

# The Museum of the Bible – circa 2017

vs.

## Thomas Jefferson

Excerpted from, *THOMAS JEFFERSON – Accuracy vs. Revisionism – An Exposé*

by Dr. Catherine Millard © 2020

### A Step Further – The Museum of the Bible

An article by Cary Summers, entitled “The Real Museum of the Bible,” appeared in the *Times of Israel’s* May 3, 2016 edition. Summers, its President, responds to an interview on the museum’s mission and focus, as follows:

It’s a non-sectarian institution. It is not political, and it will not proselytize...our goal is straightforward: reacquaint the world with the book that helped make it, and let the visitor come to their own conclusions. The Museum of the Bible is a global education institution that invites all people to engage in the Bible. We don’t exist to tell people what to believe about it.

### “The Impact of the Bible in America” Exhibit and “The Jefferson Bible,” 2011 Smithsonian Edition

However, “The Impact of the Bible in America” exhibit on the founding fathers of the American Republic is decidedly political. It prominently show-cases “The Jefferson Bible” – 2011 Smithsonian edition, which constitutes a powerful political tool; the original, entitled “Morals of Jesus” being catalogued as an “artifact” in the *Political and Military Division* of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History. It is not “a Bible” nor is it “Jefferson’s Bible,” nor “The Jefferson Bible,” a fabricated name given to it by the Smithsonian Institution.

This “wee-little book” as Jefferson called his compilation of “The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth extracted textually from the Gospels in Greek, Latin, French and English”, in the exhibit counterfeits his own personal Bible, circa 1752, King James Authorized Translation, as heretofore discussed, which Edmund Bacon, his Monticello overseer for twenty years, witnessed him reading “many and many a time.” The latter is housed in the Rare Book Vault of the University of Virginia.

The “Impact of the Bible in America” exhibit’s descriptive wording accompanying the Smithsonian Institution’s 2011 edition states:

Thomas Jefferson, while deeply committ-

ed to Enlightenment ideals and liberated reason, also believed in a Supreme Being who was the creator of the universe. Though he did not accept the Christianity that was taught by most of the churches of his day, he held Jesus in high regard and considered his teachings to be an important element in the ethical republic. In his later years, Jefferson compiled Jesus’ teachings in the Gospels, while excluding miracles and most other supernatural elements. He called Jesus’s moral system the “most perfect and sublime that has ever been taught by man.”

### Thomas Jefferson and Revisionism

The exhibit’s statement that Thomas Jefferson “called Jesus’ moral system the ‘most perfect and sublime that has ever been taught by man’ ” is rewritten to change the meaning of Jefferson’s own words. Jefferson did not write, “...taught **by man**.”

He wrote, in a letter dated June 17, 1804 to Henry Fry:

I consider the doctrines of Jesus as delivered by Himself to contain the outlines of the sublimest system of morality that has ever been taught but I hold in the most profound detestation and execration the corruptions of it which have been invented by priestcraft and established by kingcraft constituting a conspiracy of church and state against the civil and religious liberties of mankind.

The curators of this exhibit’s text have deliberately added the words, “**by man**”, deceiving the public into believing that Jesus Christ, the Messiah, is a mere man – and that Thomas Jefferson wrote it. This is counterfeit history of the highest order.

The curators’ text that, “Thomas Jefferson did not accept the Christianity that was taught by most of the churches of his day” is inaccurate, implying that he disagreed with not only the Anglican Church (which he disestablished in 1786), but also the Presbyterian, Baptist, Methodist, Quaker, Huguenot, etc. dissident Protestant churches which he freed from control by the Civil Magistrate, enabling them to worship according to the tenets of the Bible.

