

- The apocryphal books contain inaccuracies and teachings contrary to Scripture. For example, some claim we are saved by works, not by faith.
- The Roman Catholic church didn't accept the apocryphal books as Scripture for over 1400 years.

What about The Da Vinci Codes claims that church councils suppressed other gospels?

- The *Gospel of Mary* is not an eyewitness account. It is a gnostic gospel that came later in history.
- The gospel of Mary contradicts the rest of Scripture.
- Church council lists were made to help the next generation of Christians avoid the mistake of believing the false gospels instead of the eyewitness accounts.

1)

Just as the Holy Spirit guided fallible people to write infallible books *in the Bible*, the Holy Spirit used a fallible church to infallibly recognize the books *of the Bible*.

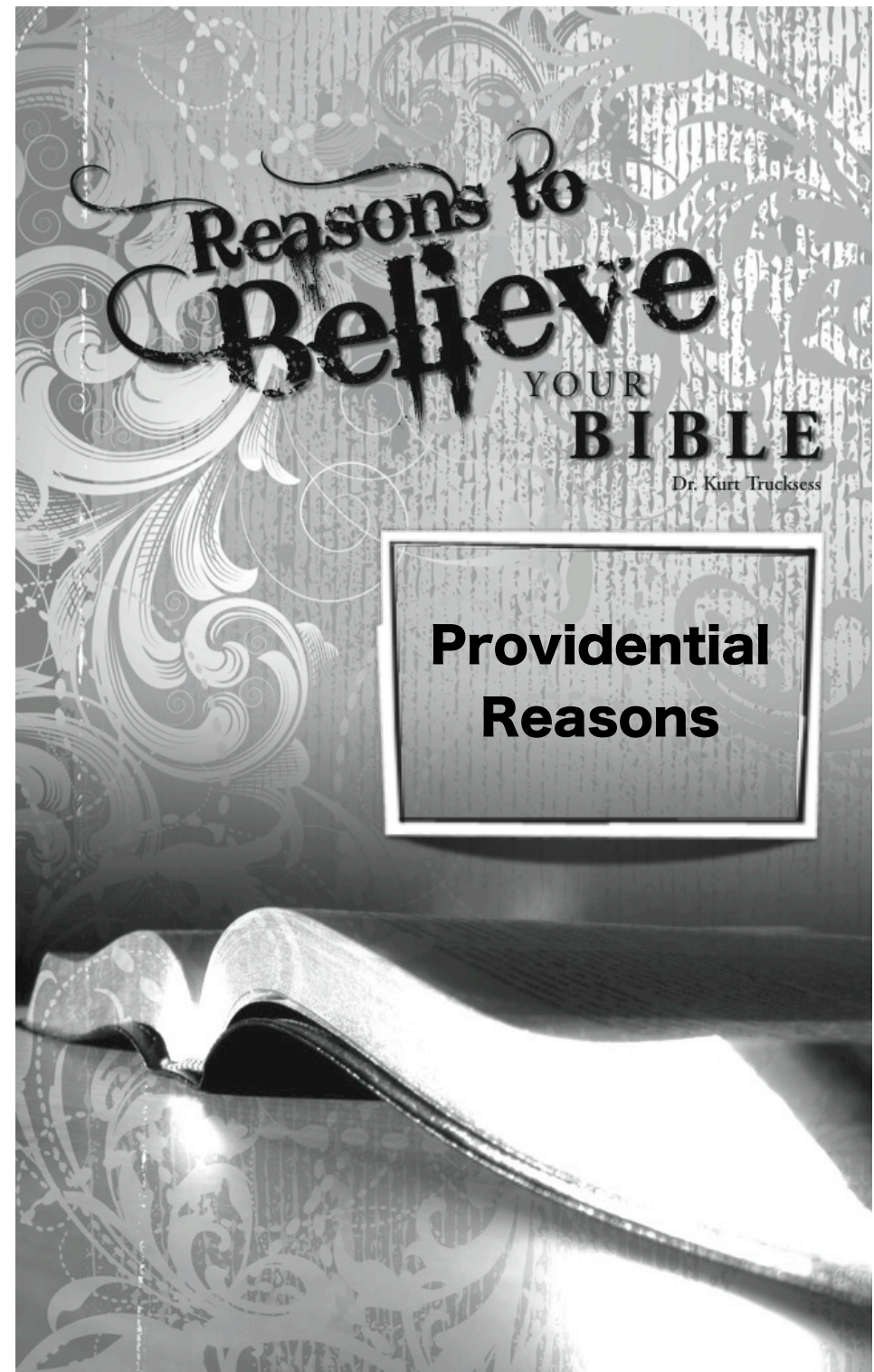
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Want To Learn More? This handout, small group questions, sermon manuscript and the audio files of the sermon are available at:

