

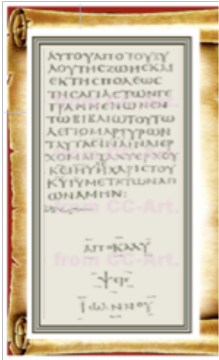
# What About ... other Gospels

BY DR. DAVID A. DEWITT

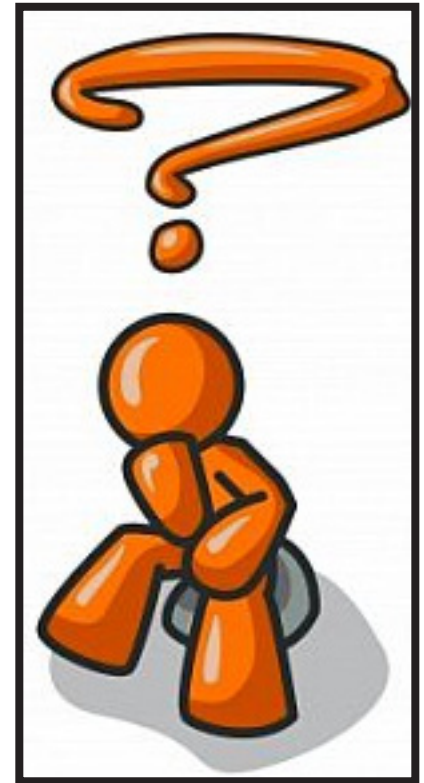
Jesus told the apostles:

*the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you ... the Spirit of truth ... will guide you into all the truth ... and He will disclose to you what is to come* (John 14:26; 16:13).

During the first century, the apostles and their disciples wrote the 27 books of the New Testament. When John finished the apocalypse, he wrote: *I testify to everyone who hears the words of the **prophecy** of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book* [Revelation 22:18-20, emphasis mine]. The word John used for *prophecy* is the same word (προφητεία—



*propheteia*) Peter used for all of Scripture in 2 Peter 1:21. So Jesus told the apostles that the Holy Spirit would remind them of: (1) *all that I said to you*, (2) *all the truth*, and (3) *what is to come*. It seems the apostles were aware that they were writing Scripture and that it was revelation from God equivalent to the Old Testament Scripture (2 Peter 1:17-21; 2 Peter 3:16). It also seems that the Apostle John saw the book of Revelation as the end of that revealed Scripture until Jesus returns (Revelation 22:18-20). [The image is the end of the book of Revelation Codex Sinaiticus from [www.instonebrewer.com](http://www.instonebrewer.com).]



After the apostles died, John being the last to die in the mid-90s AD, the church continued to write good Christian works such as “The Martyrdom of Polycarp,” “The Shepherd of Hermas,” and “1 and 2 Clement.” Those written in the 100s and 200s are usually called the Writings of the Apostolic Fathers. At the time, some believed God inspired these writings like those of the first century. Also, during these post-apostolic years, cults like the Gnostics (something like the Mormons and Jehovah’s Witnesses) wrote false gospels trying to fit Jesus into current Greek religious thinking. So we have works like the “Gospel of Philip” (sometime between AD 180-350), and the “Gospel of Thomas” (sometime between AD 200-250), not written by Philip or Thomas.

In the 300s, the church leadership began to assess what had been written. Athanasius in 367 and the Council of Carthage in 397 decided only the 27 books were to be included in the New Testament Scripture. As a result of their decision, the book of Revelation was the last inspired προφητεία, *prophecy* of Scripture. Search every library and collection in the world, and you will find no other Christian writing of the first century.

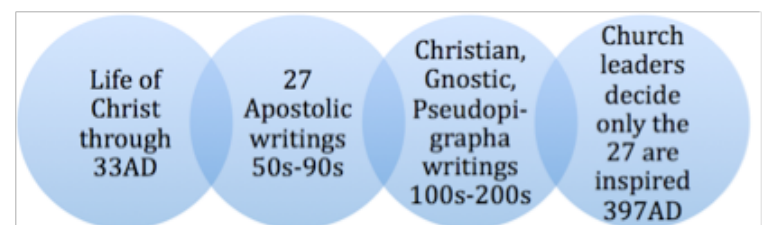
Liberals, like most university religions’ professors, and imaginary novels, like Dan Brown’s “Da Vinci Code,” tell us that the New Testament is made up of gospels the

church leaders chose, while ignoring other gospels which told things about Jesus they didn’t want the people to know.

**That’s a flat-out lie**

The “gospels” the early church fathers ignored were written by cults after the death of the apostles (light always attracts bugs). Besides the 27 books we have in the New Testament, no Christian (connected to the apostles) works, written before the book of Revelation (like Paul’s missing letters to the Corinthians – 1 Corinthians 5:9; 2 Corinthians 7:8) have ever been found.

Since then, we have discovered thousands of copies of these 27 New Testament books, but we have never found any other Christian writings of the first century. There are only 27 first-century Christian (connected to the apostles) writings in existence, and they are all in the New Testament.



**Which means the testimony of the first-century Christians is clear and consistent.**