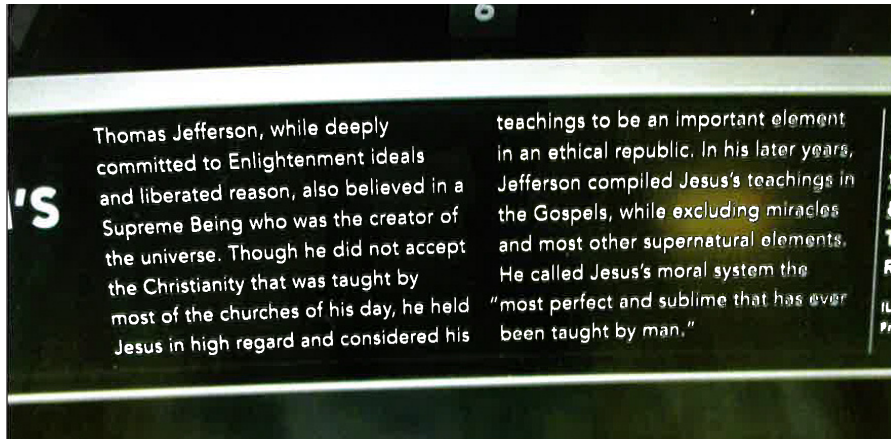


Marker at the entranceway to “Impact of the Bible in America” exhibit. The Museum of the Bible, Washington, District of Columbia.



“Impact of the Bible in America” exhibit’s prominent display of Smithsonian Books’ 2011 edition of its newly-entitled, “The Jefferson Bible, by Thomas Jefferson” – a fake title and cover. (Photograph taken through glass). The Museum of the Bible, Washington, District of Columbia.

As proven, Jefferson's 1804 English compilation titled, "The Philosophy of Jesus of Nazareth..." was an extraction, textually, of the teachings or sayings of Christ, which included the miraculous and supernatural, such as: Eternal life, the resurrection, Heaven, hell, Dives and Lazarus, the Last Judgment, the Kingdom of Heaven, the Wedding Supper, the Future Life, and Matthew 25:31-46: "When the Son of man



"Impact of the Bible in America" exhibit text on Thomas Jefferson. The Museum of the Bible, Washington, District of Columbia

shall come in His glory, and all His holy angels with Him, then shall He sit on the throne of His glory... Then shall the King say unto them on His right hand, come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared from the foundation of the world... Then shall He say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from Me ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels..."

**Smithsonian Books' 2011 "The Jefferson Bible" – a 21st Century Fake Title and Cover**

In conclusion, "The Jefferson Bible" or "Thomas Jefferson's Bible," published in 2011 by Smithsonian Books, with its counterfeit title and cover, is a 21st century fake, indoctrinating millions of visitors to the Museum of the Bible into believing the historical fallacy that Thomas Jefferson, author of the *Declaration of Independence*, "wrote his own bible, excluding miracles and most other supernatural elements."

As a fake, it needs to be immediately removed from the Museum of the Bible's "Impact of the Bible on America" exhibit and returned to its publisher, the Smithsonian Institution, prior to further deception being wrought upon an unwary American public.

**The Museum of the Bible's – "Thanksgiving in America"**

The Museum of the Bible's articles sent out regularly to its global database recipients, include a November 26, 2019 article entitled, "Thanksgiving in America." The latter chronicles Thanksgiving Day in America from Abraham Lincoln's October 10th, 1863 Proclamation designating November 26, 1863, the last Thursday in November, as a National Day of Thanksgiving in perpetuity. The author(s) of the article conveniently omitted 240 years of America's history, the first Thanksgiving Day having been proclaimed in 1621 by Governor William Bradford of the Massachusetts Pilgrims. The article goes on to mention George Washington's 1789 Proclamation of a "Day of

Public Thanksgiving and Prayer" but totally omits his February 19, 1795 "National Day of Thanksgiving and Prayer," decreed by Washington after the quelling of the "Whiskey Insurrection in Western Pennsylvania."

