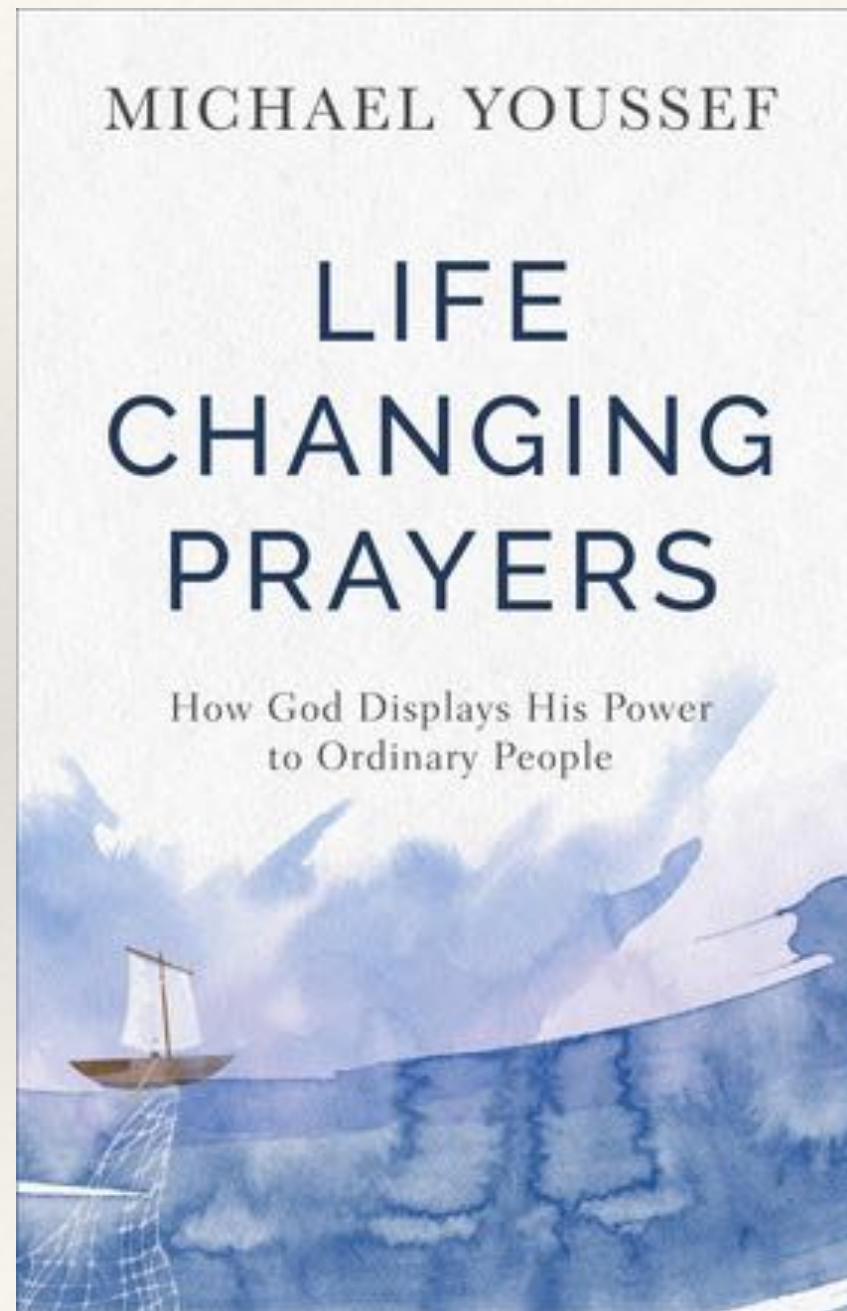


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# Life Changing Prayers

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# Introduction

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- “You and I are ordinary people.”
- God loves ordinary people. Most of the heroes in the Bible were ordinary people.
- Prayer changes lives, moves mountains, and alters the course of history.
- We will look at the prayers of Eliezer, Hannah, David, Daniel, Jonah, Habakkuk, and Mary.

Eliezer

A Path to Answered Prayer

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# Eliezer

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- In Genesis 24, we meet Abraham's chief of staff, his most senior and trusted servant: Eliezer of Damascus.
- He is entrusted with the enormous responsibility of finding a wife for Isaac.
- Tiptoeing through a minefield - in an argument, "what was Eliezer thinking when he introduced us?"
- A "good enough" woman would not be good enough.

