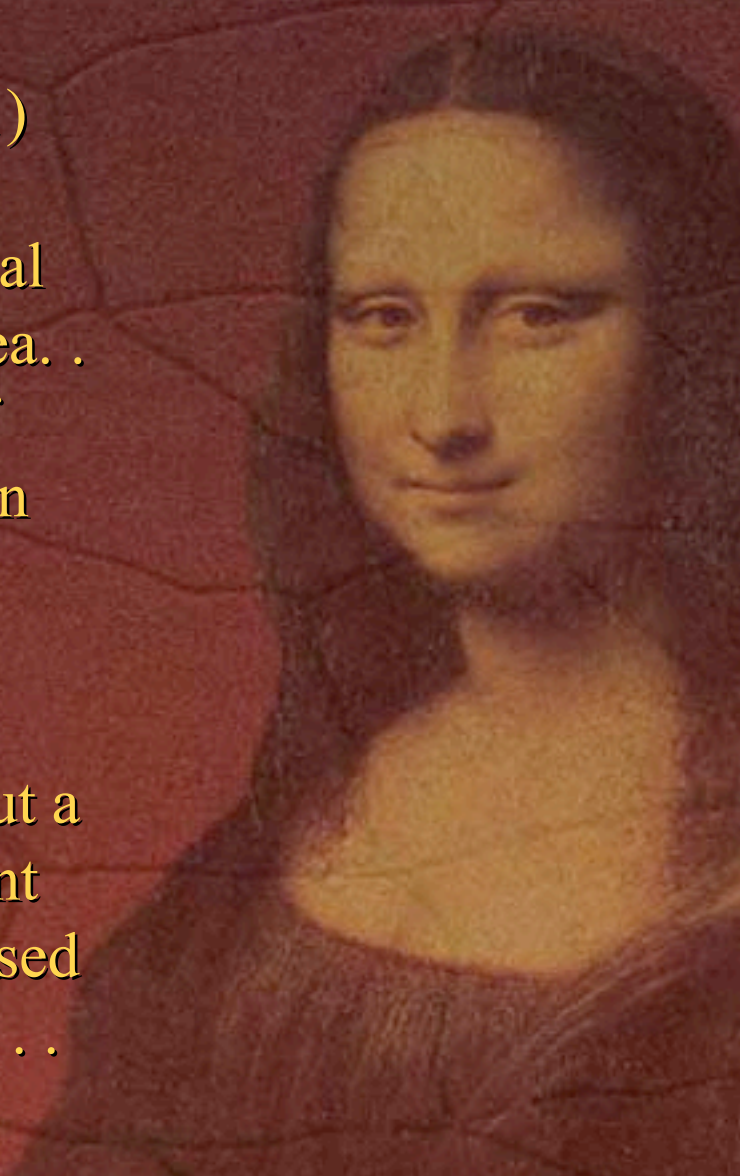


Jesus Christ was a historical figure of staggering influence, perhaps the most enigmatic and inspirational leader the world has ever seen. As the prophesied Messiah, Jesus toppled kings, inspired millions, and founded new philosophies. As a descendent of the lines of King Solomon and King David, Jesus possessed a rightful claim to the throne of the King of the Jews. Understandably, His life was recorded by thousands of followers across the land. . . . More than *eighty* gospels were considered for the New Testament, and yet only a relative few were chosen for inclusion—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John among them. (pg. 231)

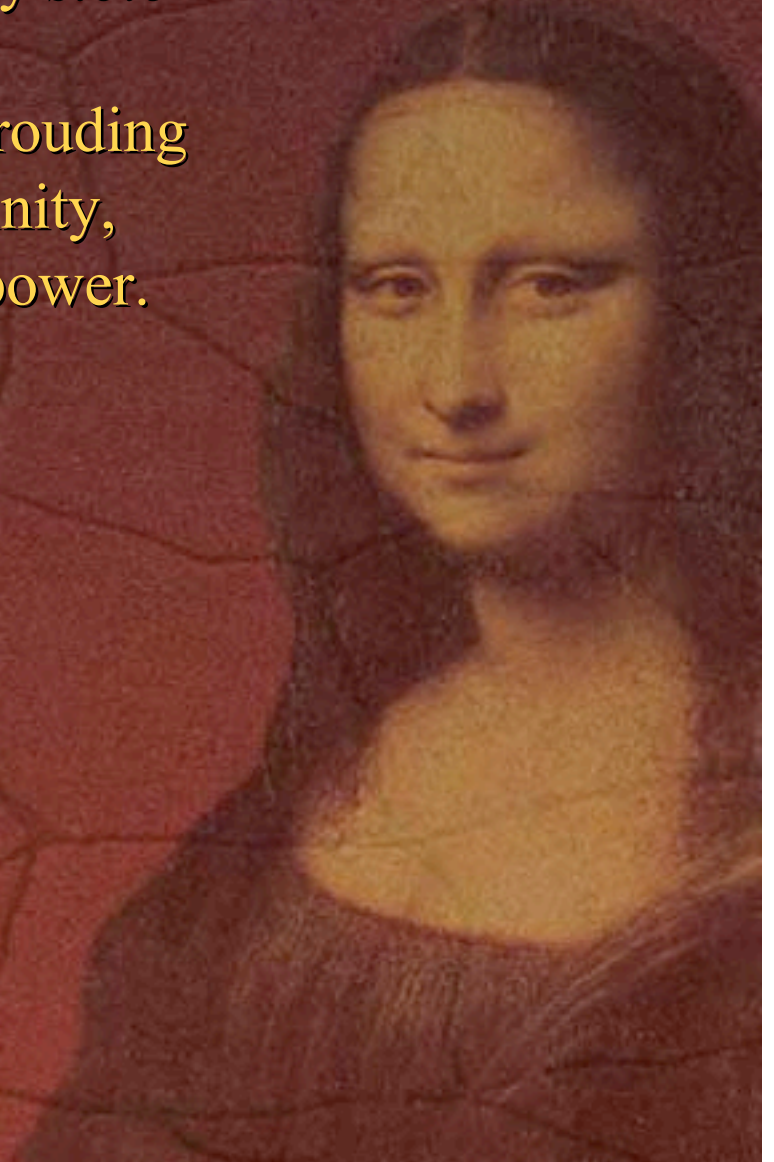
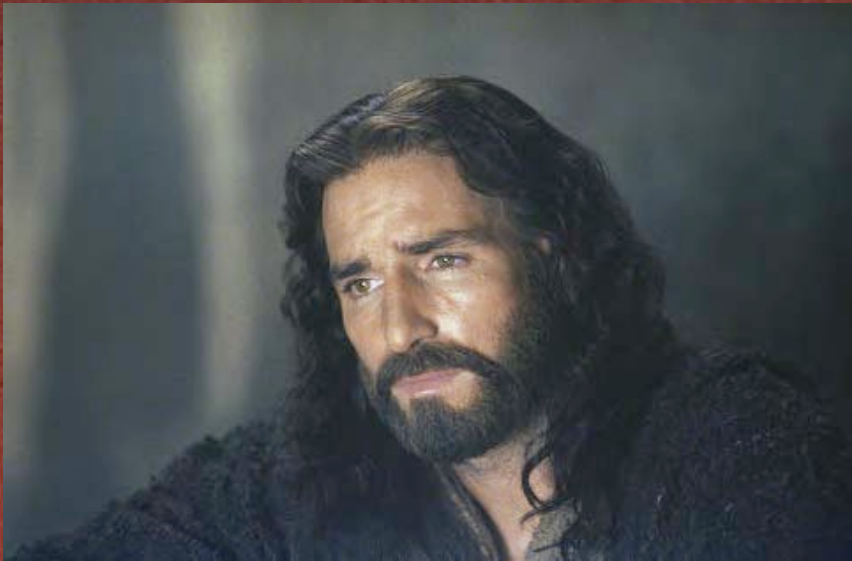


Aha! . . . The fundamental irony of Christianity! The Bible, as we know it today, was collated by the pagan Roman emperor Constantine the Great.”(pg. 231)

Constantine . . . held a famous ecumenical gathering known as the Council of Nicaea. . . . At this gathering . . . many aspects of Christianity were debated and voted upon [including] . . . the *divinity* of Jesus . . . until *that* moment in history, Jesus was viewed by His followers as a mortal prophet . . . a great and powerful man, but a *man* nonetheless. . . . Jesus’ establishment as ‘the Son of God’ was officially proposed and voted on by the Council of Nicaea. . . . A relatively close vote at that. (pg. 233)

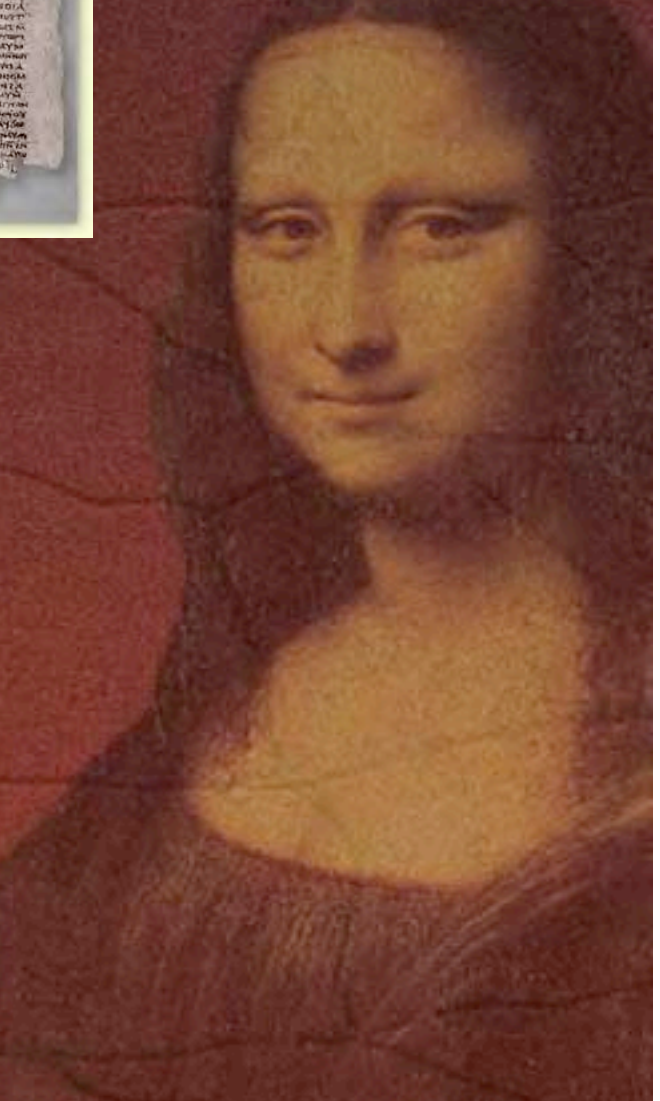


It was all about power . . . Many scholars claim that the early church literally *stole* Jesus from his original followers, hijacking His human message, shrouding it in an impenetrable cloak of divinity, and using it to expand their own power.
(pg. 233)





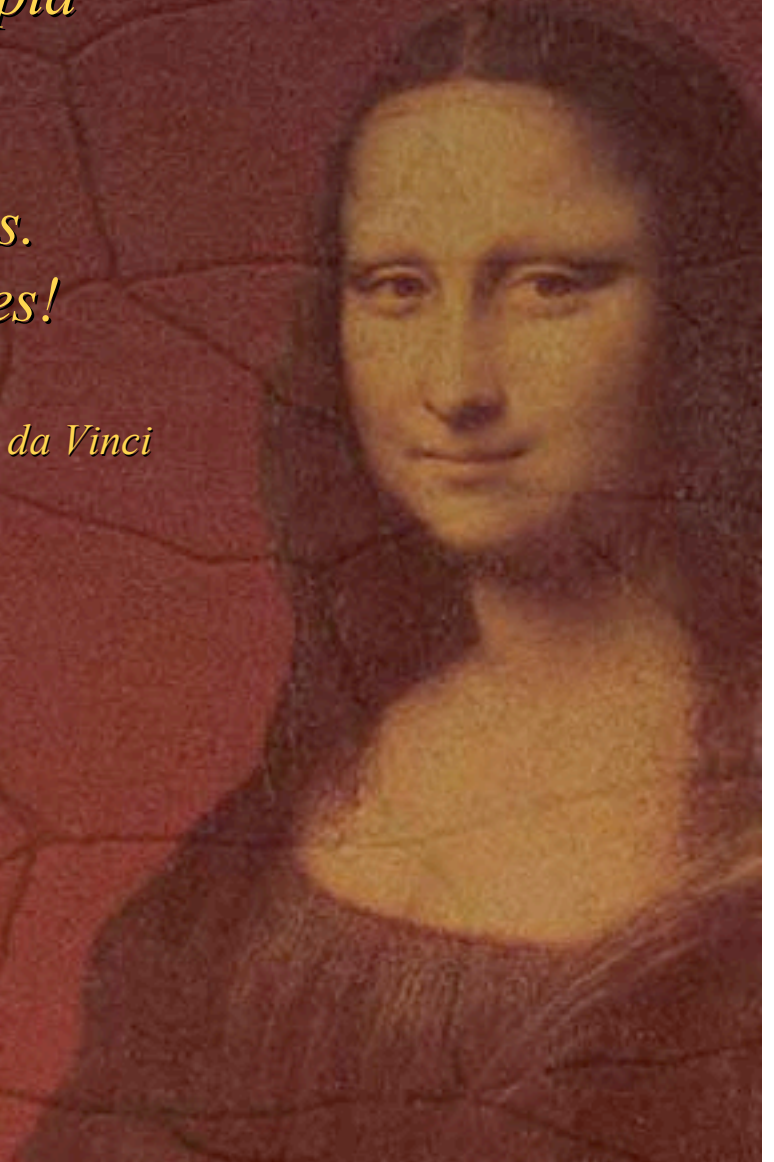
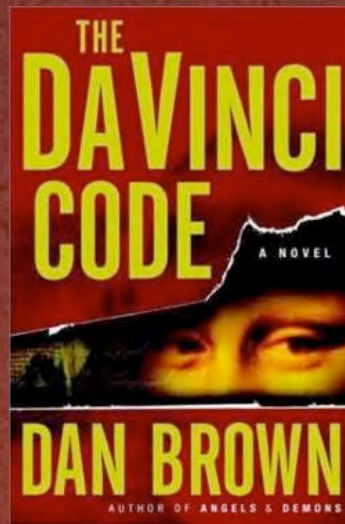
The scrolls highlight glaring historical discrepancies and fabrications, clearly confirming that the modern Bible was compiled and edited by men who possessed a political agenda—to promote the divinity of the man Jesus Christ and use His influence to solidify their own power base. (pg. 234)



*Many have made a trade of delusions
and false miracles, deceiving the stupid
multitude.*