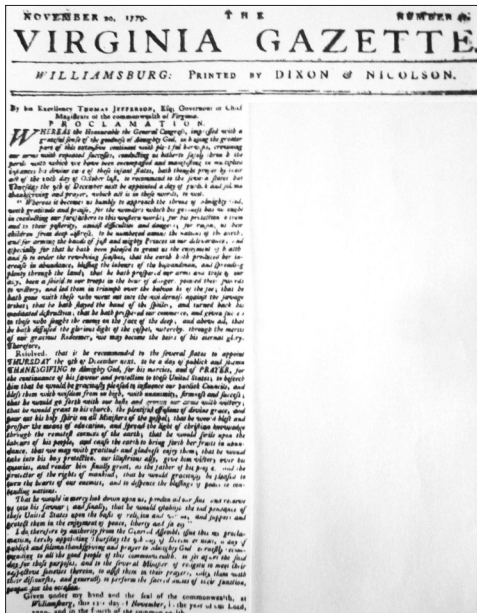
In keeping with the Museum of the Bible's revisionism of Thomas Jefferson's true identity, the article asserts that, "Thomas Jefferson believed public demonstra-

tions of devotion to a higher power, like Thanksgiving, were unsuitable for a nation based in part on the separation of church and state." This misinformation, diffused globally under the label of a Bible Museum, is a powerful political method to indoctrinate millions into believing counterfeit history about the founder of America's republican creed.

Thomas Jefferson did, indeed, proclaim a "Day of Publick and Solemn Thanksgiving and Prayer to Almighty God."

Following is Jefferson's December 9th, 1779 "Day of Publick and solemn Thanksgiving and Prayer to Almighty God" Proclamation, in which he extols publicly God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit:

On December 9th, 1779 **Thomas Jefferson**, Governor of Virginia, proclaimed,



December 9th, 1779 Thanksgiving Day Proclamation by Thomas Jefferson, Governor of Virginia. Published in the *The Virginia Gazette*, November 30, 1779.

WHEREAS it becomes us humbly to approach the throne of Almighty God, with gratitude and praise, for the wonders which His goodness has wrought in conducting our forefathers to this western world; for His protection to them and to their posterity, amidst difficulties and dangers; for raising us their children from deep distress, to be numbered among the nations of the earth; and for arming the hands of just and mighty Princes in our deliverance; and especially for that He hath been pleased to grant us the enjoyment of health and so to order the revolving seasons, that the earth hath produced her increase in abundance, blessing the labours of the husbandman, and spreading plenty through the land; that He hath prospered our arms and those of our ally, been a shield to our troops in the hour of danger, pointed their swords to victory, and led them in triumph over the bulwarks of the foe; that He hath gone with those who went out into the wilderness against the savage tribes; that He hath stayed the hand of the spoiler, and turned

back his mediated destruction, that He hath prospered our commerce, and given success to those who sought the enemy on the face of the deep; and above all, that He hath diffused the glorious light of the Gospel, whereby, through the merits of our gracious Redeemer,

we may become the heirs of His eternal glory. Therefore,

Resolved, that it be recommended to the several States to appoint THURSDAY the 9th of December next, to be **a day of publick and solemn THANKSGIVING to Almighty God for his mercies, and PRAYER**, for the continuance of His favour and protection to these United States; to beseech Him that he would be graciously pleased to influence our publick Councils, and bless them with wisdom from on high, with unanimity, firmness and success; that He would go forth with our hosts and crown our arms with victory; that He would grant to His church the plentiful effusions of Divine grace, and pour out His Holy Spirit on all ministers of the Gospel; that He would bless and prosper the means of education, and spread the light of Christian knowledge through the remotest corners of the earth; that He would smile upon the labours of His people, and cause the earth to bring forth her fruits in abundance, that we may with gratitude and gladness enjoy them; that He would take into His holy protection our illustrious ally, give him victory over his enemies, and render him finally great, as the father of his people and the protector of the rights of mankind, that He would graciously be pleased to turn the hearts of our enemies, and to dispense the blessings of peace to contending nations. That He would in mercy look down upon us, pardon all our sins, and receive us into His favour; and finally, that He would establish the independence of these United States upon the basis of religion and virtue, and support and protect them in the enjoyment of peace, liberty and safety. I do therefore by authority from the General Assembly issue this my proclamation, hereby appointing Thursday the 9th of December next, **a Day of publick and solemn Thanksgiving and Prayer to Almighty God**, earnestly recommending to all the good people of this commonwealth, to set apart the said day for those purposes, and to the several Ministers of religion to meet their respective societies thereon, to assist them in their prayers, edify them with their discourses, and generally to perform the sacred duties of their function, proper for the occasion. Given under my hand and the seal of the Commonwealth, at Williamsburg, this 11th day of November, in the year of our Lord, 1779, and in the fourth of the Commonwealth.