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# Eliezer

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- His prayer: Lord, God make me successful today, “let down your jar that I may have a drink,” she says, “let me also water your camels.”
- He knew he was utterly dependent on God, and he asks God for a sign.
- A sign is not the same thing as Gideon who was “putting out a fleece” (Judge 6).
- A sign actually showed her character.



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# Eliezer

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- Prayer principle: faithful prayer + unconditional obedience = answered prayer.
- Water for the camel - a thirsty camel can drink up to 27 gallons of water in as little as 10 minutes.
- They store water in their bloodstream (oval-shaped red blood cells expand to 2-1 / 2 times their original volume).
- Rebekah has to draw that heavy jar of water out of the well and empty it into the trough 90 times.

Hannah

A Prayer of Brokenness

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# Hannah

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- The name *Hannah* means “favored” or “gracious.”
- She was truly a gracious, selfless and thoughtful woman who didn’t feel favored at all.
- We see her brokenness in her physical inability to conceive a child, we read it in her prayer (1 Samuel 1).
- His other wife (Peninnah) would provoke her “year after year” while her husband (Elkanah) tried to encourage her.



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# Hannah

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- The Bible records polygamy but doesn't endorse it.
- In this time of history in Israel, there was no central leadership and no king. The nation was divided into semiautonomous tribes.
- Judges 17:6; 21:25 - "In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes."
- It was a time of self-willed worldliness.

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# Hannah

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- Brokenness can drive us either away from God or into His arms (alcoholism, rebellion, false religions).
- Hannah's brokenness drove her to her knees.
- Her prayer - first prayer of a woman recorded in the Bible, her vow: "I will give him to the Lord," he would be consecrated as Nazirite (*nazir* means "set apart").
- Mother's prayers: Augustine (Monica), John and Charles Wesley (Susanna Wesley).

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# Hannah

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- Five ingredients of Hannah's prayer:
  - Surrender - prayer of persistence
  - Sorrow - “a woman who is deeply troubled”
  - Supplication - asking in a humble way
  - Song - sang a song to the Lord (1 Samuel 2)
  - Sacrifice - she would dedicate him to the Lord

David

A Prayer for Mercy and Justice

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# David

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- Michael Youssef is a shy person, he made a list of personality assets and liabilities.
- David probably felt like the “runt of the family.”
- Psalm 28 - David’s kingdom was torn by civil war, and his emotions were torn by his struggle with Absalom.
- David wrote a number of psalms like this one, Charles Haddon Spurgeon called them “songs of the night.”



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# David

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- Form of David's prayer:
  - David places his confident request before the Lord (verses 1-2).
  - David presents a well-reasoned case before the Lord (verses 3-5).
  - David receives cause for rejoicing from the Lord (verses 6-9).

Daniel

A Prayer of Confession  
and Repentance

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# Daniel

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- In Daniel 6, we see a crisis in Daniel's life over prayer.
- The Persians under Darius the Mede made it illegal to pray to any god or man other than Darius for 30 days.
- In Daniel 9, we see Daniel praying a heartfelt prayer wanting to know how long the Jewish people will be exiled in Babylon.
- He opens his prayer with a confession of sin and then prays with deep humility.

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# Daniel

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- Daniel sets pattern for prayer: confession, intercession, and petition.
- James 5:16 - “Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”
- Prayer should be anchored in the promises of God:  
Affirming of God’s Glory, Assenting to God’s Mercy,  
Appealing to God on Behalf of Others.

Jonah

A Prayer from the  
Depths of Despair



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# Jonah

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- Jonah was an ordinary man. He was hardly a hero. He was more of an antihero.
- Jonah was not only disobedient but he was filled with bitterness and resentment toward the Assyrians.
- Jonah finds himself in a dark, sniffing, claustrophobic, stomach with fish and gastric juices.
- We shouldn't focus on what was happening inside the fish, but on what was happening on inside of Jonah.

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# Jonah

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- Four features of Jonah's prayer:
  - Jonah's prayer was probingly honest.
  - Jonah's prayer was penitently genuine.
  - Jonah's prayer was filled with praise.
  - Jonah's prayer claimed the promises of God.