*Blinding ignorance does mislead us.
O! Wretched mortals, open your eyes!*

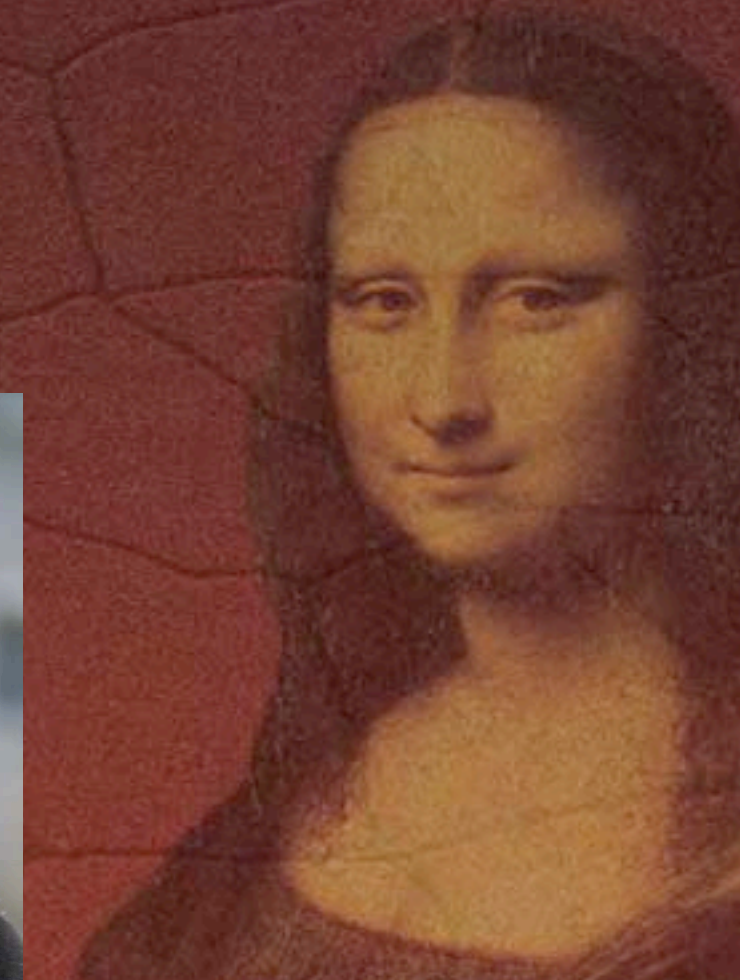
Leonardo da Vinci



Da Vinci Code Plot

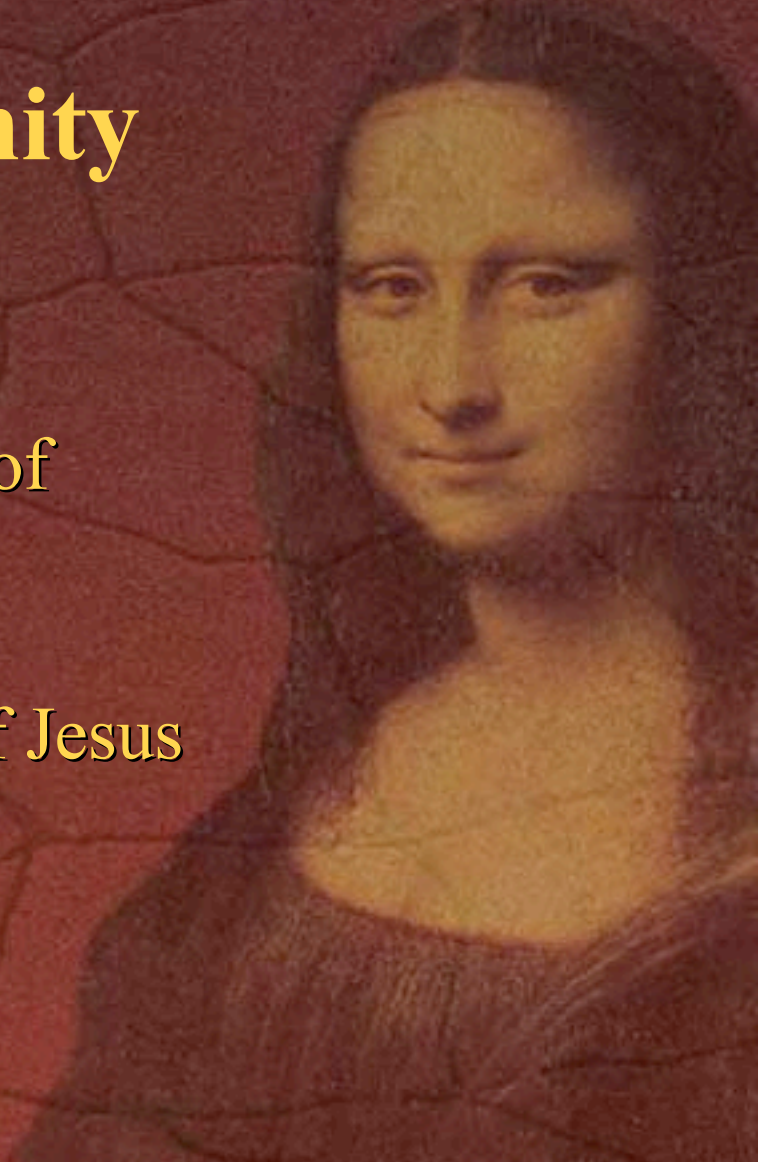


Priory of Sion



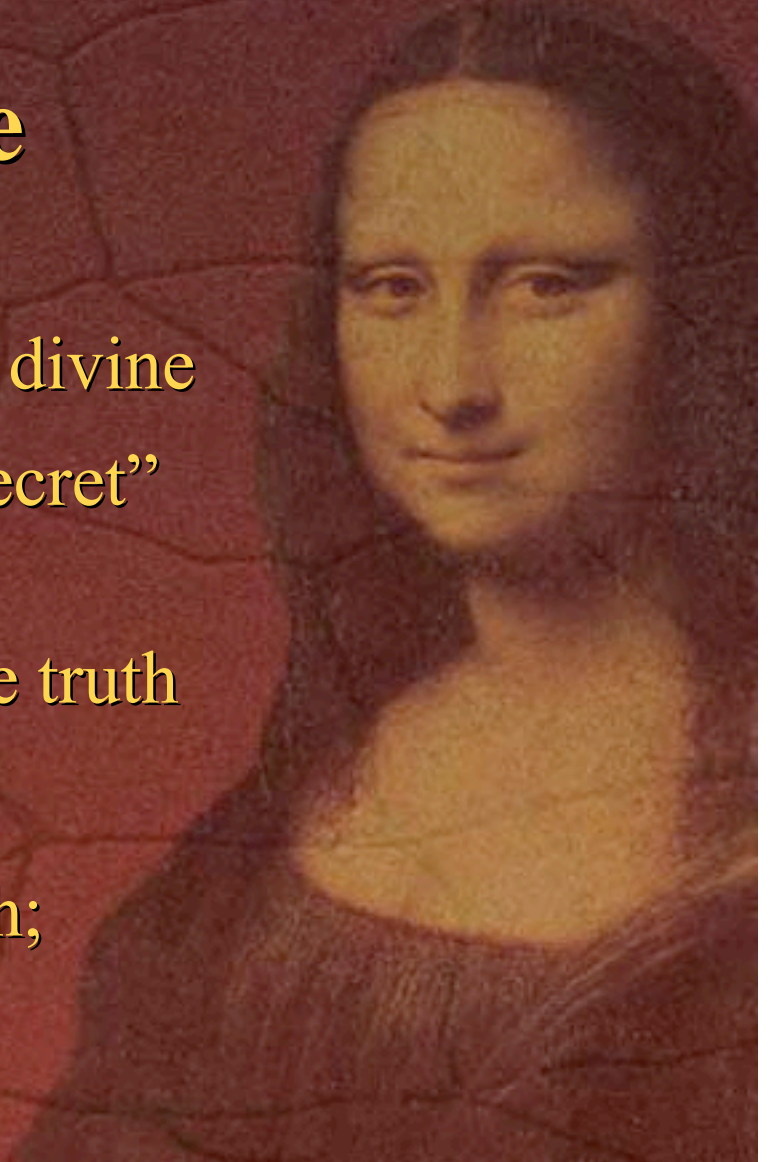
Traditional Christianity

- † Jesus as human and divine
- † Four gospels are genuine record of Christ's life and teachings
- † Church as guardian of the truth
- † Mary Magdalene as a follower of Jesus
- † Women lifted up by the church; oppressed under polytheism



The Da Vinci Code

- ♀ Jesus as only human; in no way divine
- ♀ Dead Sea, Nag Hammadi, & “secret” writings as genuine
- ♀ Priory of Sion as guardian of the truth
- ♀ Mary Magdalene as Jesus’ wife
- ♀ Women oppressed by the church; thriving under polytheism



Who is Jesus?

Mortal Prophet or Son of God?



Paul

Romans 9:5

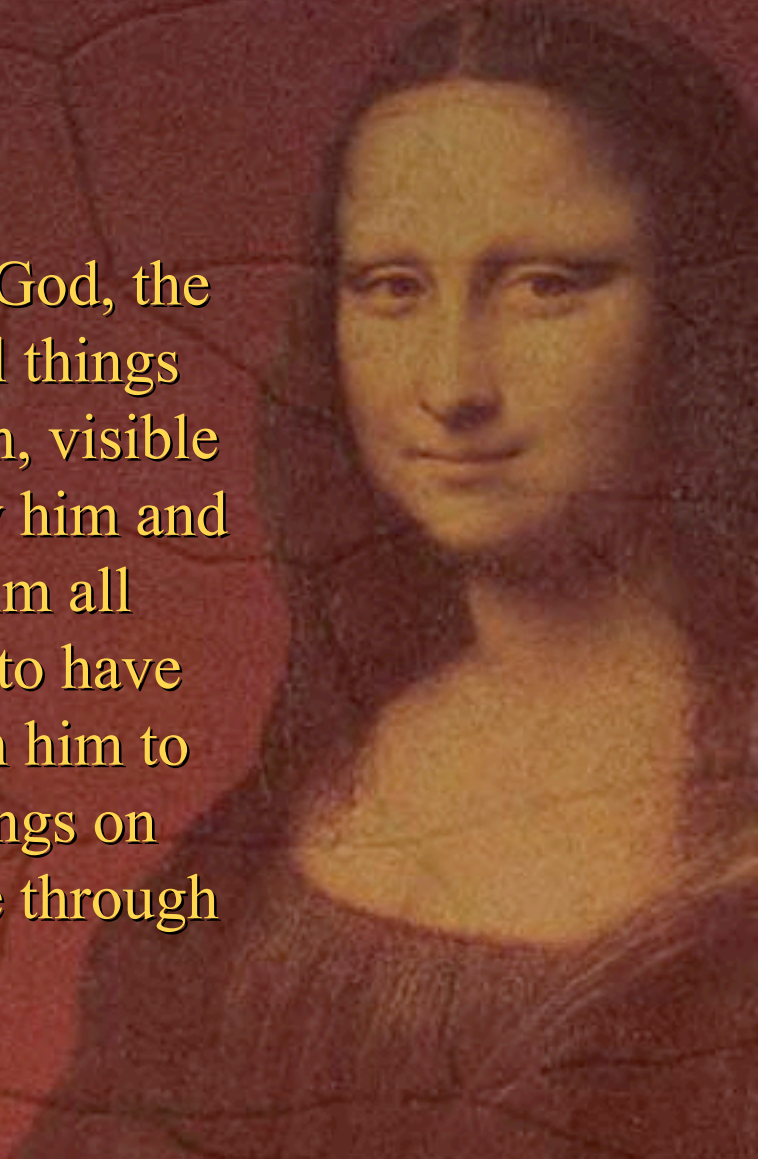
⁵ Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen.



Paul

Colossians 1:15-20

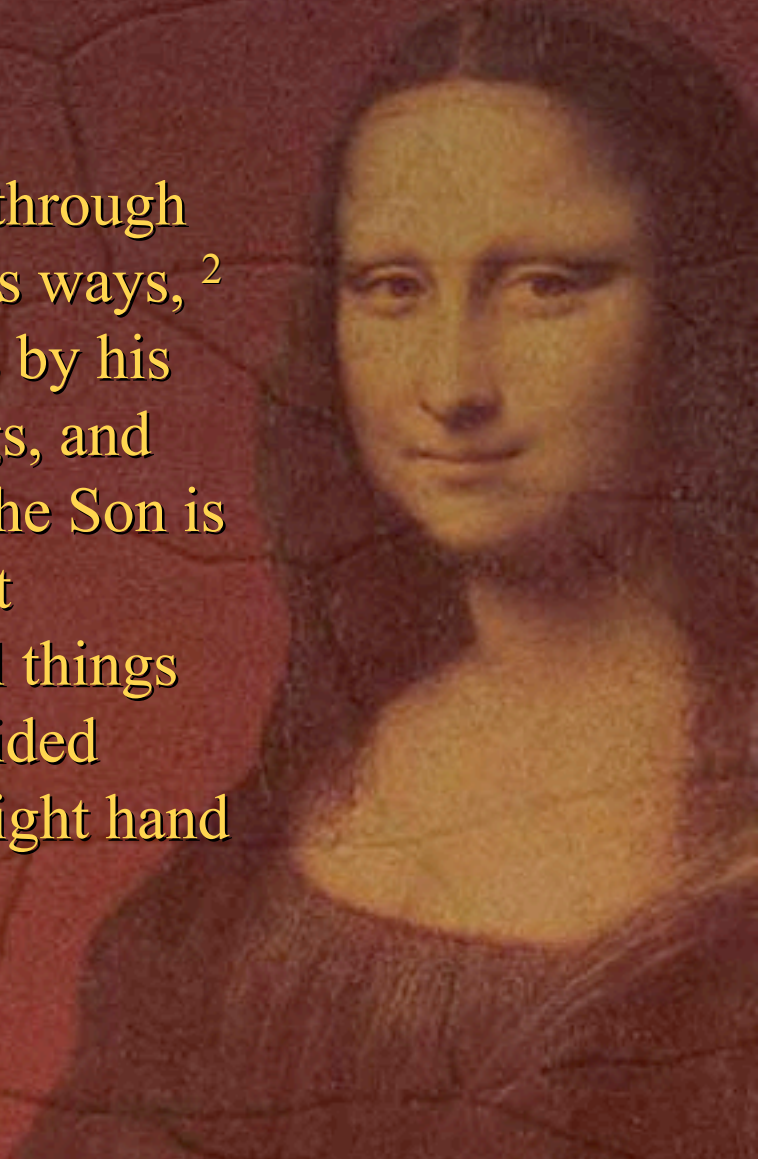
¹⁵ He [Christ] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible . . . all things were created by him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. . . . God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.



Author of Hebrews

Hebrews 1:1-3

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways,² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.³ The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.