THOMAS JEFFERSON

Of note, is that Jefferson wrote his Thanksgiving Day Proclamation after his 1777 authorship of *An Act for Establishing Religious Freedom*, which served as a model for the First Amendment's Establishment Clause in the *U.S. Bill of Rights* – "Separation of Church from State Control."

The second paragraph of Jefferson's moving Proclamation of "a Day of Publick and Solemn Thanksgiving to Almighty God for His mercies, and Prayer," discloses the reason for this timely decree: "for the continuance of His (God's) favour and protection of these United States; to beseech Him that He would graciously be pleased to influence our public Councils, and bless them with wisdom from on high, with unanimity, firmness and success; that He would go forth

with our hosts and crown our arms with victory; that he would grant to His church the plentiful effusions of Divine grace, and pour out His Holy Spirit on all ministers of the Gospel; that He would bless and prosper the means of education, and spread the light of Christian knowledge through the remotest corners of the earth; that He would smile upon the labours of His people, and cause the earth to bring forth her fruits in abundance, that we may with gratitude and gladness enjoy them..."

These public statements made by Thomas Jefferson refute the Museum of the Bible's November 26, 2019 "Thanksgiving in America" assertion that, "Thomas Jefferson believed public demonstrations of devotion to a higher power, like Thanksgiving, were unsuitable for a nation based in part on the separation of church and state."

## The Missing Complement of 'Jefferson's Bible' – or – his "Literary Commonplace Book"?

The *Manuscript Division* of the Library of Congress houses a reference book entitled: "The Literary Bible of Thomas Jefferson," published in 1928 by the Johns Hopkins Press, and les Presses Universitaires de France, Paris, with an introduction by Gilbert Chinard, professor at Johns Hopkins University. Chinard writes,

This book is the missing complement of 'Jefferson's Bible.' It is quite as necessary for a true understanding of the personality of the man who wrote the *Declaration of Independence* and formulated the democratic creed of America.

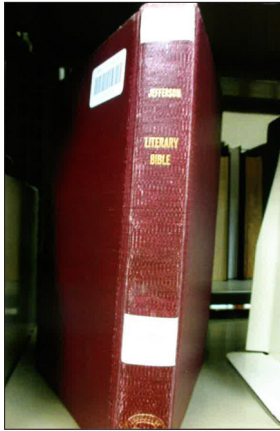
## "The Literary Bible of Thomas Jefferson"

Upon further research, it was discovered that the original scrapbook belonging to Thomas Jefferson, comprising hand-written poetry and verses from Homer, Virgil, Horace, Cicero, Herodotus, the Odyssey, and other Greek and Latin authors, had neither title nor introduction. It is catalogued in the Library of Congress, Manuscript Division under: "Thomas Jefferson Papers – 'Literary Commonplace Book,' located in series 5 of the collection which consists of 'Commonplace Books, 1758-1772.'" The original plain brown leather cover has neither title nor wording, nor does it have a title page. Jefferson's great-granddaughter, who presented this scrapbook to the Library of Congress, wrote that,

Mrs. Randolph (Jefferson's daughter)\* always kept this book of her father's among her treasures. Martha Jefferson Burke, née Trist. Alexandria, Virginia, January 29th, 1898.

From the foregoing, we understand that in 1895, Cyrus Adler, Smithsonian Librarian and former Semitics student at Johns Hopkins University, persuaded Thomas Jefferson's great-granddaughter, Carolina Randolph, to sell him Jefferson's "wee-little book" entitled, *The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth extracted textually from the Gospels, in Greek, Latin, French and English*, for \$400; after which, in 1904, Adler persuaded the 57th Congress, first Session, to publish it as a government document, placing Thomas Jefferson's name thereon. And that, in 1928, Johns Hopkins Press published Jefferson's scrapbook known as a "Literary Commonplace Book," giving it the new invented

\*Author's text in parentheses.



