

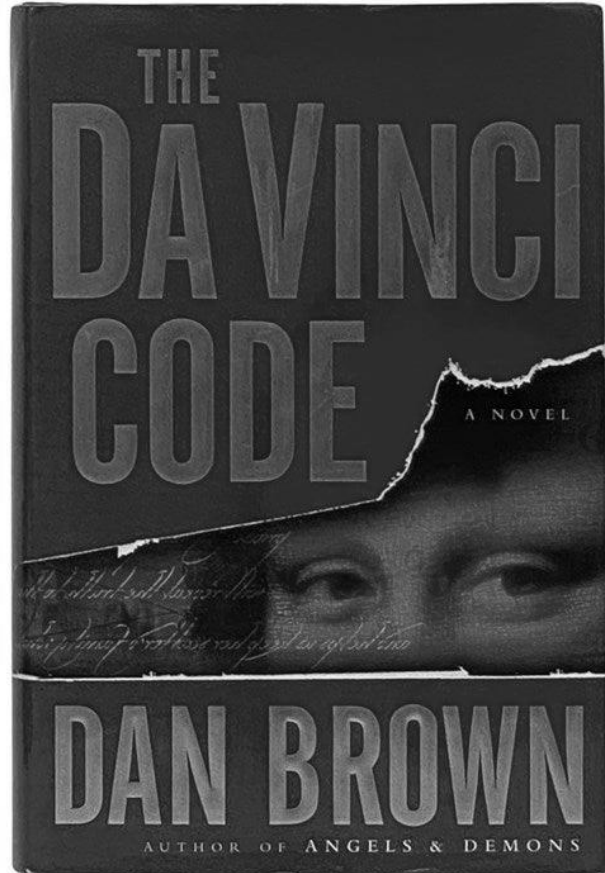
## Conversations for Common Questions and Doubts: You Can't Really Trust the Bible, Right?

### Excerpts from The Da Vinci Code

*Teabing says to Sophie, “The Bible is a product of man, my dear. Not of God. The Bible did not fall magically 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... 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” (page 231)*

*“Who chose which gospels to include?” Sophie asked. “Aha! ... The fundamental irony of Christianity! The Bible, as we know it today was collated by the pagan Emperor Constantine the Great” (page 232)*

*“Fortunately for historians,” Teabing said, “some of the gospels that Constantine attempted to eradicate managed to survive. The Dead Sea Scrolls were found in the 1950s, hidden in a cave near Qumran in the Judean desert. And of the course, the Coptic Scrolls in 1945 at Nag Hammadi... these documents speak of Christ’s ministry in very human terms. Of course, the Vatican, in keeping with their tradition of misinformation, tried very hard to suppress the release of these scrolls. And why wouldn’t they? 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.”” (page 234)*



### Is The Bible the Biggest Hoax in History?

- If so, more people have fallen for it than any conspiracy because the Christian Bible is the worldwide best-selling book of all time.
  - Research conducted by the British and Foreign Bible Society in 2021 suggests that the total historical number of Bibles produced probably lies between 5 and 7 billion copies.
- In modern times, Bibles are printed at around 80 million per year.
  - 40 million of those are by the US alone.
- However, according to a Gallup poll taken in July 2022, a new record record-low of only 20% of Americans said the Bible is the literal word of God.
  - That was down from 24% the last time the poll was taken in 2017, and half of what it was at its high points in 1980 and 1984.



## Conversations for Common Questions and Doubts: *You Can't Really Trust the Bible, Right?*

### Why is the Belief that the Bible is the Literal Word of God so Important?

**Matthew 4:1 – 4**

**1** Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

**2** And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

**3** And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread."

**4** But he answered, "It is written, "'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

### The Idea That These Words Are Myths, Is Nothing New

**2 Peter 1:16 – 21**

**16** For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

**17** For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,"

**18** we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain.

**19** And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts,

**20** knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation.

**21** For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

- In this section, Peter addresses the same common dismissals of the Bible you hear today, and he gives us three powerful proofs that we can trust the Bible:

**#1** You can trust these words because of the eyewitnesses.

**#2** You can trust these words because so many of the prophecies have been fulfilled.

**#3** You can trust these words because of how they were given.

### Remember, the First Four Words Ever Spoken to a Human by the Enemy

**Genesis 3:1** Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say...

### Evidence That Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are Historically Reliable

**Point #1:** The timing of their writing is far too early for the gospels to be legends.

**Point #2:** Their content is far too counterproductive for the gospels to be legends.

**Point #3:** The literary form of the gospels is far too detailed to be a legend.

*Then the LORD said to me, "You have seen well,  
for I am watching over my word to perform it."*

**Jeremiah 1:12**