# Habakkuk

A Prayer of Complaint,  
a Prayer of Rejoicing

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# Habakkuk

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- Habakkuk is struggling with unanswered prayer and turns it into an opportunity to grow in his faith.
- Essentially, he is asking God, “What do You want me to learn from this?”
- James 1:6-7 - “But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.”

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# Habakkuk

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- The book of Habakkuk is divided into three chapters:
  - Chapter 1 - dialogue between God and Habakkuk
  - Chapter 2 - pronouncement of doom against Israel
  - Chapter 3 - the prophet's great prayer
- He discovers that God is answering his prayer but not in the way Habakkuk expects.



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# Habakkuk

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- Israel in the time of Habakkuk - they compromised the pure and holy worship of God by importing the religion of idols from surrounding pagan cultures.
- Learning to pray effectively:
  - Habakkuk's humility before God
  - Habakkuk's adoration of God
  - Habakkuk's focus on God's work

Mary

A Prayer-Song of Praise

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# Mary

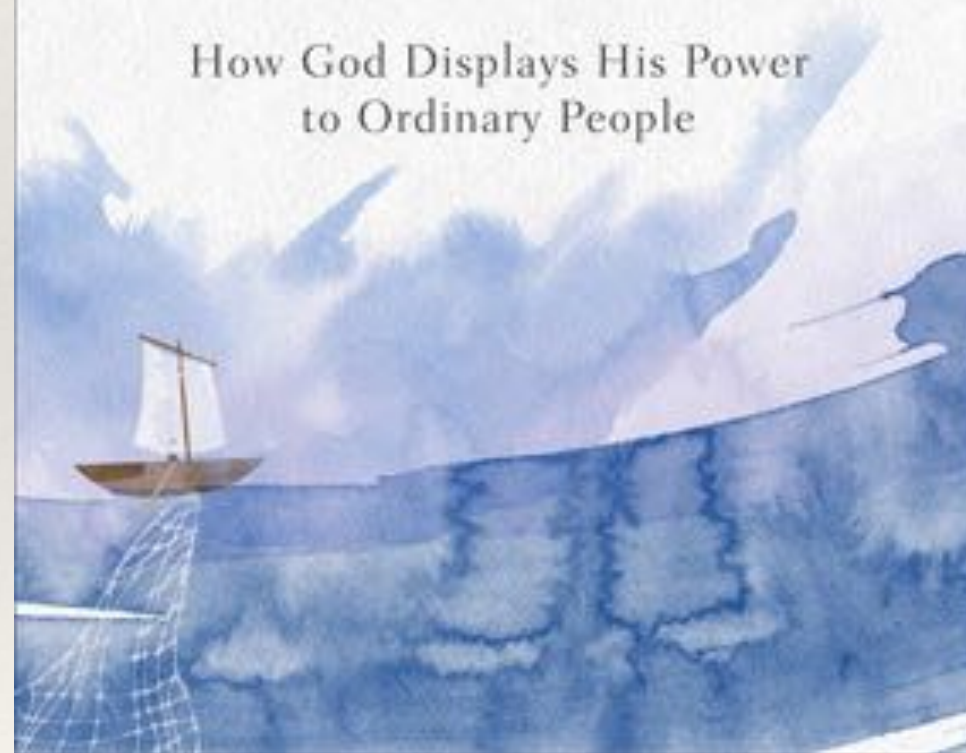
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- Mary's prayer of praise is one of the most recited prayers in Christian liturgy.
- Mary is a teenage example of femininity & inner beauty.
- Three distinct features of Mary's prayer:
  - Mary glorifies and magnifies the Lord (46-47)
  - Mary praises God for His grace (48-52)
  - Mary thanks God for His faithfulness (52-55)

