

THE GOSPEL OF JUDAS

For generations, the Holy Bible, containing 66 books from Genesis to Revelation, was held dear and above reproach by all but the most strident critics. One was loathe to suggest any infallibility in the Scriptures and would take great care even in handling copies of the Bible. Known throughout our country as “the Good Book,” the Bible provided the foundation for morality, family, government, nation, and justice. It was the unquestioned authority on all matters, civil and spiritual.

With passing of time demonic forces arrayed against Holy Writ. Some, desiring a God of science rather than Jehovah God, began to assert the superiority of the Scientific Method against Scripture. Such foolishness should be apparent when one considers the ever changing nature of science; what was thought fact just a few years ago is now treated with scorn. In contrast, the God of the Bible does not change and his word remains true.

Within the past few years, major national media outlets have taken up the banner of the “Lost Gospels” or the “Forbidden Gospels.” These books allegedly contain ancient truths about Jesus. “Experts” tell us that these books were previously hidden from public view by the intricate maneuvers of “the church.” These books are now being “discovered” and translated and, according to their proponents, are shedding new light on our understanding of the New Testament period. More precisely, they tell us things about Jesus that are not found in the Bible or, sometimes, things which directly conflict with Biblical accounts.

National Geographic, a non-profit science publishing company enters the discussion tonight (April 9, 2006) with a special on “*The Gospel of Judas*.” This blasphemous account of the relationship between Jesus and the betraying apostle, Judas Iscariot, claims that Judas was only doing what Jesus asked him to do when he betrayed him with a kiss, thus creating the crisis of the crucifixion. This book and the Bible cannot both be right. According to the Gospel of Judas, the entire betrayal scene was actually a manipulation, by Jesus, to cause his own death. This would make Jesus a common liar; he said “*Truly truly, I say to you, that one of you will betray me*” (John 13:21). A manipulation, a scheme, a staging of an event, but not a betrayal according to the Gospel of Judas.

Both the Bible and the Gospel of Judas cannot both be correct for Jesus condemned the actions of his betrayer (Matthew 26:24). What an act of hypocrisy and the Savior! duplicity on the part of

Jesus is called
4. The Bible also says
(John 17:17). Yet

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spurious document claim just the opposite, that Jesus was a deliberate liar who deceitfully staged the events leading to his death.

Both the Bible and the Gospel of Judas cannot be true because if Jesus were behind his own betrayal, would he not have prepared an opportunity with Judas to stage this horrendous event? The Bible says Judas was “*looking for a good opportunity to betray Jesus*”(Matthew 26:16). Perhaps Jesus forgot to help.

Both the Bible and the Gospel of Judas cannot be true because the Holy Spirit, the inspiration behind the entire Bible, would be complicit in this deceit. 34 times the Bible speaks of Jesus’ betrayal. If there was no real betrayal as suggested by the Gospel of Judas, then the New Testament is filled with deliberate, Christ-endorsed error.

Both the Bible and the Gospel of Judas cannot be truth, one is a sham, a fake. We have little trouble declaring the Gospel of Judas to be just such a document. The quick facts are as follows.

The Gospel of Judas, according to its own supporters, is only about 1800 years old. That makes it some 100 years too young to be a valid Christian document! By the time it was written, all of the New Testament books were already written – a century before. Not one single apostle remained. In fact the first reference occurs in 180 AD when an ancient church father, Irenaeus, denounced it as a heresy. It was written by a so-called Gnostic. These people were among the earliest opponents of true Christianity and were frequently the targets of scathing rebukes by the apostles, especially Paul. They held that salvation came only through a secret knowledge taught by Jesus. As you would expect, they alone were the keepers of such information.

It is not always clear why the national media are so sympathetic to such theological pablum. But in this case we should note that the National Geographic, by their own admission, has spent over \$1 million dollars to authenticate and translate this 26 page document. With that much money on the line, the non-profit organization cannot afford to let the document pass into the much deserved obscurity of history.

For the Christian, God has given us “*everything pertaining to life and godliness*” (1Peter 1:3). We have no need for Johnny-come-lately pretenders.

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