Author of Hebrews

Hebrews 1:8-9

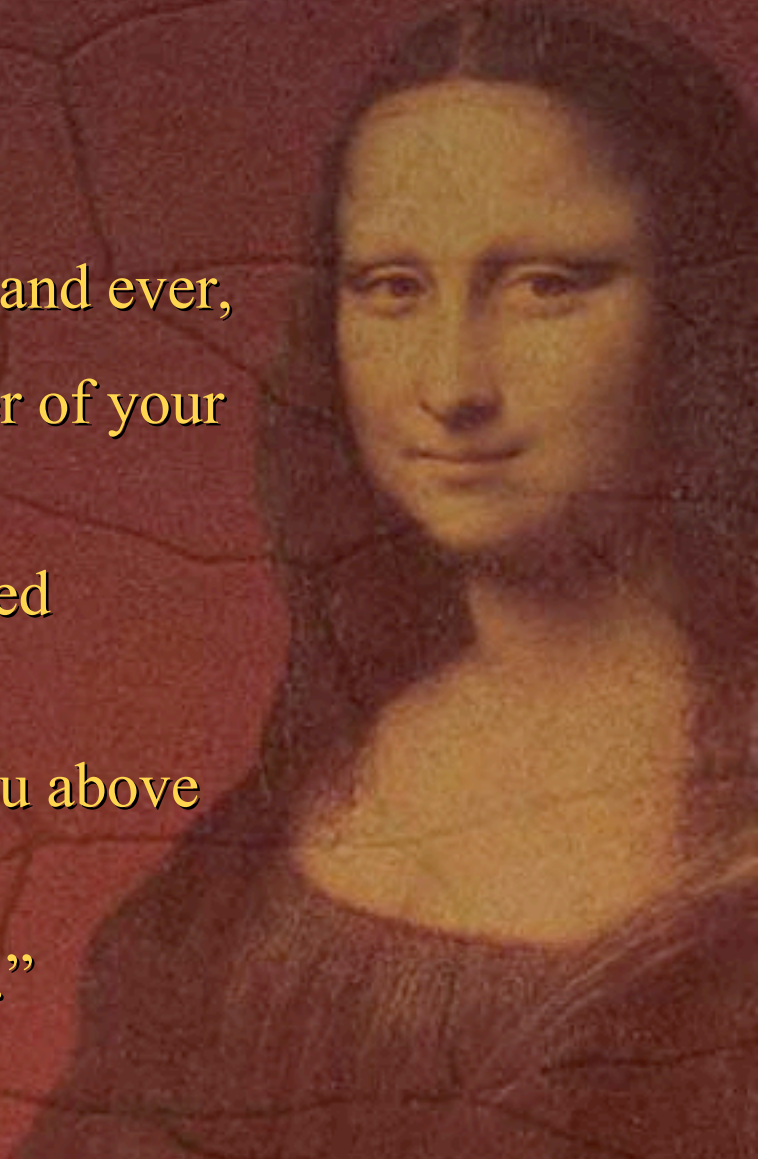
⁸ But about the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever,
and righteousness will be the scepter of your
kingdom.

⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated
wickedness;

therefore God, your God, has set you above
your companions

by anointing you with the oil of joy.”



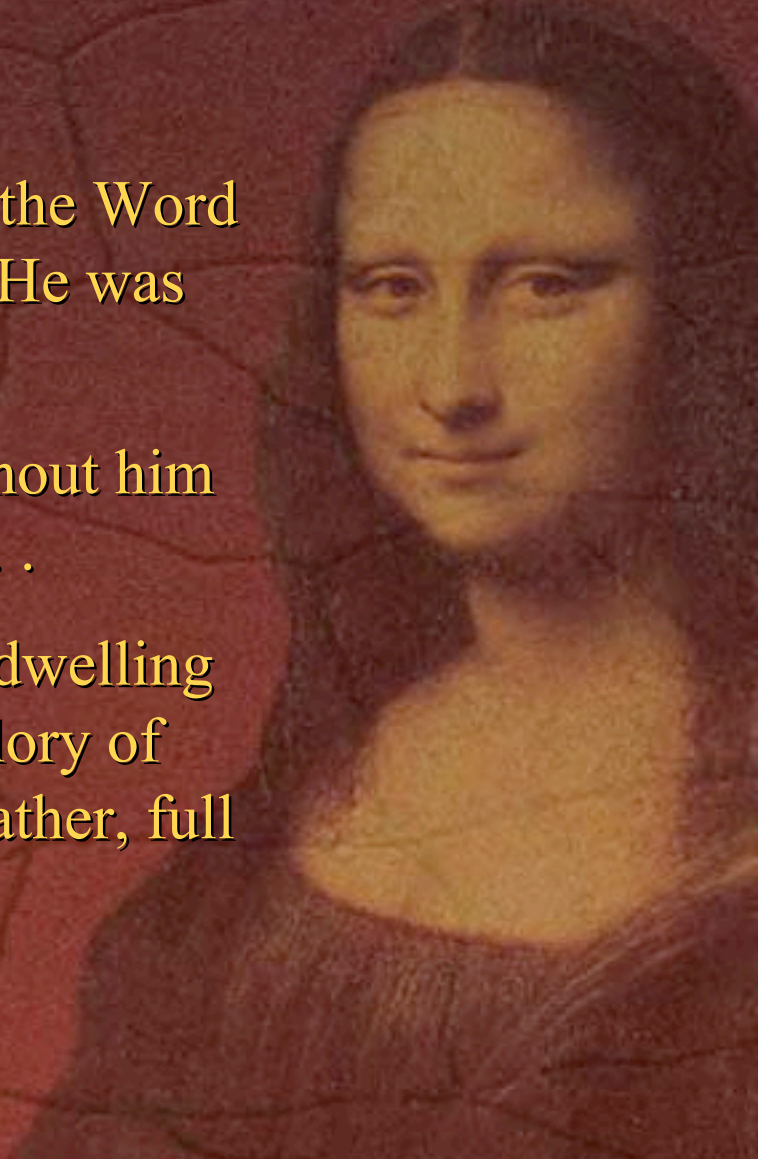
John

John 1:1-18

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning.

³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. . . .

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

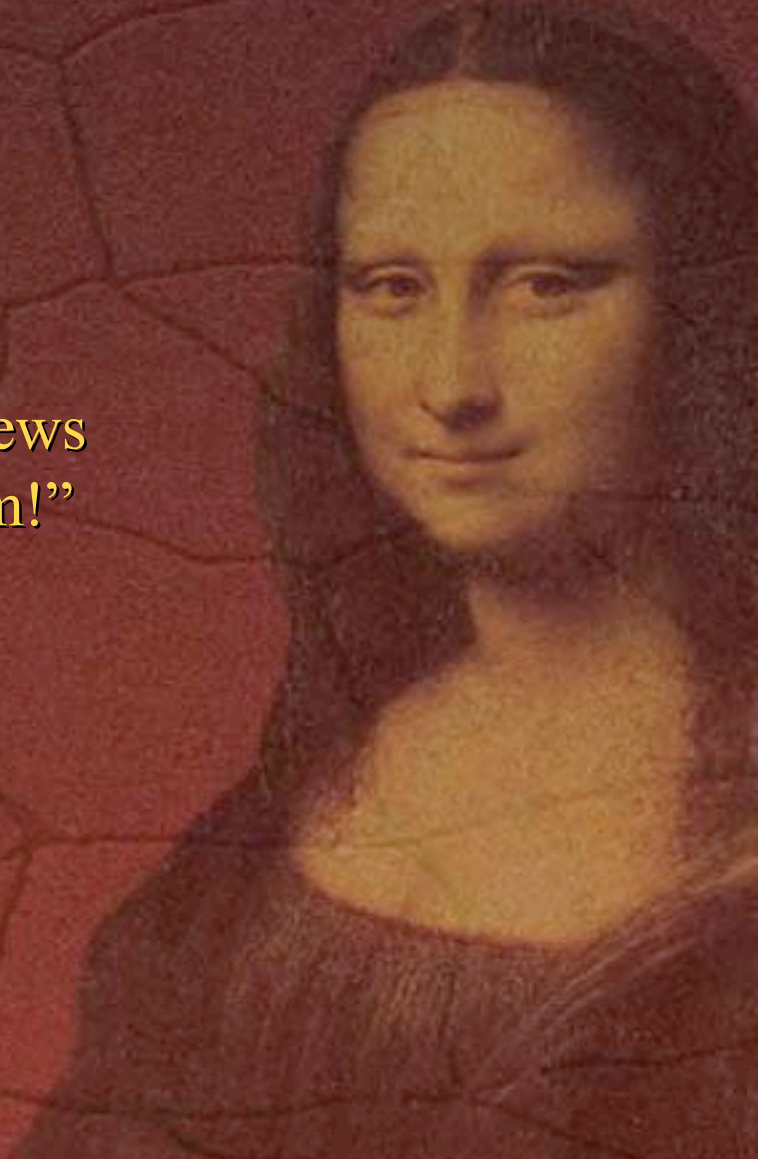


John

John 8:57-58

⁵⁷ “You are not yet fifty years old,” the Jews said to him, “and you have seen Abraham!”

⁵⁸ “I tell you the truth,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I am!”

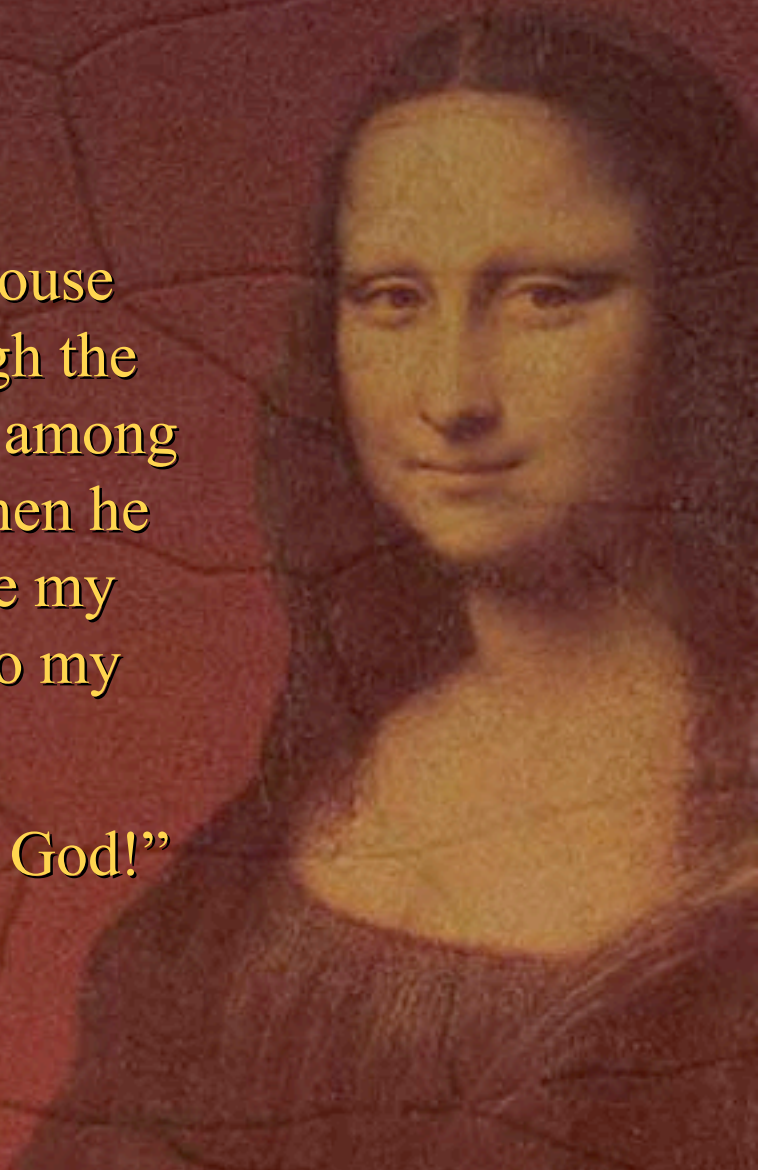


John

John 20:26-28

²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

²⁸ Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”



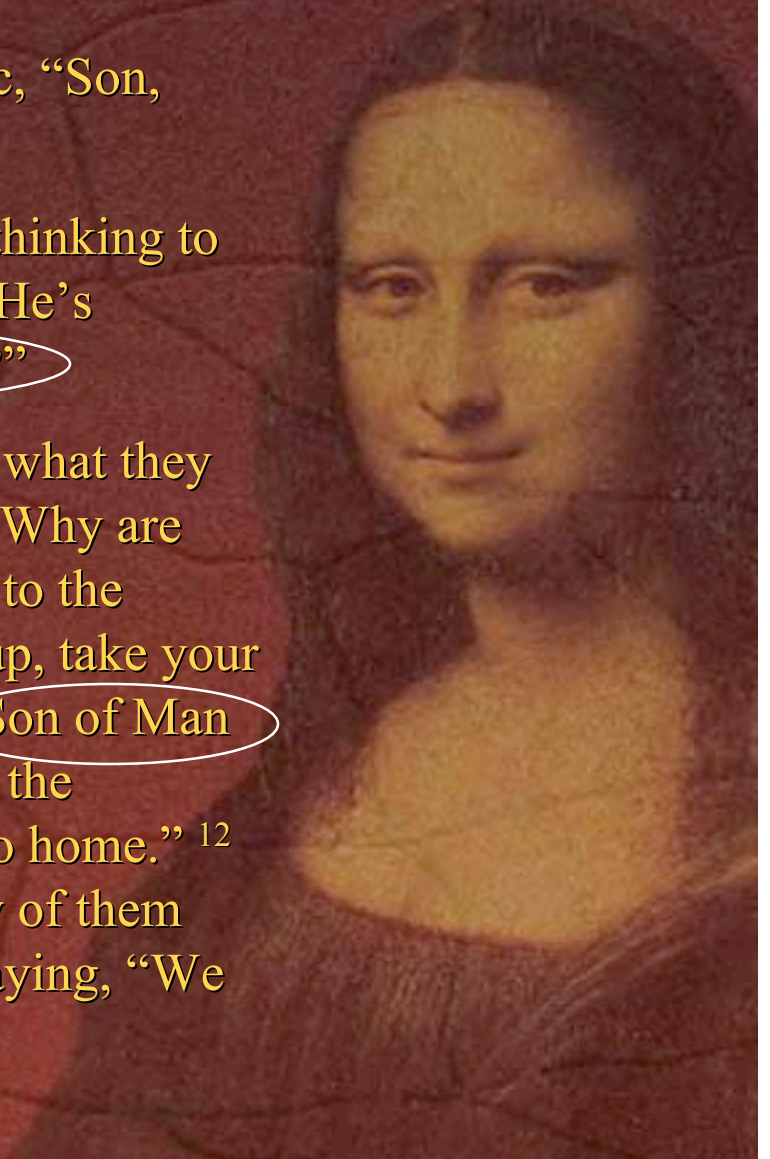
Mark

Mark 2:5-12

⁵ When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

⁶ Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, ⁷ “Why does this fellow talk like that? He’s blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

⁸ Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, “Why are you thinking these things? ⁹ Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk’? ¹⁰ But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins....” He said to the paralytic, ¹¹ “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” ¹² He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”



Church Fathers

- Ignatius: “God Himself being manifested in human form . . .” (A.D. 105)

Epistle of Ignatius to the Ephesians, chapter XIX

- Clement: “It is fitting that you should think of Jesus Christ as God” (A.D. 150)

The Second Epistle of Clement, chapter I

- Justin Martyr: “the Father of the universe has a Son; who also, being the first-begotten Word of God, is even God” (A.D. 160)

The First Apology of Justin Martyr, chapter LXIII

- Irenaeus: “He is God, for the name Emmanuel indicates this” (A.D. 180)

Against Heresies, book III, chapter XXI

- Tertullian: “. . . Christ our God” (A.D. 200)

The Apology, Of Patience, chapter XIII



Church Fathers

- Origen: “no one ought to be offended, seeing God is the Father, that the Saviour is also God . . .” (A.D. 225).