MICHAEL YOUSSEF

# LIFE CHANGING PRAYERS

How God Displays His Power  
to Ordinary People



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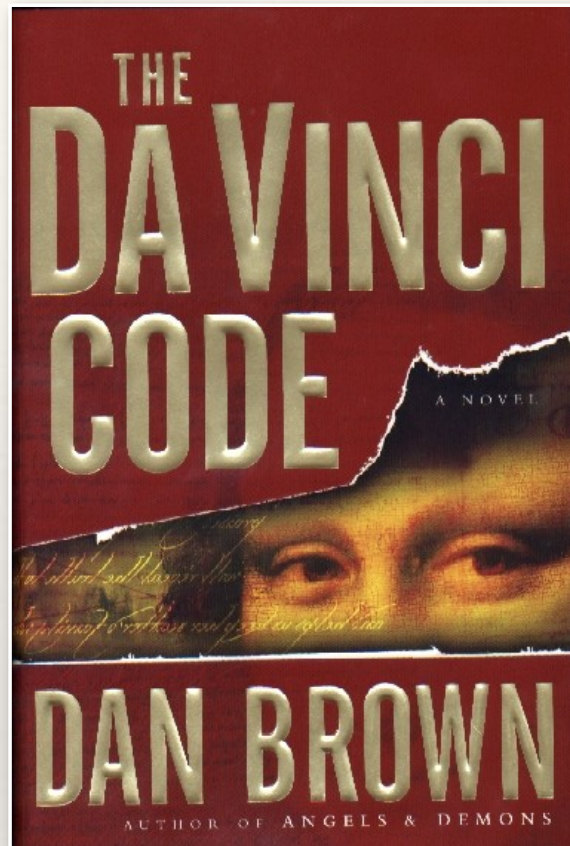
# Was Jesus Married?

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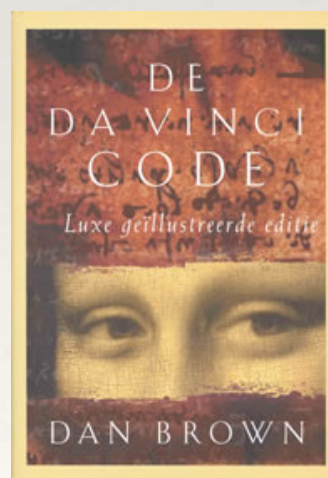
