

# A Good Look at the Good Book

Dr. Les Hardin

Florida Christian College



“They have  
pushed around  
faith and a good  
conscience.”

(1 Tim. 1:19)

# Two Questions About the Bible:

1. What is it?
2. Where did it come from?

# What is the Bible?

## *1. A Unified Book*

*66 books, 40 authors, over 2 millennia  
One unified theme*

### *Divisions:*

*Old Testament – “The Christ is coming!”*

*New Testament – “The Christ has come!”  
(and will come again!)*

# What is the Bible?

*1. A Unified Book*

*2. The Word of God*

*“And God said to Moses” (Exod. 3:14)*

*“This is what the LORD says” (Ez. 17:22)*

*“Thus saith the LORD” – 600+ times in OT*

Jesus called it Scripture (“Word of God”)

*“It is written” (Jesus—Matt. 4:4, 7, 10)*

*“Scripture cannot be broken” (John 10:35)*

# What is the Bible?

1. *A Unified Book*

2. *The Word of God*

Paul called both the OT *and the words of Jesus*  
“Scripture” . . .

“For Scripture says, ‘Do not muzzle the ox’ (Deut. 25:4) and ‘The worker is worth his pay.’” (Luke 10:7)

# What is the Bible?

*1. A Unified Book*

*2. The Word of God*

Peter believed Paul's words were "Scripture":

"He writes some things that are difficult to understand, that ignorant and unstable people distort, just like they do the *other* Scriptures" (2 Peter 3:16).

# What is the Bible?

- 1. A Unified Book*
- 2. The Word of God*
- 3. Inspired*

*“All Scripture is God-breathed . . .” (2 Tim. 3:16)*

# Where Did It Come From?

## *1. Sometimes God Spoke Directly*

*e.g., to Moses with the Ten Commandments  
Or to the Prophets (“Thus saith the LORD”)*

## *2. They Wrote Down What Happened*

*e.g., Samuel and the Life of David  
Joshua and the Conquest of the Holy Land*

# Where Did It Come From?

- 1. Sometimes God Spoke Directly*
- 2. They Wrote Down What Happened*
- 3. The Apostles' Work Was Deemed Sacred*

*“He sent them out to preach and to exercise authority” (Mark 3:14-15)*

*“These things were handed down to us by those who were eyewitnesses” (Lk. 1:2)*

# Where Did It Come From?

- 1. Sometimes God Spoke Directly*
- 2. They Wrote Down What Happened*
- 3. The Apostles' Work Was Deemed Sacred*
- 4. Churches Carefully Copied Those Works*

“After this letter has been read to you, see that it is also read in the church of the Laodiceans and that you in turn read the letter from Laodicea.” (Colossians 4:16)

5,000+ Greek Manuscripts, 99.9% agreement

# Where Did It Come From?

## *5. The Collecting of Consensus*

*The Criteria for Inclusion into the Bible:*

- a. Was it directly given by God?*
- b. Does it tell accurately what happened?*
- c. Was it written by an Apostle?*

*“The Spirit will guide you into all truth.” (John 16:13)*

- d. Was it written under the direction of an Apostle?*

*“These things were written so that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing, you might have life in his name.” (John 20:31)*