Origen de Principiis, book I, chapter II

- Novatian: “Christ is not man only, but God also” (A.D. 235).

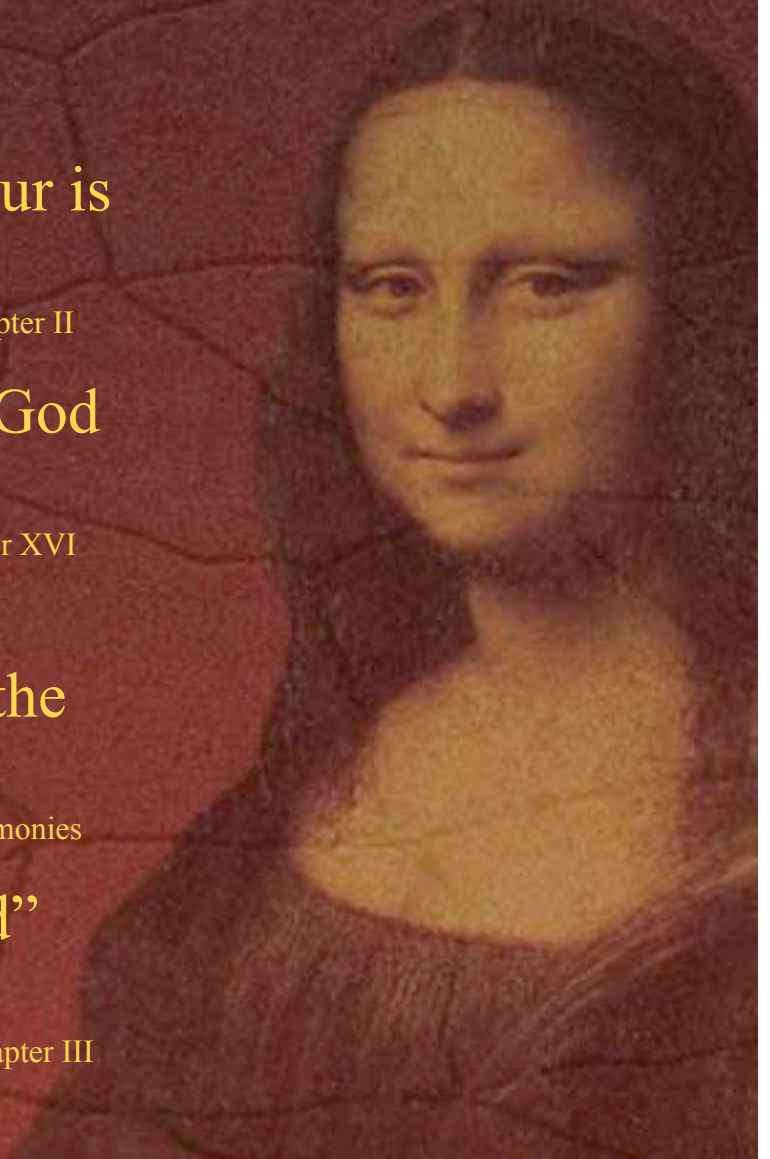
A Treatise of Novatian Concerning the Trinity, chapter XVI

- Cyprian: “That Christ our God should come, the En-lightener and Saviour of the human race” (253 A.D.).

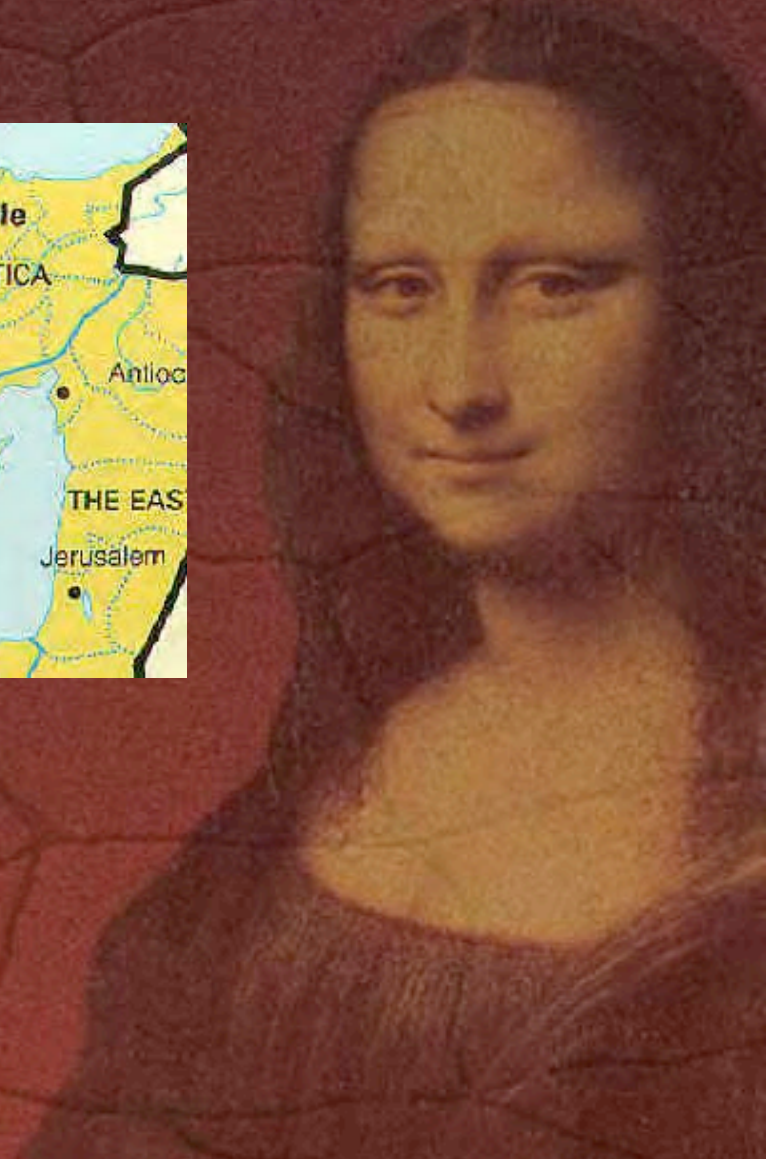
Treatise XII, second book, Testimonies

- Lactantius: “We believe Him to be God” (A.D. 304).

The Divine Institutes, book V, Of Justice, chapter III

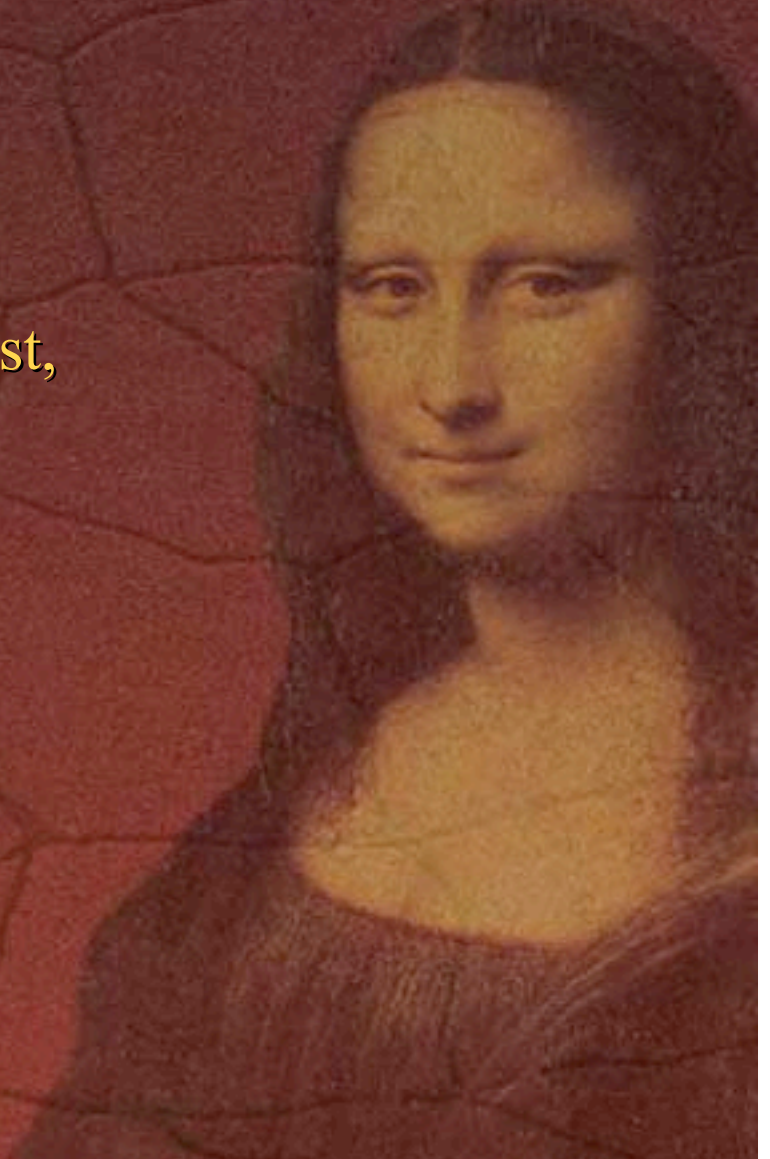


Council of Nicaea



Nicene Creed

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, light from light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.



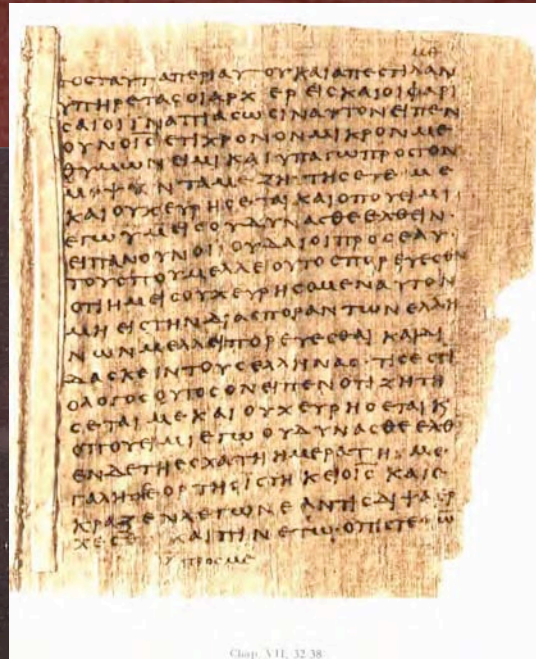
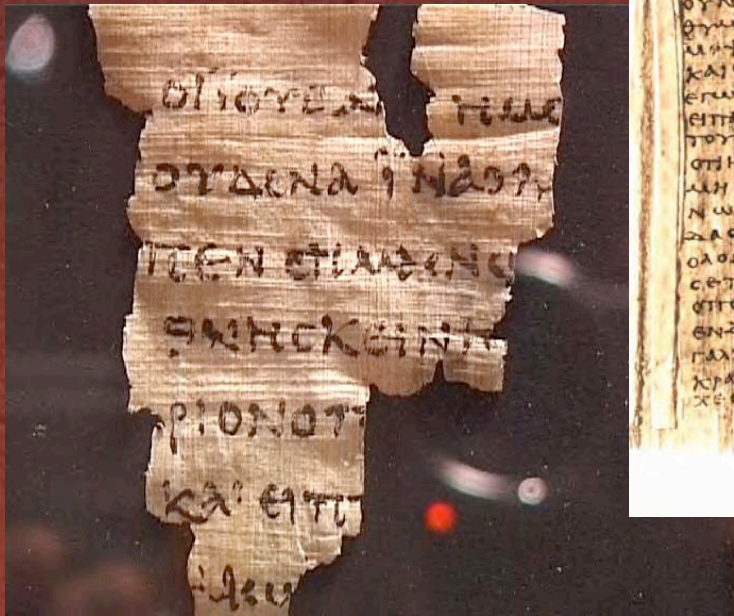
The Da Vinci Code

- Do the historical records support the allegations of the Da Vinci Code?
- Did the church re-write the history books and nearly destroy all of the documents that would reveal the truth?
- What do we learn from the Dead Sea Scrolls, Nag Hammadi Codices, and the “secret” documents safeguarded by the Priory of Sion?



New Testament Manuscripts

Christian Documents (50-100 A.D.)