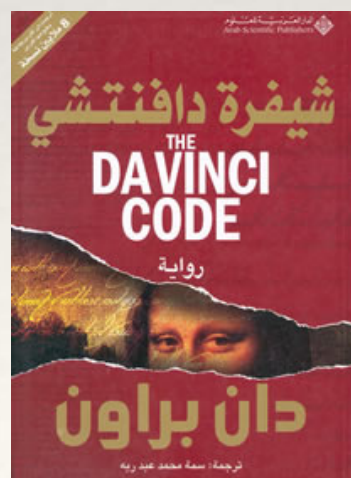




# Was Jesus Married?



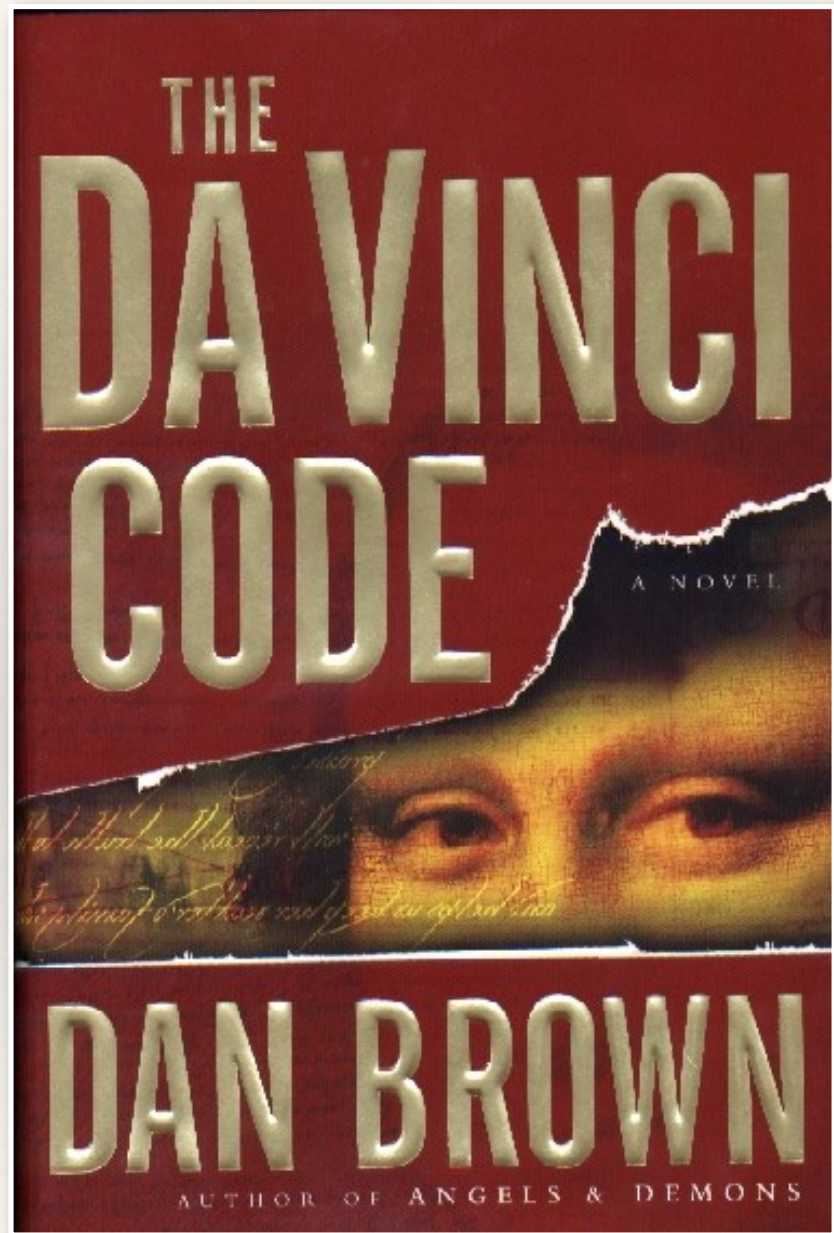
- *The Da Vinci Code* was on the New York Times bestseller list for over three years.
- Over 40 million copies in print worldwide.