www.faithefree.com or www.christ2Rculture.com

Next Week: Reasons to Believe Your Bible - Personal Reasons

Two Weeks: Reasons to Believe Your Bible - Dr. Tom Tribelhorn



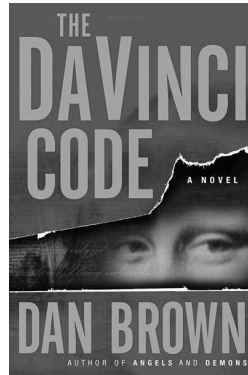
Faith Evangelical Free Church

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Providential Reasons to Believe Your Bible

The Da Vinci Code

All descriptions of artwork, architecture, documents and secret rituals in the novel are accurate. He claims it is a fantasy based on the facts of history. (Dan Brown, The Da Vinci Code, unnumbered opening page)



How were the books of our Bible selected?

How were the books of our Old Testament selected?

God gave the books to his people.

Moses wrote down all the words of the Lord...
Exodus 24:4

They were collected by the ark.

“Take this Book of the Law and put it by the side of the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, that it may be there for a witness against you.
Deuteronomy 31:26 (ESV)

- By the end of the first century, all 27 books in our New Testament were accepted as authoritative.
- One generation after the apostles, every book in our New Testament was quoted as authoritative by early church leaders.
- There were church councils that affirmed a list of New Testament books, but that came hundreds of years later.

The Protestant and Catholic Difference

The Catholic Church claims to give authority to Scripture, the Protestant church claims to bow before the authority of Scripture.

It is clear therefore, that sacred tradition, sacred Scripture and the teaching authority of the church are so linked and joined together that one cannot stand without the others.
Vatican II, 1967.

The Apocrypha and the Catholic Bible

- Although the apocryphal books were readily available in Jesus' day, the Jews never considered them part of God's Word.
- By Jesus' bookending of the two murders in the Hebrew Old Testament, it shows us Jesus also did not consider the apocryphal books part of Scripture.
- Jesus and the other New Testament authors cite 295 quotations from the Old Testaments as authoritative, yet none of them were from the apocryphal books.

And Joshua wrote these words in the Book of the Law of God... that was by the sanctuary of the Lord. Joshua 24:26 (ESV)

Then Samuel told the people the rights and duties of the kingship, and he wrote them in a book and laid it up before the Lord. 1 Samuel 10:25 (ESV)

Not all books were considered Scripture.

...Is this not written in the Book of Jashar? The sun stopped in the midst of heaven and did not hurry to set for about a whole day. Joshua 10:13 (ESV)

Therefore it is said in the Book of the Wars of the Lord,... Numbers 21:14 (ESV)

Now the rest of the acts of Solomon, and all that he did, and his wisdom, are they not written in the Book of the Acts of Solomon? 1 Kings 11:41 (ESV)

The books of Old Testament were universally recognized.

A small minority questioned some books.

The Song of Solomon - Too sexy.

Ecclesiastes - Too pessimistic

Esther - Too unspiritual

Why does the Hebrew Bible look different from ours?

1. Some books are combined.

2. They are in a different order.

so that the blood of all the prophets, shed from the foundation of the world, may be charged against this generation, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who perished between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell

you, it will be required of this generation. Luke 11:50–51 (ESV)

How were the books of our New Testament selected?

The authority was the letters and writings of the apostles and those associated with them.

The letters had a round-robin nature to them.

I put you under oath before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers. 1 Thessalonians 5:27 (ESV)

And when this letter has been read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea. Colossians 4:16 (ESV)

And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. 2 Peter 3:15–16 (ESV)

A small minority questioned some books.

Hebrews - Unknown author.

2 Peter - Not sure Peter wrote it.

Key points to remember.

- The books in our New Testament were either written by or verified by an apostle.
- They were intended to be circulated among the churches so Christians could know the eyewitness truth.