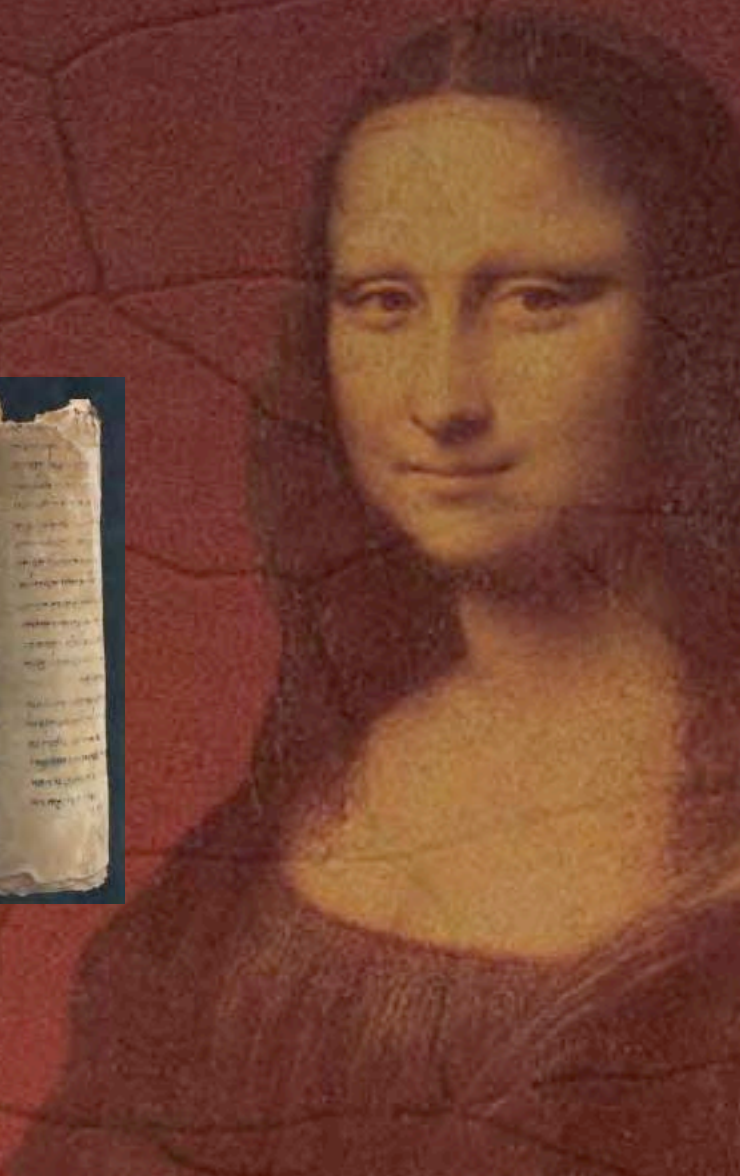


Chap. VII, 32-38



Dead Sea Scrolls

Jewish Documents

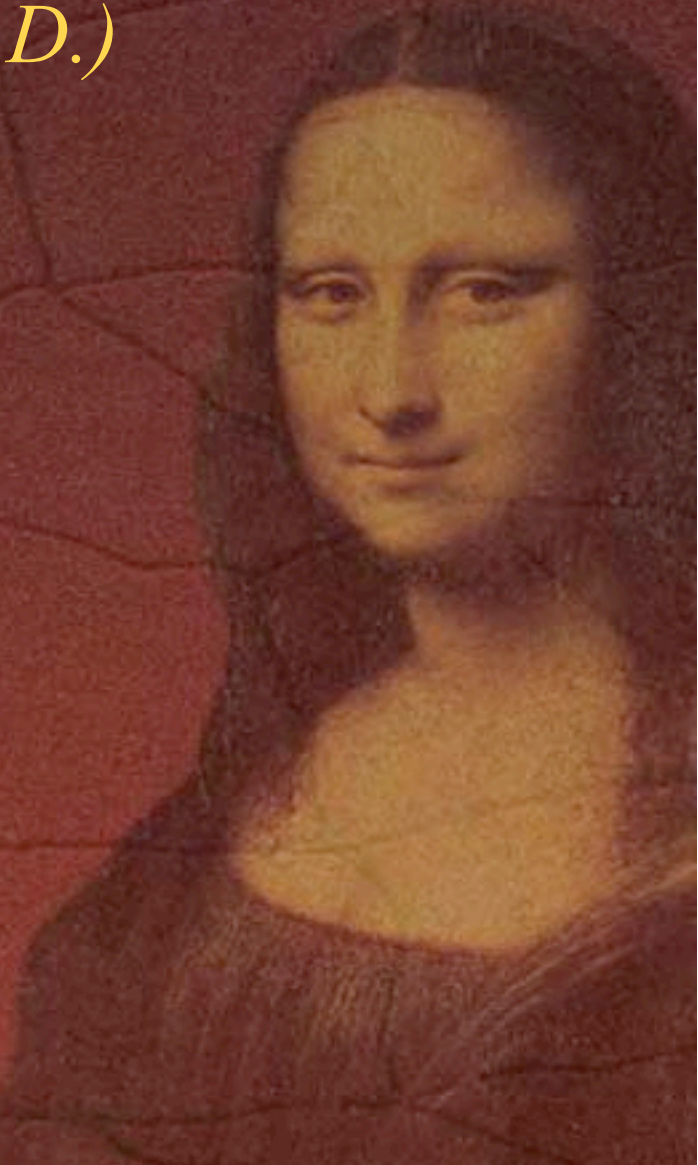


Nag Hammadi Codices

Gnostic Documents (150-250 A.D.)



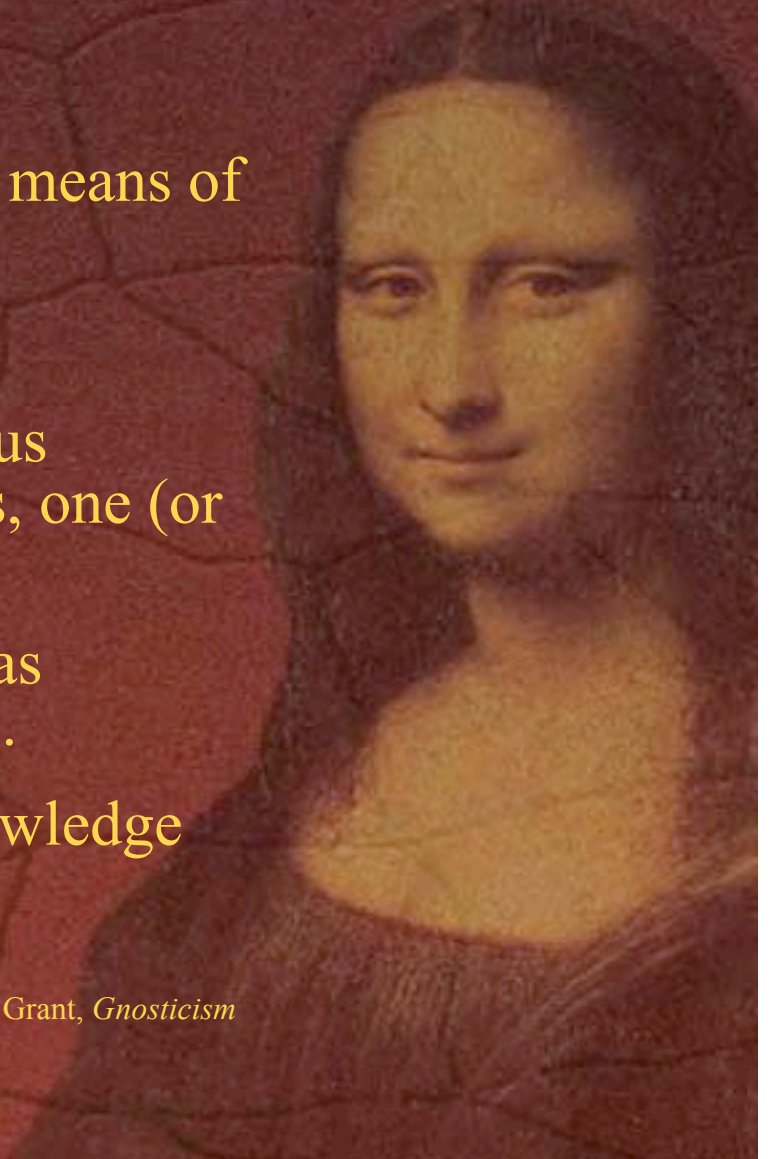
The Nag Hammadi Cod



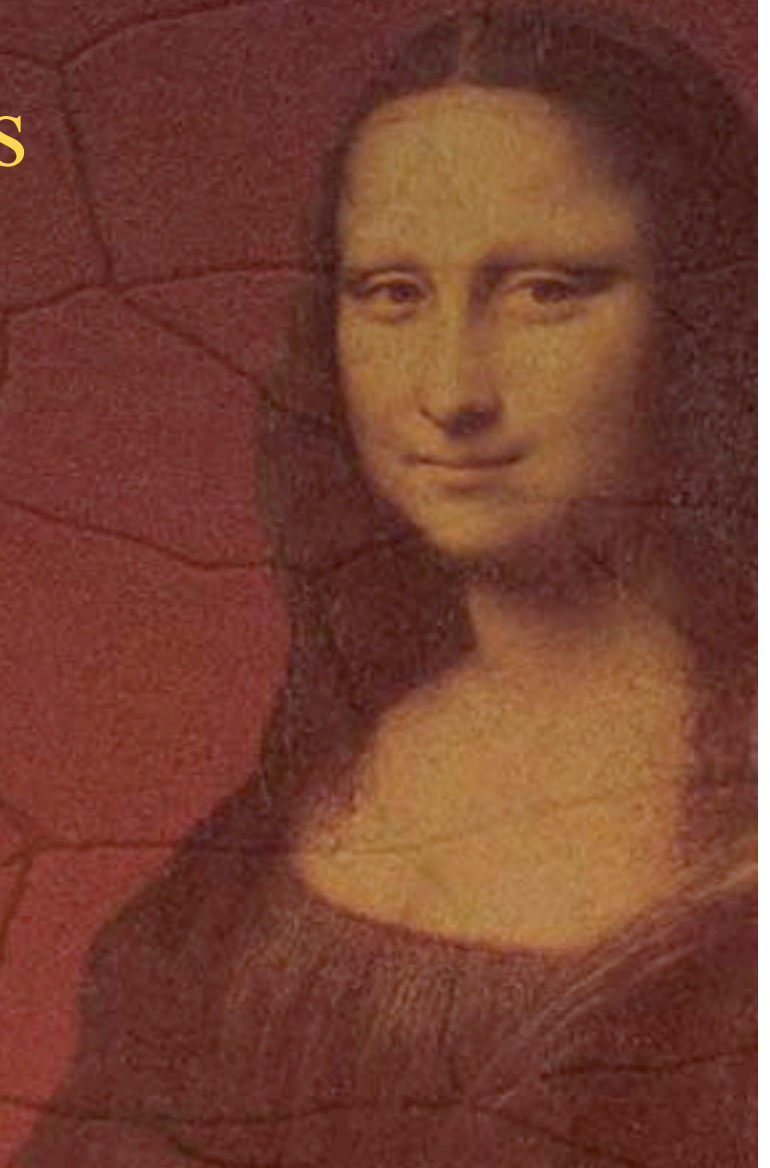
Gnostic Beliefs

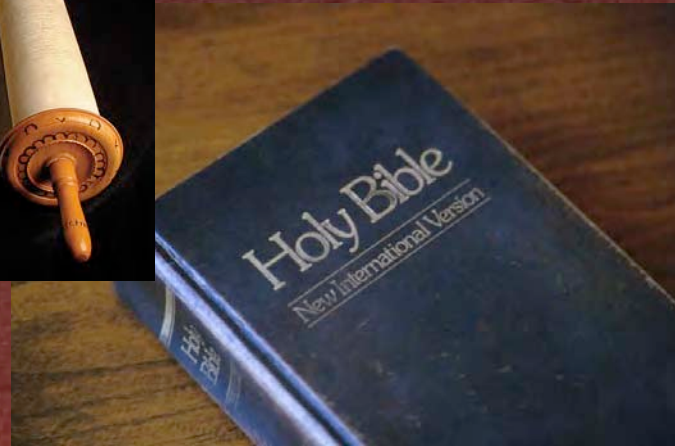
- This world is unredeemably bad.
- Salvation is escape from the world, by means of self-knowledge.
- God is completely transcendent.
- Between God & the world are numerous intermediate spirit beings, called aeons, one (or more) of whom made this world.
- Somehow, some of the divine spark was trapped in the world in (some) humans.
- The Redeemer came down to give knowledge by which humans may be saved.

From a PowerPoint presentation by Robert C. Newman as derived from Robert M. Grant, *Gnosticism* and Irenaeus, *Against Heresies*



“Secret” Documents



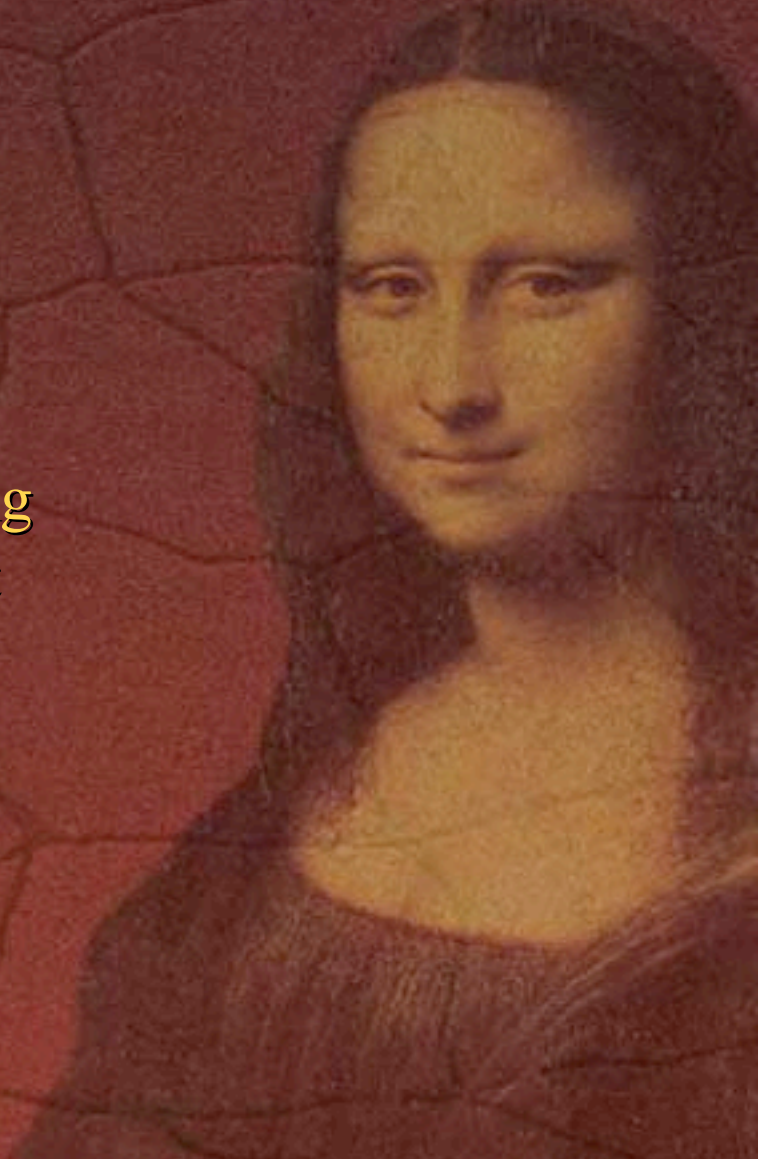


The Bible did not arrive by fax from heaven. . . . The Bible is a product of *man*. Not of God. The Bible did not magically fall from the clouds. Man created it . . . (pg. 231).



