



Books in Review

THE 10 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE CREATION VS. EVOLUTION DEBATE

by Ron Rhodes

Harvest House Publishers, 192 pages, \$9.99

Ron Rhodes has a knack for making difficult concepts easy to read and grasp. Not only does his book bring us right up-to-date in terms of the creationist-evolutionist debate, but it equips believers to respond to those who question a creation by God.

The style and intellectual depth of this volume can be grasped by most any level of reader from junior high school and up. This is a very critical factor, considering the onslaught of evolutionary teaching directly confronting our young people today. The book contains the essentials to help the student, or for parents wanting to assist their child. Christian home-schoolers — while directly shielded from evolutionism — will also find it a tremendous resource.

Rhodes introduces us to the intelligent design movement which is spearheaded by even non-Christians. His book places us on the cutting edge of the modern controversy. Few may know or even realize that there are different kinds of evolutionary thought. Chapter one covers that. Likewise, Rhodes sets the stage with “Why This Debate Really Matters,” also covered in his opening chapter.

What about “ape-men” discoveries? Chapter 5 informs us on that. Is the “big bang” theory compatible with special creation? Chapter 10 answers the question. Rhodes even tackles the question of the “gap theory” — the teaching that God created the world billions of years ago — a view held by some reputable Christian teachers. He succinctly lays forth the biblical objections to this theory. Also examined — and responded to — are the diverse views of progressive evolution and theistic evolution.

Christians — young and old — need an intelligent and robust faith. They need not cower or remain silent

because of what may seem overwhelming “scientific” evidence against biblical creationism. This book helps believers acquire the information and confidence to respond. It is a must, must read.

—GRF

THE TRUTH BEHIND THE DA VINCI CODE

by Richard Abanes

Harvest House Publishers, 96 pages, \$6.99

This is a tremendous book. It is fact-filled and the smaller text gives much more reading than what its size suggests.

Abanes is a careful researcher and has done his homework as he refutes the Gnostic viewpoints of Dan Brown and his runaway best-seller, *The Da Vinci Code*. Brown, in his blockbuster novel, has not only rewritten Church history, but has twisted and distorted it with lie upon lie. Abanes painstakingly corrects the lies with biblical and historical truth.

Was Jesus married to Mary Magdalene? What is the Holy Grail? Did the Church invent the deity of Jesus at the Nicene Council? Were the books of the Bible agreed upon by very close vote centuries after the time of the Apostles? What are the Gnostic Gospels? Did the Church suppress woman and goddess worship and substitute a patriarchal rule? Did Da Vinci have secret codes imbedded in his writing and art? Are there really lost books of the Bible that have emerged? What is the Gospel of Thomas? These are just some of the issues examined and answered by Abanes.

Point by point, in a very readable format, Abanes deciphers and unshrouds the fabricated “codes” of *The Da Vinci Code*. He goes headlong into the fiction and fantasy world of Dan Brown and clears away the thorns and thickets of fables and myths. This book is not pedantic and “heavy,” but written at a level all can grasp. It is inexpensive enough to be able to purchase in quantity for friends and acquaintances who have hopped on *The Da Vinci Code* bandwagon. It is an informative resource — a needed “crash course” into the basic foundation of Church history.

—GRF

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