

CRACKING THE DAVINCI CODE

Are the Secret Gospels

Gospel?

BIG IDEA: The secret or Gnostic gospels are not further revelation about Jesus and what it means to be His follower, instead they are untrustworthy documents, written under pseudonyms, that stand in direct opposition to the OT and the teachings of the 1st century authors who were witnesses to Jesus Christ and gave us our rule of faith and conduct.

I. The Gnostic Gospels

Gnosis = knowledge

A. The Nag Hammadi Discovery

B. Gnosticism 101

1. Who were the Gnostics?
2. What is the basic Gnostic belief system?

- God is both feminine and masculine (androgynous) and he is so utterly spiritual he has no contact with anything material.
- God did not create the world but a lesser God, called a “demiurge,” created the world and did it so poorly that the world was filled with evil, decay and death. (The Gnostic “demiurge” is the Bible’s God – ignorant and arrogant and thinks He is the only God.) Lesser gods called “archons” created humans.
- Created things are despised including the human body, sexual distinctions, marriage and motherhood.
- Matter is evil so there is no way God could have become man. Hence, Jesus did not become man.
- Jesus was not crucified (a substitute died in His place and Jesus laughed about it); He was not physically resurrected.
- Salvation is within our power if we liberate ourselves from earthly constraints and embrace and fan into flame the spark of higher spiritual reality within us. “This happens through a process of self-discovery, in which you discover your divine identity, you separate from the world by 'stripping off ' the consciousness of the physical body, and you finally experience the kingdom of light, peace, and life.” (Timothy Keller). No mediator/substitute (Jesus) is necessary.
- There is no sin. Jesus came, not to free us and forgive us from our sin, but to free us from our ignorance. Jesus brings us *gnosis*: the knowledge that we are divine (god)!