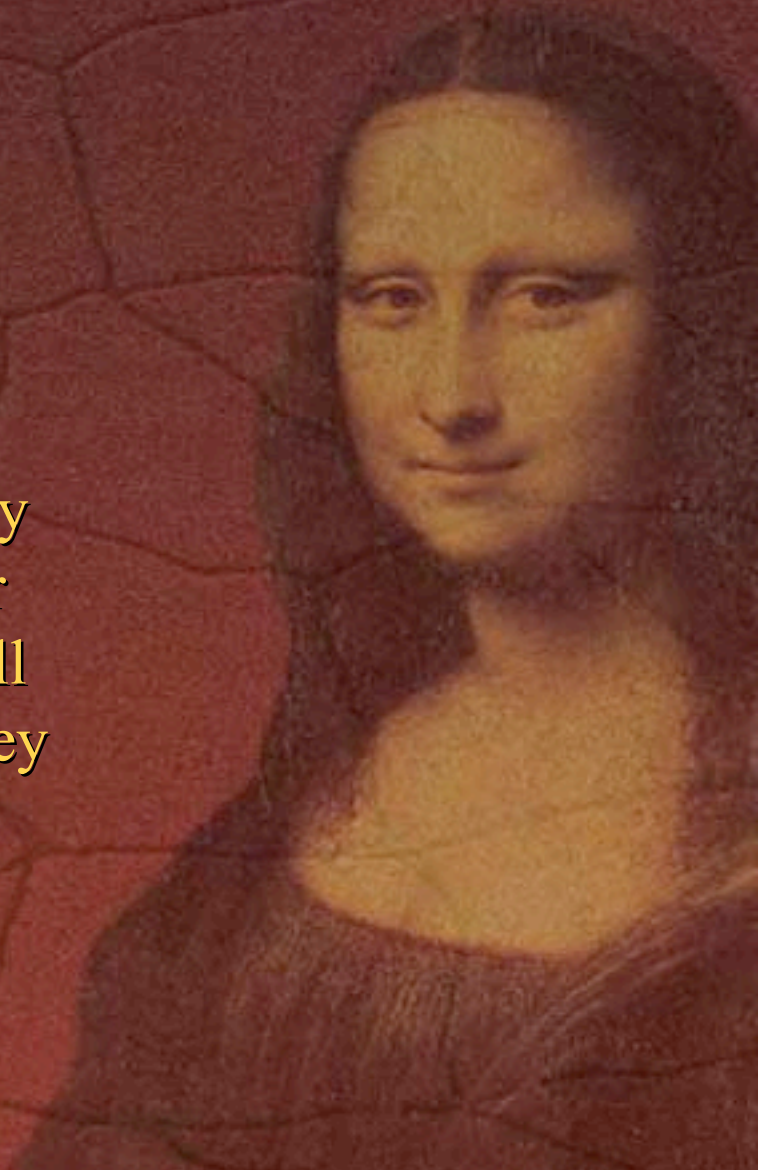
2 Timothy 3:16-17

¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.



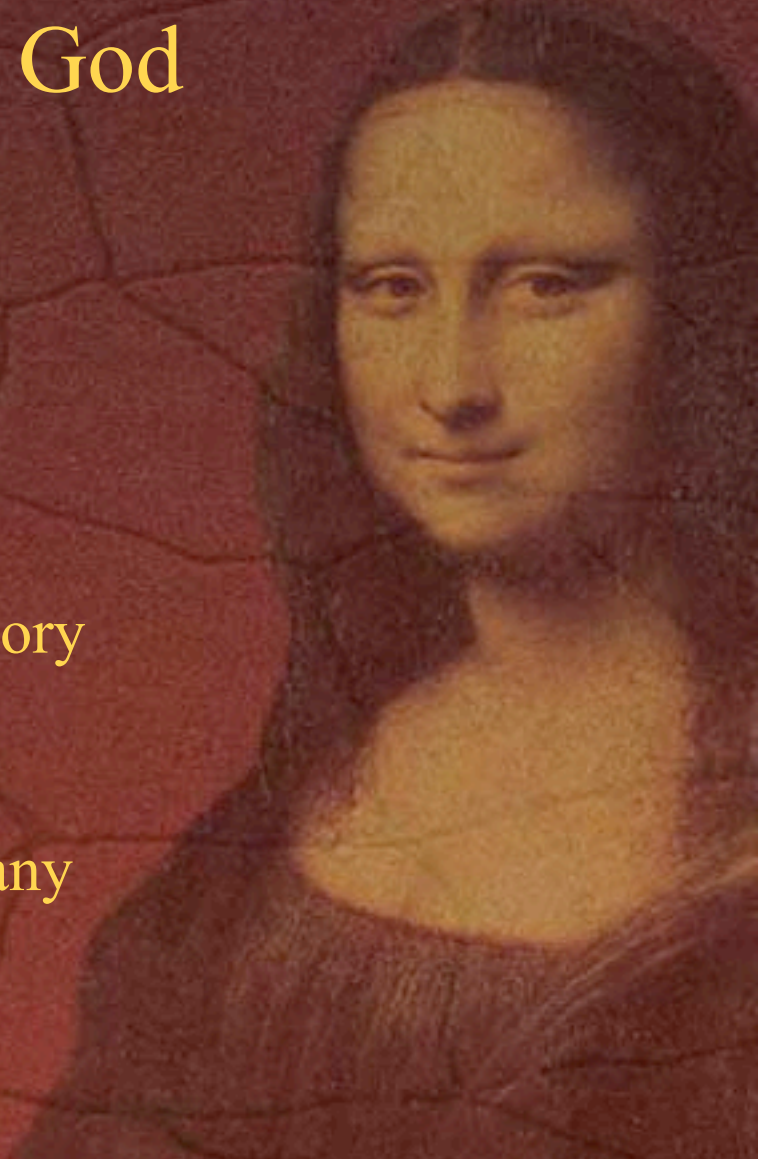
2 Peter 1:20-21

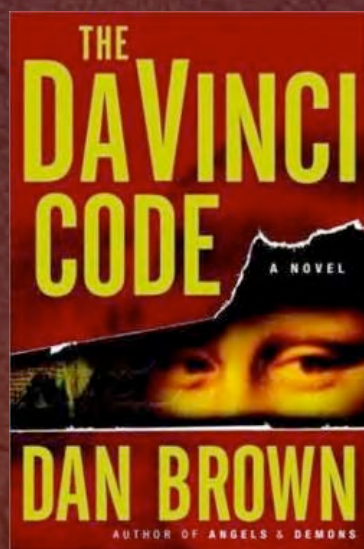
²⁰ Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. ²¹ For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.



Evidence the Bible is from God

- Historically accurate
- Internally consistent
- Corresponds to reality
- Prophecies were fulfilled
- Influenced the course of human history more than any other book
- It transforms lives
- These can not be rightly be said of any other “religious” writings

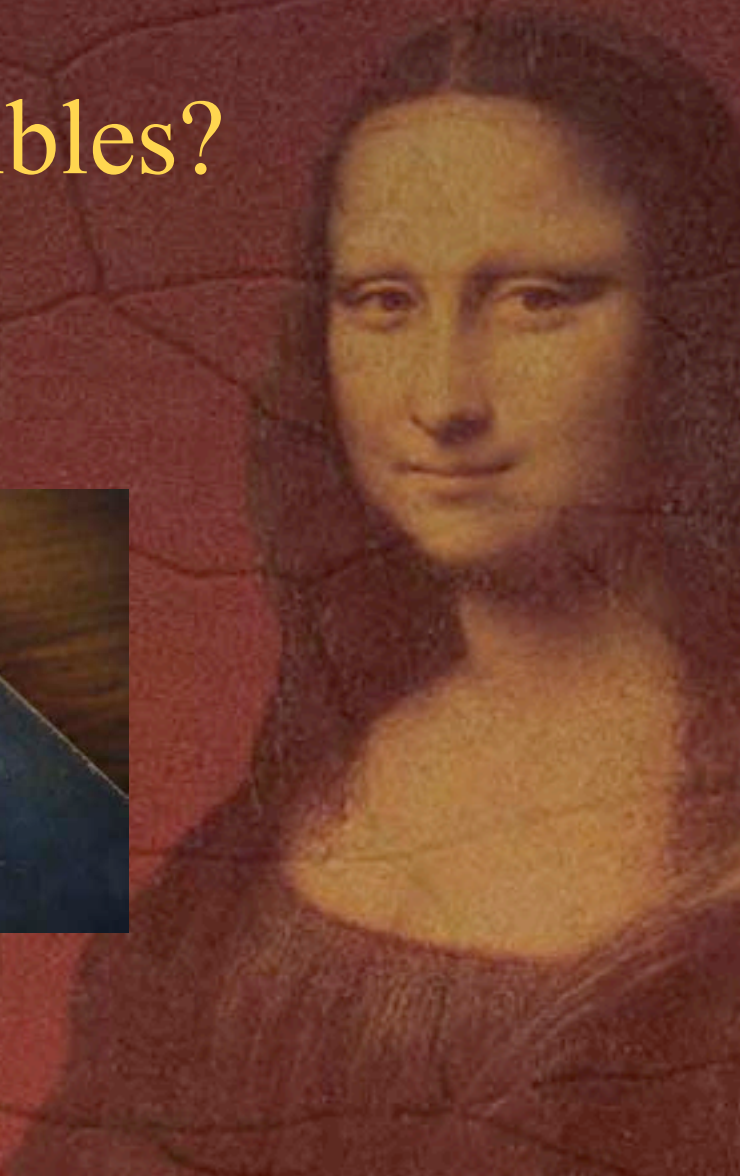
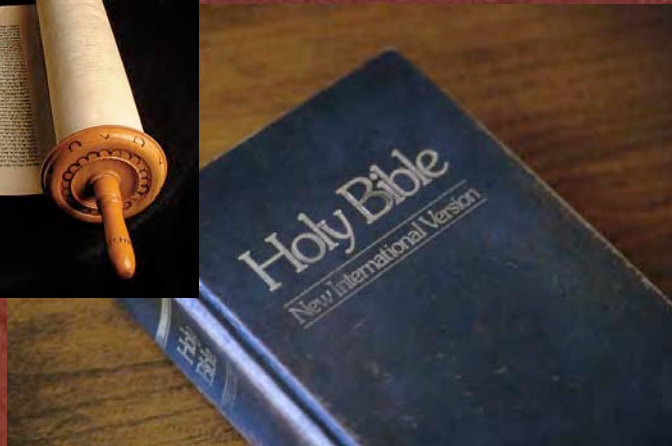




. . . man created [the Bible] and it has evolved through countless translations, additions, and revisions. History has never had a definitive version of the book. More than eighty gospels were considered for the New Testament, and yet only a relative few were chosen for inclusion. (pg. 231)

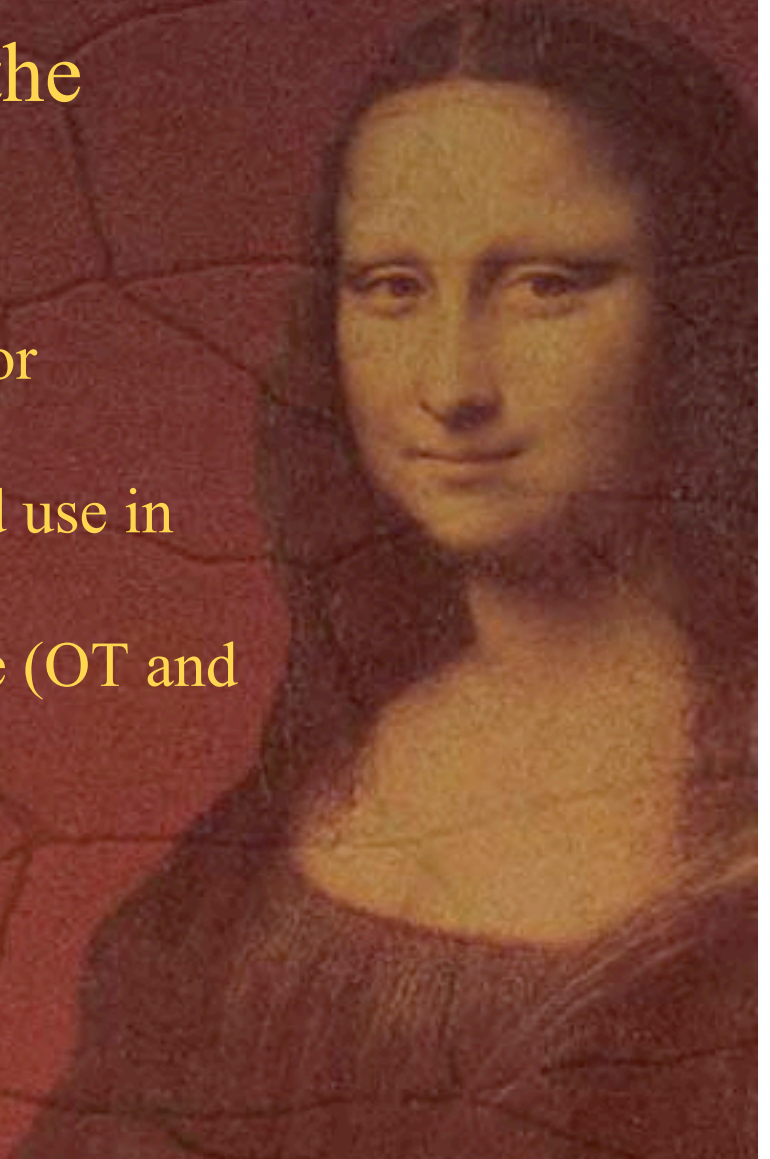


How Did We Get Our Bibles?



Criteria Used in Forming the “Canon” of Scripture

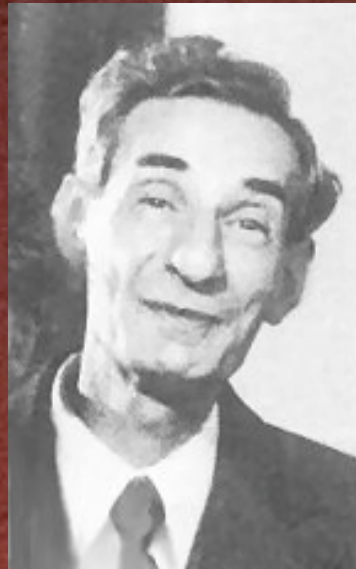
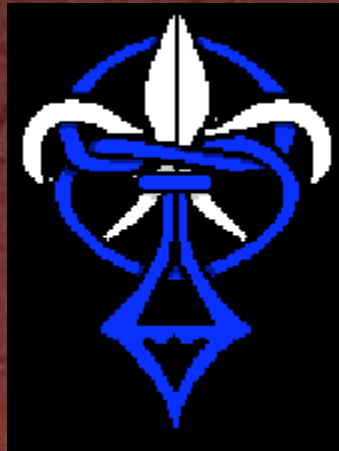
- Was it written by an apostle of Jesus (or someone close to an apostle)?
- Did it have widespread acceptance and use in the churches?
- Was it consistent with known scripture (OT and later the gospels & Paul’s letters)?