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# Biblical Challenges

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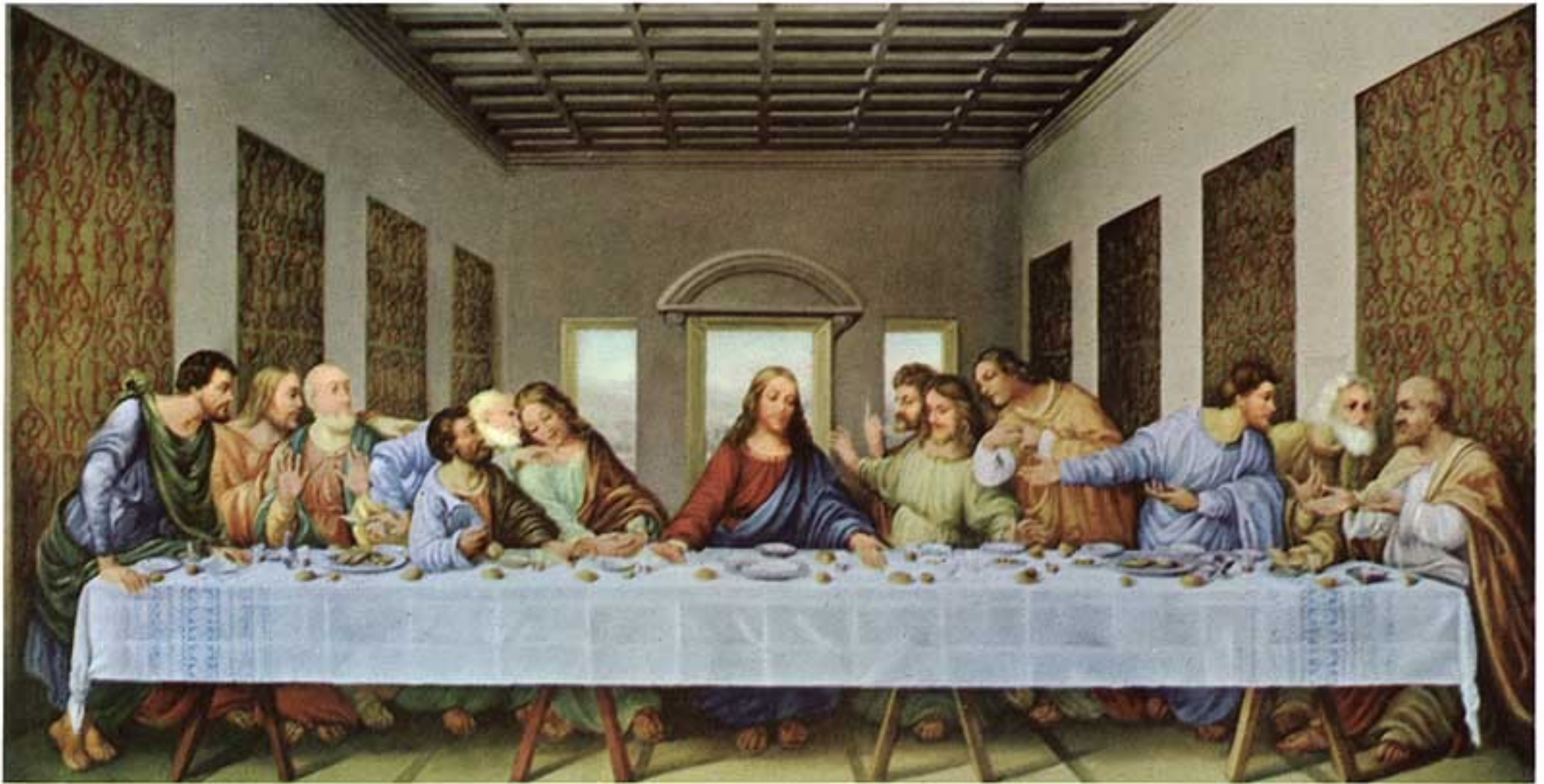
- p. 231 – “The Bible is a product of man, my dear. Not of God.”
- p. 231 – “More than eighty gospels were considered for the New Testament.”
- p. 249 – Jesus and Mary Magdalene were married and had a child.