Jefferson's "Literary Commonplace Book," newly-entitled "Jefferson's Literary Bible" published in 1928 by the Johns Hopkins Press. The Introduction advertises it as, "The missing complement of 'Jefferson's Bible.'" Manuscript Division, Library of Congress.

title of "The Literary Bible of Thomas Jefferson," its introduction by Chinard asserting that "this is the missing complement of 'Jefferson's Bible' – it is quite as necessary for a true understanding of the personality of the man who wrote the *Declaration of Independence* and formulated the democratic creed of America"!

Accordingly, are Americans to believe the incredulous "story" that two scrapbook compilations belonging to Thomas Jefferson, published for the first time in 1904 and 1928, by the Washington Government Printing Office, and Johns Hopkins Press, respectively, fashioned the political thought and democratic creed of Thomas Jefferson, author of the *Declaration of Independence* and the *Act for Establishing Religious Freedom* – which documents secured America's civil and religious freedoms?

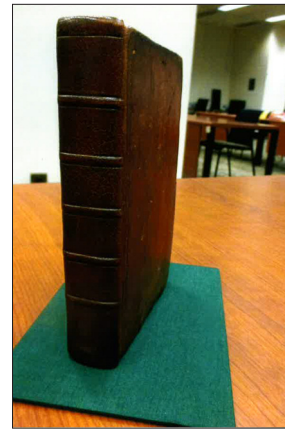
I submit that neither his "wee-little book" nor his "Literary Commonplace Book" played any part in the struggle to gain independence from the tyranny of monarchical rule – nor could either possibly have formulated the ideals enunciated in Jefferson's republican creed of self-government, as borne out by Congress' choice of Jeffersonian writings reflecting his political thought – boldly proclaimed on the walls of The Thomas Jefferson Memorial in the nation's capital.

## Inauguration of The Museum of the Bible

On November 17, 2017, the Dedication ceremony of the Museum of the Bible received an official pontifical blessing from Pope Francis (a Jesuit). The ceremony Opening Prayer was offered by Roman Catholic Cardinal Donald Wuerl (whose 2018 resignation followed in the wake of an abuse report.) The cost of the museum was \$500 million, primarily from Hobby Lobby, founded by David Green. Steve Green, his son, is President of Hobby Lobby, as well as Founder and Chairman of the Board of the Museum of the Bible. This museum is officially described as a History Museum, reportedly housing 400,000 items in its collection.

Roman Catholic theologian, Thomas L. McDonald, writing in the *National Catholic Register* on November 20, 2017, praised the abundance of material dedicated to the history of the Bible with respect to Roman Catholicism. Under the sub-title, *The Catholic Angle*, he writes:

A crucial part of developing the museum was shedding sectarian biases, and part of that involved bringing Catholic scholars into the fold. In 2012, the museum



Jefferson's original hand-written "Literary Commonplace Book" of poetry and verses from Greek and Latin authors, which he neither signed nor put his name to. The cover bears no title or wording. Gift of his great-granddaughter. Manuscript Division, Library of Congress.

brought its travelling Verbum Domini exhibit to the Vatican, which helped forge relationships with the Vatican museums and Vatican library. A similar exhibit was mounted in Philadelphia during the visit of Pope Francis, continuing the museum's process of courting Catholic leaders and press. The result is a permanent space on the first floor of the museum for rotating exhibits from the Vatican, including the giant illuminated Urbino Bible (15th century) and a number of reproduction frescos illustrating Church Councils. New items will be brought from Rome every six months. In addition, one of the special exhibits for the opening is a series of Stations of the Cross sculptures. Catholicism permeates the art and exhibits. A section of paintings and sculpture shows how artists depicted the Virgin Mary throughout history. There's the prayer book of Emperor Charles V who condemned Luther as an outlaw and various versions of the Vulgate and Douay-Rheims Bibles, among other Catholic versions. Pre-Reformation books and illuminated manuscripts, displays of Catholic architecture and art, the role of monks and nuns, and discussions of Catholic saints and scholars are all in the mix.