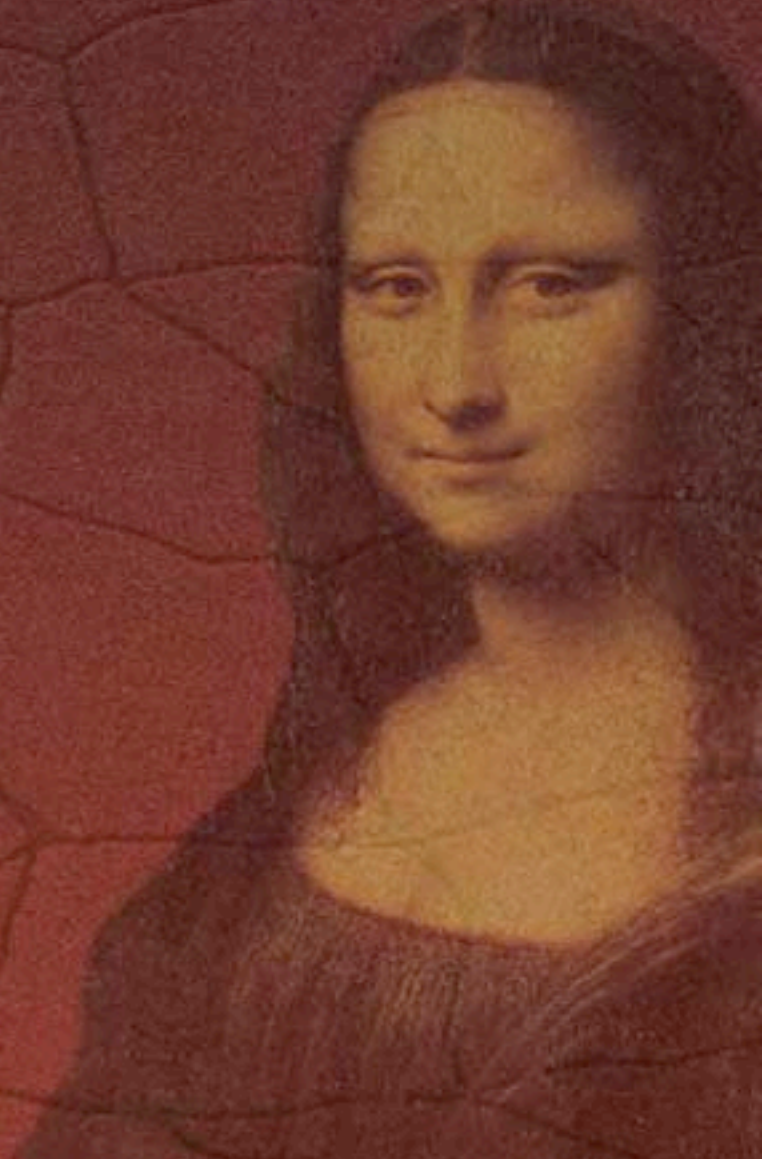
Early “Canons” of Scripture

- The Muratorian Canon (about A.D. 170)
 - The manuscript is broken at the beginning, but it starts with Luke as the 3rd Gospel, followed by John as the 4th.
 - With the exception of Hebrews, James, and 1 and 2 Peter, it includes references to all of the NT books.
- Origen (about A.D. 230)
 - He says that the following 21 books were acknowledged by all Christians
 - Four Gospels, Acts, Paul’s letters (13), 1 Peter, 1 John, Revelation
 - He says that the following 10 books were disputed by some Christians
 - Hebrews, James, 2 Peter, 2-3 John, Jude, Ps-Barnabas, Hermas, Didache, Gospel of Hebrews

Priory of Sion



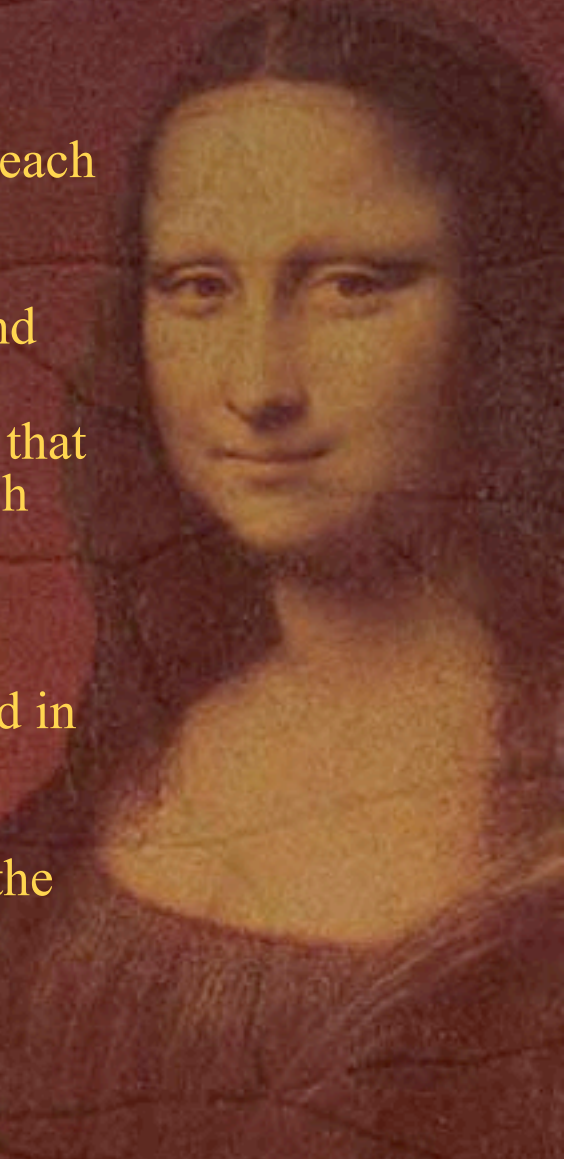
Plantard



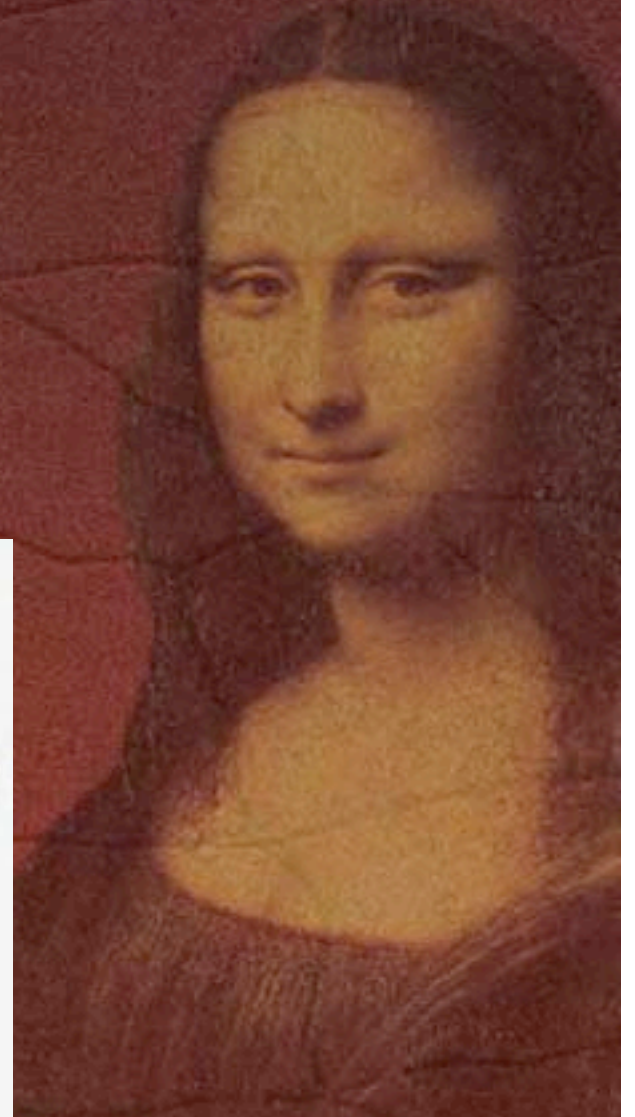
The Real Priory of Sion

- Original Priory of Sion was founded in 1956 by André Bonhomme and Pierre Plantard.
- “to carry out good deeds, to help the Catholic Church, teach the truth, defend the weak and the oppressed.”
- It was short lived dissolving at the end of 1956. It was revived many times by Pierre Plantard between 1962 and 1993.
- In the 1960s, Pierre Plantard began forging documents that alluded to the survival of the Merovingian line of French kings.
- Between 1961 and 1984 Plantard contrived a mythical pedigree of the Priory of Sion claiming that it was the offshoot of the “Order of Sion” which had been founded in the Kingdom of Jerusalem during the First Crusade.
- In order to give credibility to the fabricated lineage and pedigree, they deposited a series of forged documents, the so-called *Les Dossiers Secrets*-, at the Bibliotheque nationale de France, in Paris.

(Taken from class notes on “The Priory of Sion” by Dr. Joseph Thomas)

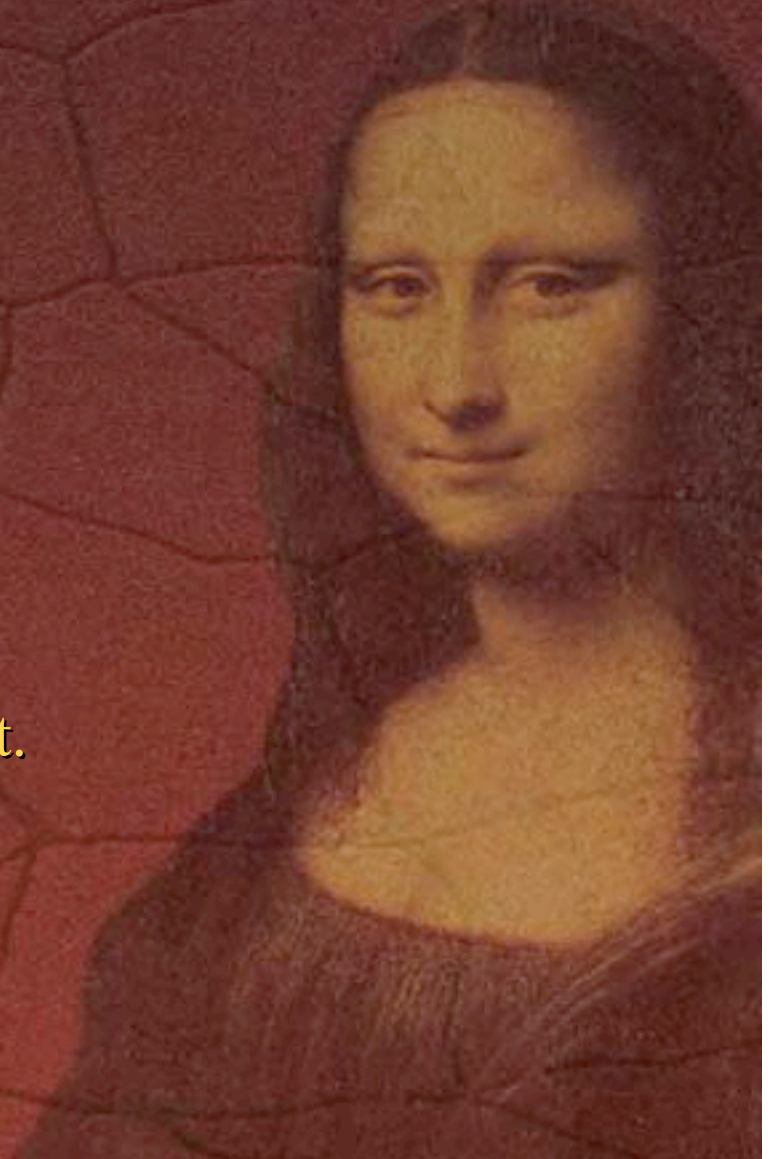


Knights Templar



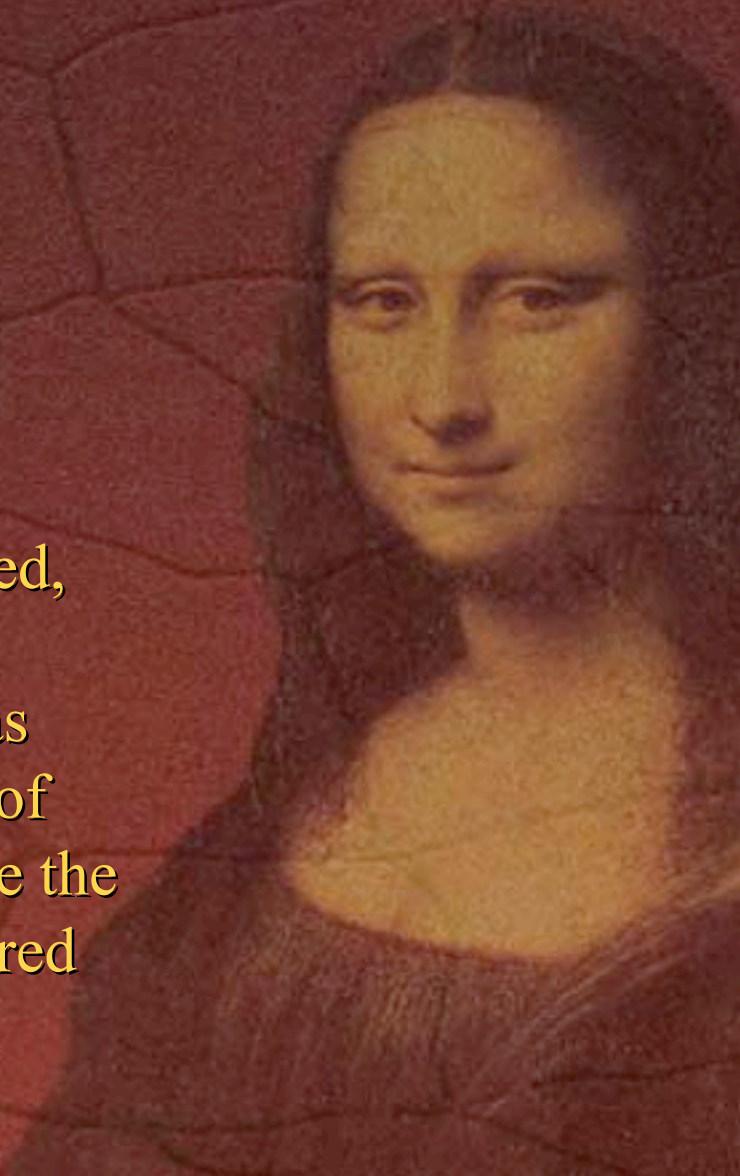


“... Jesus suspects He will soon be captured and crucified. So he gives Mary Magdalene instructions on how to carry on His Church after He is gone...Jesus was the original feminist. He intended for the future of His Church to be in the hands of Mary Magdalene.” (pp. 247-248)