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# Last Supper

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# Who Was Mary Magdalene?



- Mary was not a prostitute:
- Misperception began with Pope Gregory (AD 591) who conflated two different people into one.
- Confused with prostitute (Luke 7:36-50) who washed the feet of Jesus.

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# New Testament

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- No reference to Jesus being married.
- Gospels talk about his natural relatives (father, mother, siblings), but never a wife.



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# New Testament

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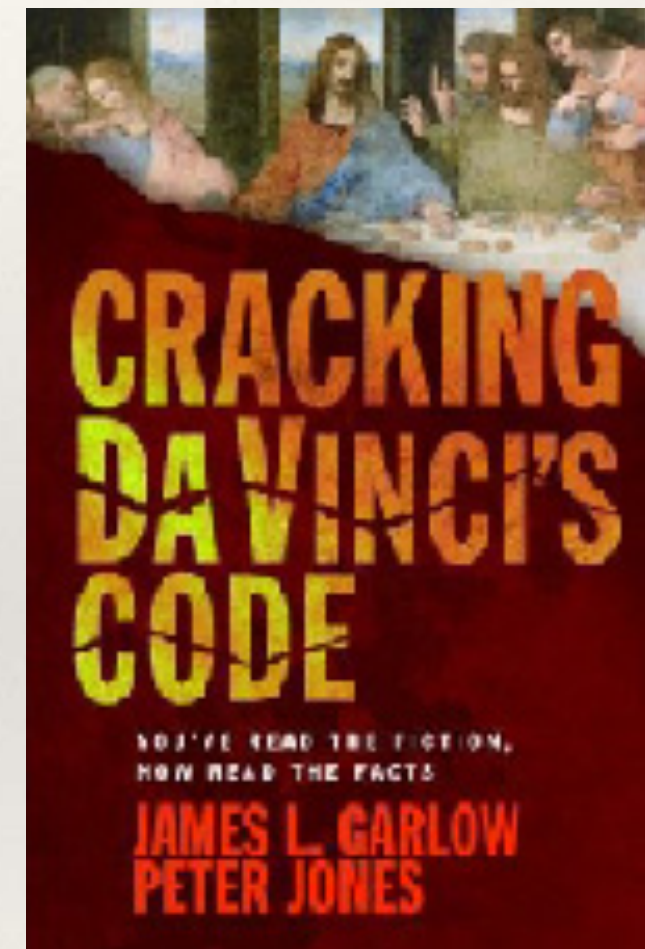
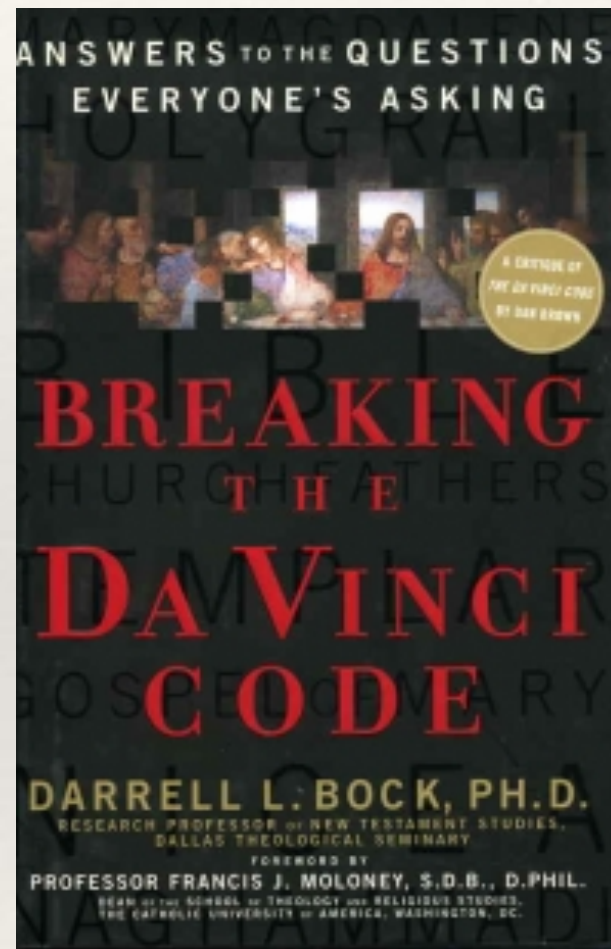
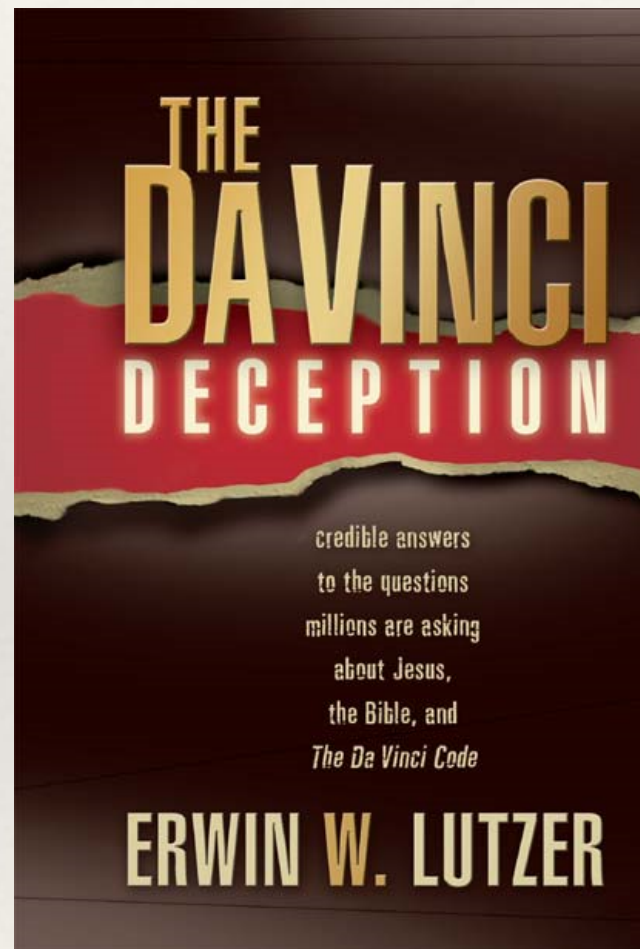


- Unlike other Jewish leaders, Jesus had close relationships with women.
- Several women (Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Susanna) helped support Jesus and the disciples.

