

## Still Waiting for *The Satanic Verses* Movie

With *The Da Vinci Code* movie about to come out, Christians once again find Hollywood promoting a movie that calls into question the Biblical account of the life of Jesus. Those of us who know the facts are not worried and can easily show that Dan Brown's premise is absurd. I wrote a previous article about *The Da Vinci Code* book entitled Bad Doctrine in Good Fiction.

If you'd like to read that article I have put it's link below:

[http://www.augustafreepress.com/stories/storyReader\\$24733](http://www.augustafreepress.com/stories/storyReader$24733)

But the movie coming out has me asking three questions.

First, why does Hollywood rejoice in making films that belittle Jesus Christ?

Second, why was so much of Hollywood up in arms when Mel Gibson dared to make *The Passion*, giving care to show the crucifixion in the way described by the New Testament authors?

And finally, if *The Da Vinci Code* was made in the name of art, even though it mocks the Biblical account of Jesus, how come Salman Rushdie's *The Satanic Verses*, which gives an unflattering view of Mohammed, was never made into a Hollywood movie in the name of art?

I think the cartoon controversies depicting the prophet Mohammed recently give some indication why. When Christian leaders are upset at treatment of the name of Jesus, they call for a boycott of the work or its sponsors. When Muslim leaders are upset at treatment of the name of Mohammed, they call for your death.

Ironically, when Christian leaders call for a boycott of something like a movie, more Christians probably go and see it than would if the leaders just said nothing! This is more than Christians just being stubborn toward their leaders! Jesus instructed us to "love God with all our mind" in addition to loving God with all of our hearts.

Many of us like to make sure we understand what is being asserted and then go back and see if there is anything to it. And then we like to discuss those facts with others in an open minded way. To be sure there are many "chicken littles" among us that with each insult from Hollywood believe that the sky is falling! But thoughtful Christians know that anyone who bothers to investigate will come to know the truth, the truth about Jesus that still sets men free.

Of course it grieves us that many will be reinforced in their unbelief, and so we pray that what Hollywood means for worldly purposes, God will use to build His Kingdom. I only wish those in Muslim countries had the freedoms we enjoy. But their oppressive leaders

must fear what I am sure of: give the people in their countries open access to the gospel of Jesus Christ, and millions will turn to Him.

For my own part, I have read both *The Da Vinci Code* and *The Satanic Verses*. Both are crude in parts and I would not recommend them. Both use fiction to make a point that would be troublesome to Christianity on the one hand and Islam on the other if what's asserted is true. After reading both books I took the time to see if there was anything in the holy books of those religions that would give rise to the assertions made. For Christians that book is the Bible. For Muslims it would be the Koran and the Hadith.

There is much to discover in those books for the person who takes the time to read! I clearly don't believe Jesus was ever married. But sex within marriage is no sin in the Bible. A divine Jesus could have been married and not sinned. So even if Jesus had been married it would not have proven he was not Deity. And of course the Bible doesn't even hint at the idea of a marriage for Jesus, other than calling all of us who receive the forgiveness and eternal life he offers "the bride of Christ."

With due respect to Muslims, I found a fact out in my reading about Mohammed that I simply can't get past. At age 51, he married one of his many wives, Aishah. Aishah was 6 years old at the time. Sahih Bukahri 7.62.64 tells us that the union was sexually consummated when she was 9 years old. That is a fact, not fiction. Maybe it's best if Hollywood doesn't make that movie.

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