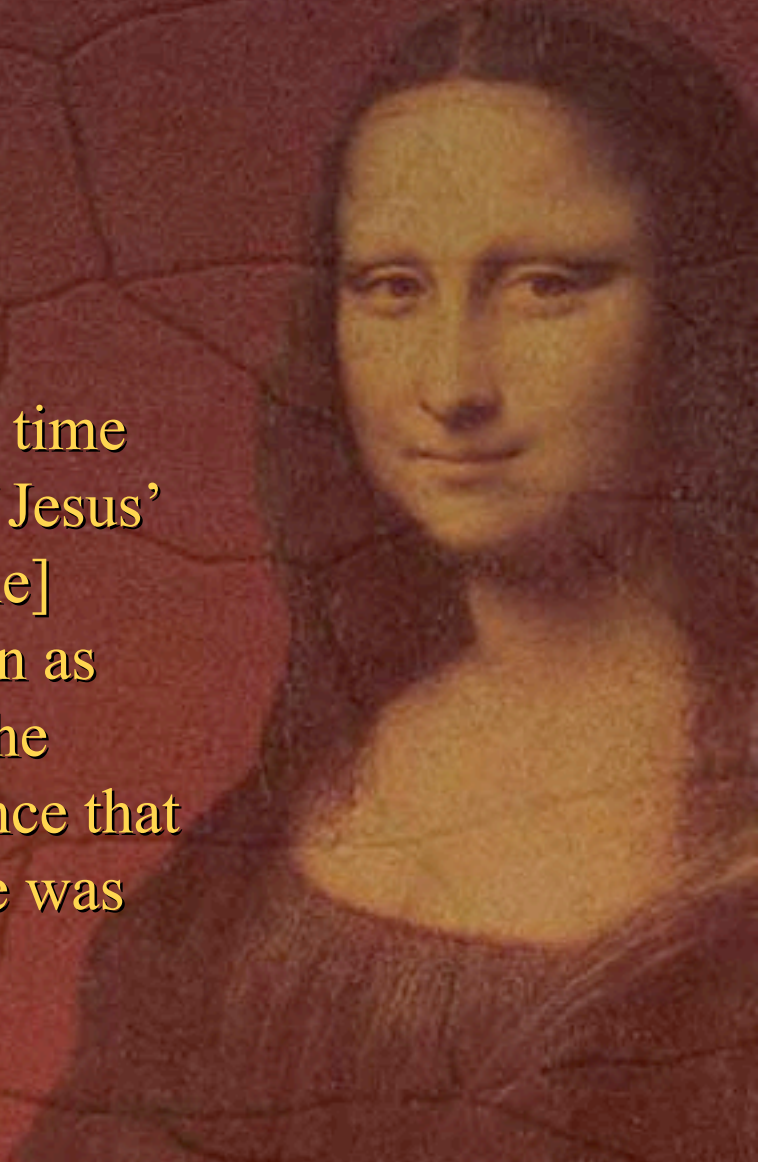


“Behold, the greatest cover-up in human history. Not only was Jesus Christ married, but He was a father. My dear, Mary Magdalene was the Holy Vessel. She was the chalice that bore the royal bloodline of Jesus Christ. She was the womb that bore the lineage, and the vine from which the sacred fruit sprang forth.” (pg. 249)

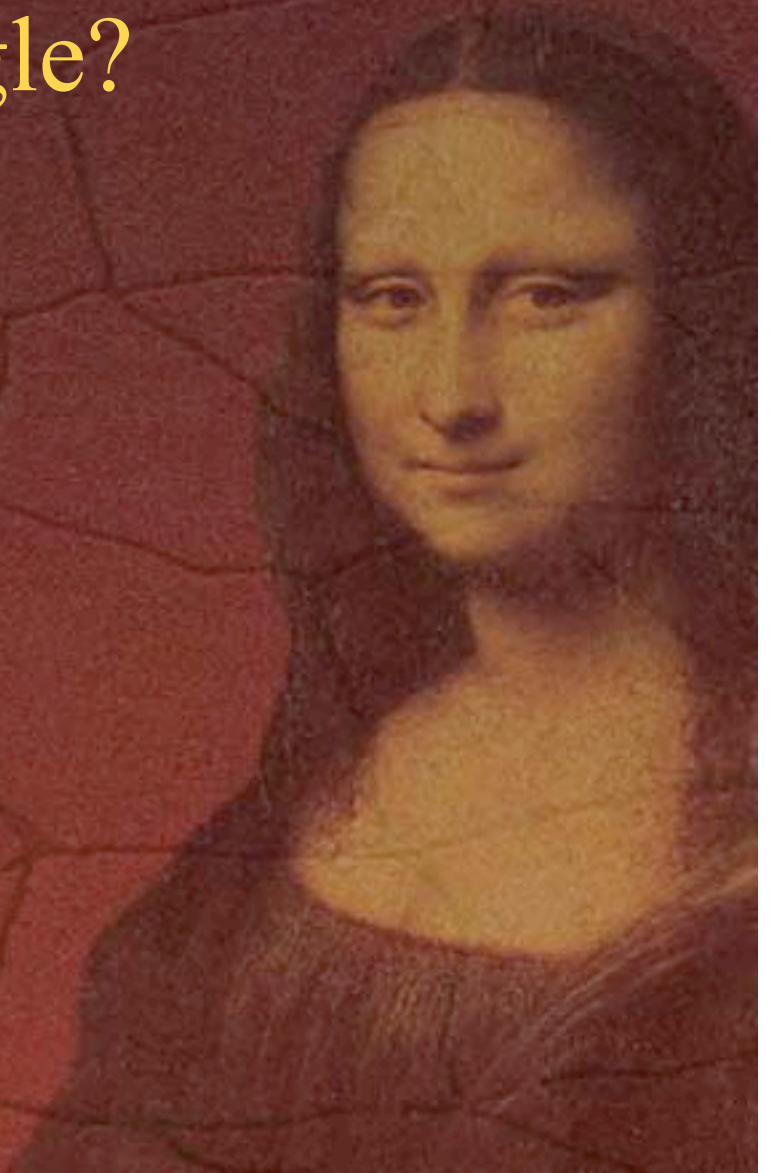




“Mary Magdalene was pregnant at the time of the crucifixion . . . With the help of Jesus’ trusted uncle, Joseph of Arimathea [she] secretly traveled to France, then known as Gaul. There she found safe refuge in the Jewish community. It was here in France that she gave birth to a daughter. Her name was Sarah.” (pg. 255)



Jesus: Married or Single?





“... the Priory’s tradition of perpetuating goddess worship is based on a belief that powerful men in the early Christian church ‘conned’ the world by propagating lies that devalued the female and tipped the scales in favor of the masculine . . . Constantine and his male successors successfully converted the world from matriarchal paganism to a patriarchal Christianity by waging a campaign of propaganda that demonized the sacred feminine, obliterating the goddess from modern religion forever.” (pg. 124)



The Treatment of Women



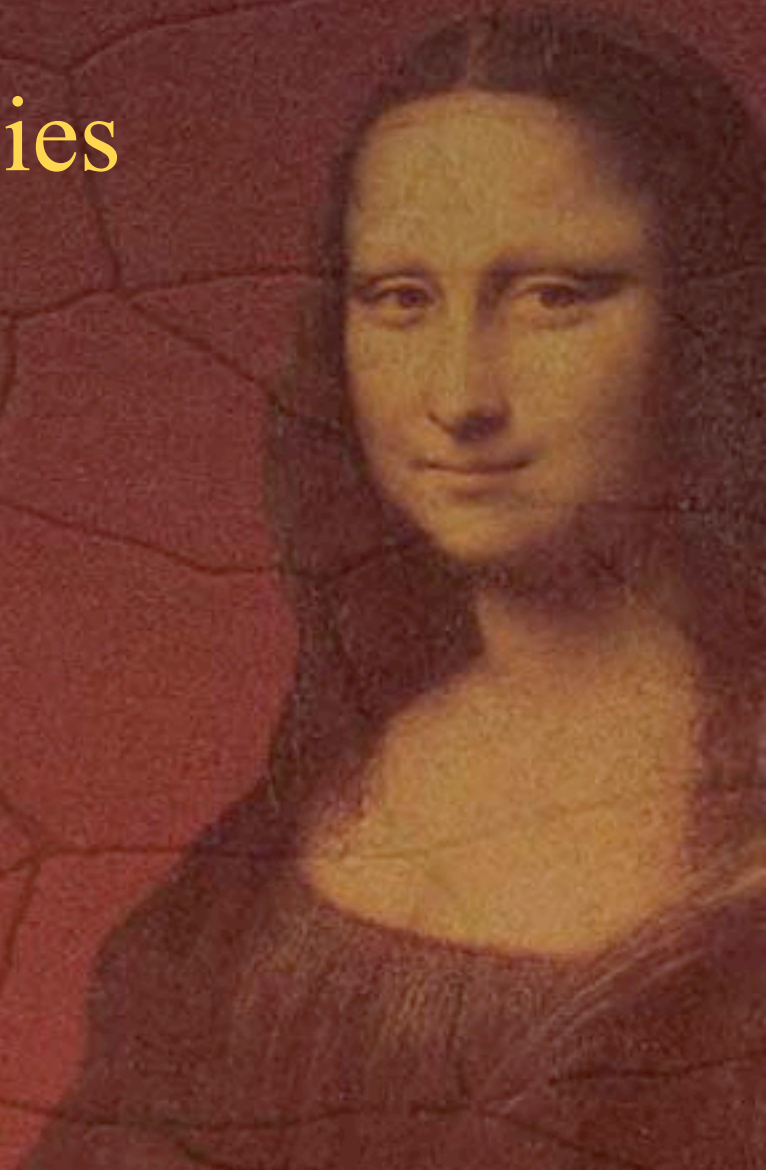
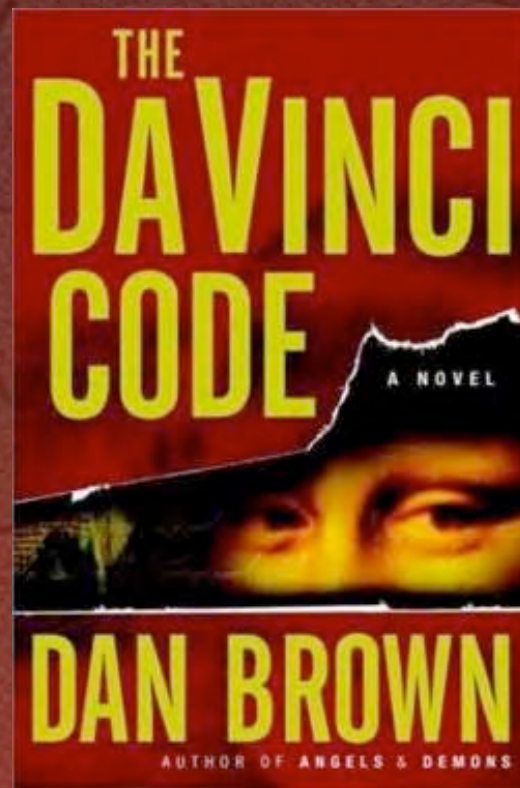


The Gospel of Thomas

“Simon Peter said to them: ‘Let Mary [Magdalene] leave us, for women are not worthy of life.’ Jesus said, ‘I myself shall lead her in order to make her male, so that she too may become a living spirit resembling you males. For every woman who will make herself male will enter the kingdom.’” (114)

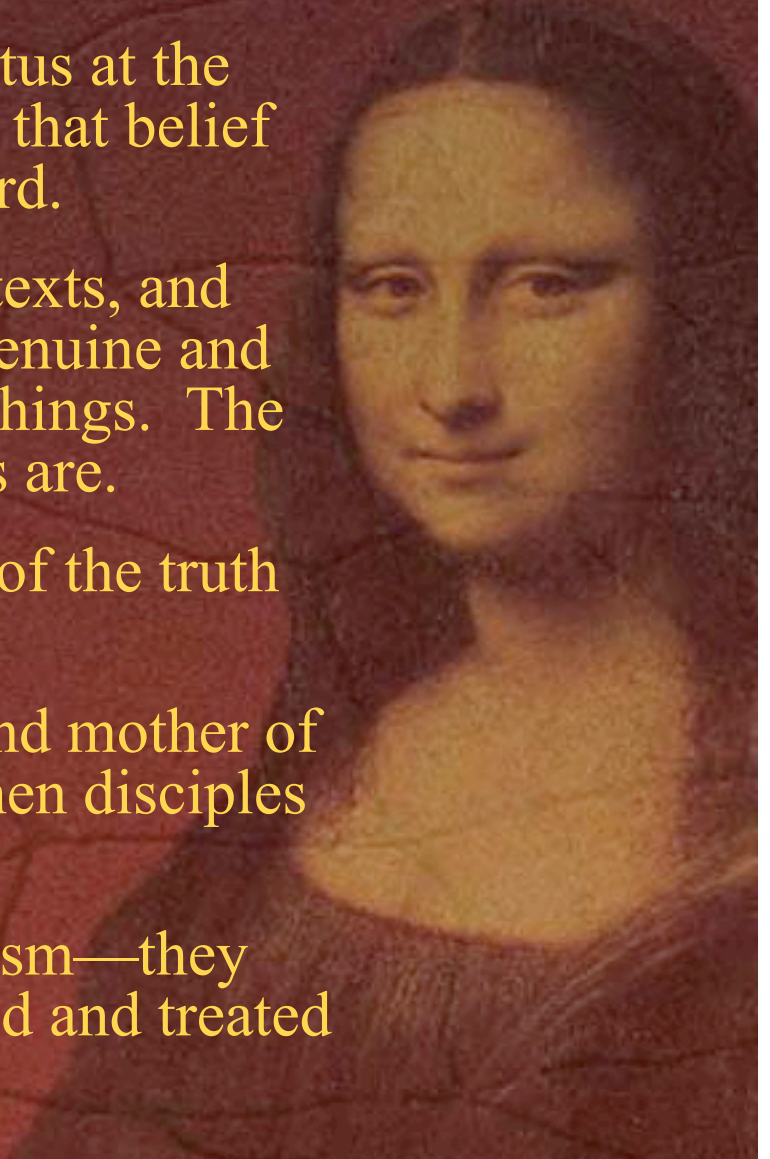


Da Vinci Code Fallacies



Da Vinci Code Allegations

- Jesus was not “upgraded” to divine status at the Council of Nicaea. His followers held that belief from the time of his resurrection onward.
- The Dead Sea Scrolls, Nag Hammadi texts, and other “secret documents” are not the genuine and accurate records of Jesus’ life and teachings. The four NT gospels and other NT writings are.
- The Priory of Sion is not the guardian of the truth about Jesus. The church is.
- Mary Magdalene was not Jesus wife and mother of his child. She was one of several women disciples who followed him.
- Women were not exalted under paganism—they were oppressed. Women were affirmed and treated better under Christianity.



Da Vinci Code: Impeccable Research?

Brown's anti-Christian novel was not based on "impeccable research" but was contrived from the beginning as a polemic against Christianity and as a propaganda piece espousing a neopagan lifestyle. People everywhere are talking about it, and many are engaging in Christian-bashing. It is important to realize the lack of any viable foundation for the claims that Brown makes.

(Grant Osborne, article *Decoding The Da Vinci Code*)