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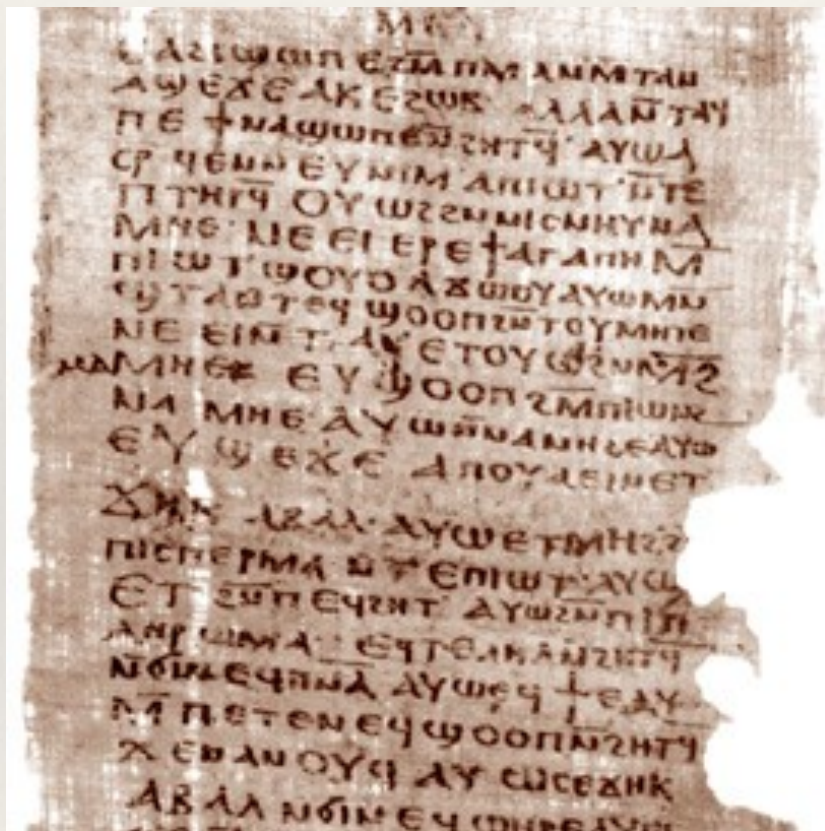
# Resources

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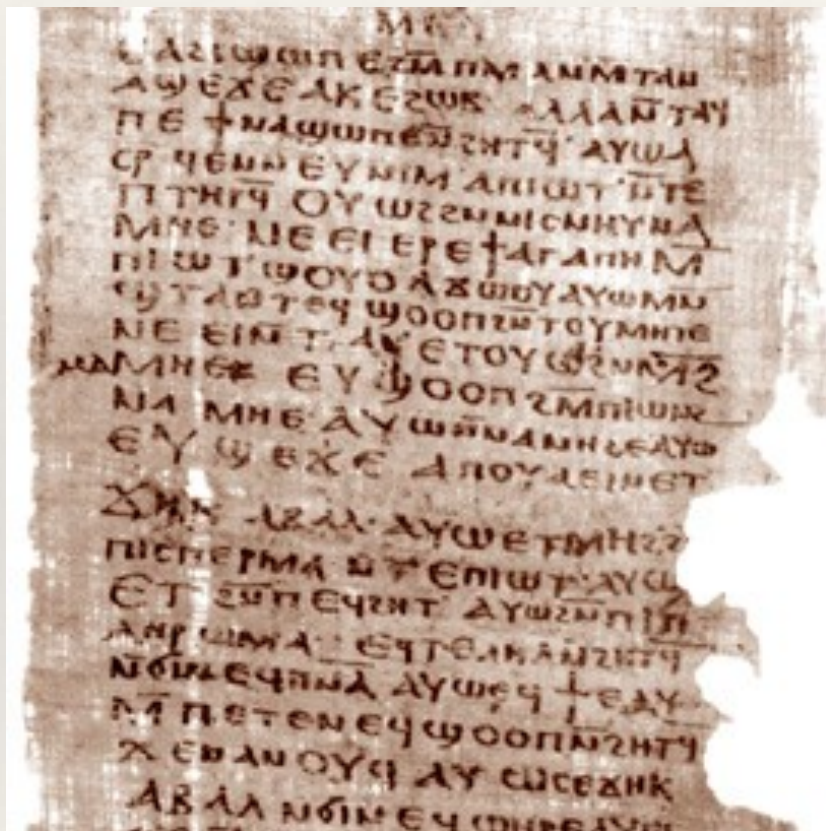


# Gnostic Gospels



- They were one of the most important archaeological finds in the 20th century.
- Yielded 45 works, five of which were called “gospels.”
- Gospel of: Truth, Thomas, Egyptians, Philip, and Mary.

# Gnostic Gospels



- All the books in the NT were written in the first century.
- The Nag Hammadi texts were written in the second and third centuries.
- They were NOT the earliest written records, but were written by the gnostics.