This author thoroughly agrees with McDonald's statement that "Catholicism permeates the art and exhibits." The museum's name – "Museum of the Bible," contradicts the Roman Catholic church's stance, which is not upon the Bible, but upon the Apocrypha (non-canonical books) recently dubbed "deuterocanonical" by the Catholic Church, as well as Popes' dogmas; the infallibility of the Pope in ecclesiastical matters; the Roman Catholic Catechism; prayers to "Mary, Queen of Heaven"\*; Purgatory (a place where Catholics must go after death, to purge their sins prior to gaining access to heaven); the Rosary (repetitious prayers to "Mary, Queen of Heaven" while holding each bead); salvation by Infant Baptism and works; penance; sacerdotalism; confession of sins and absolution by a priest; transubstantiation; prayers to the Roman Catholic "saints;" the papal dogmas of the "Assumption of Mary into heaven;" and the "Immaculate Conception of Mary" that is, her invented

\*Expressly forbidden by Almighty God in the Old Testament Book of Jeremiah, chapters 7:18 and 44:19.

sinless birth; Mary as Co-Redemptress with Jesus Christ, the Messiah (which is blasphemy); Mass said for the dead; veneration of relics; the “Last Rites” administered by a priest, etc., all of which are not found in the Holy Bible – God’s Word.

### **“The Shroud of Turin” – Roman Catholic relic**

On June 12, 2020, the Museum of the Bible announced to its global internet database readership, “Coming up on the Podcast: Explore the mystery of the Shroud of Turin. Join us for the first of five provocative discussions in which renowned Shroud experts present the latest scientific evidence and in-depth information about this intriguing artifact that millions believe to be the burial cloth of Jesus of Nazareth.”

This Roman Catholic relic is certainly *not* the burial cloth of Jesus Christ, Son of God, King of kings and Lord of lords.

### **Counterfeit Papyri Fragments and Clay Objects**

On March 26, 2020, the Museum of the Bible’s Chairman of the Board, Steve Green, published the following statement on past acquisitions:

...Today I am announcing that we have identified approximately 5,000 papyri fragments and 6,500 clay objects with insufficient provenance that we are working to deliver to officials in Egypt and Iraq respectively...

### **Ancient Gilgamesh Tablet Forfeited**

On May 18, 2020, an NBC article by Tim Stelloh stated:

Authorities announce forfeiture of Ancient Gilgamesh Tablet from Hobby Lobby’s Museum of the Bible – The Gilgamesh Dream Tablet was featured at the Washington, D.C. Museum. The Crafts Chain bought it in 2014 for 1.6 million. Civil Action filed to forfeit rare cuneiform tablet from Hobby Lobby. May 18, 2020. Cultural Property, Art and Antiquities Invest-

igations. ‘New York: Pursuant to ongoing cultural property, Arts and Antiquities investigations by ICE’s Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), New York, a civil complaint was filed Monday, to forfeit a rare cuneiform tablet bearing a portion of the Epic of Gilgamesh, a Sumerian epic poem considered one of the world’s oldest works of literature. Known as the Gilgamesh Dream Tablet, it originated in the area of modern-day Iraq and entered the United States contrary to federal law. The tablet was later sold by an international auction house (the “Auction House”) to Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc. (“Hobby Lobby”), a prominent arts and crafts retailer based in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma for display at the Museum of the Bible (“the Museum”). Despite enquiries from the Museum and Hobby Lobby, the Auction House withheld information about the Tablet’s provenance. The Tablet was seized from the museum by law enforcement agents in September, 2019.

### **“All Dead Sea Scroll Fragments in the Museum of the Bible are Forgeries”**

In 2018, the Museum of the Bible announced that expert examination had led it to conclude that five of the sixteen fragments of the “Dead Sea Scrolls” in their collection were forgeries, and that the Museum had removed them from display. According to German researchers, those five showed “characteristics inconsistent with ancient origin.”

In March, 2020, the Museum confirmed all sixteen “Dead Sea Scroll” fragments were forgeries.<sup>1</sup>

(Excerpted from, *Thomas Jefferson — Accuracy vs. Revisionism — An Exposé* © 2020 by Dr. Catherine Millard.)

#### **Footnote**

<sup>1</sup> B.B.C. News – U.S. and Canada. *U.S. Museum Dead Sea Scroll Collection found to be Fakes*. March 16, 2020.