

“What’s In?” Study Guide by Pastor Lose
Behind the Book(s): A History of How Our Bible Came to Be Series
First of Four Presentations ~ Winter 2023

Introductory Question

Why are we even asking this question? Didn’t God, or the Holy Spirit, write, edit, and collect the books that made it into the Bible?

The Bible is a very human book that God uses to accomplish Divine purposes.

Primary Reference Passage: Luke 1:1-4

“Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed.”

Session Outline

I. The Surprise

There is no Single Christian Bible – Roman Catholics, Orthodox, and Protestants have different lists of the “accepted” books, which is also called a “canon.”

What is a canon: “Canon” – a general law, rule, principle, or criterion by which something is judged. Latin canonicus: “according to rule”, derived in turn from the Greek root of “cane” or “measuring rod.” Most loosely, a canon determines “what measures up.”

II. Old Testament – 39 books based on the Hebrew Scriptures: Torah, Nevi’im, Ketuvim

III. Inter-Testamental Literature

IV. New Testament – 27 books

V. New Testament Canon

Questions

- 1) Does it help or hinder you in your reading of Scripture to imagine it as human in terms of its composition, editing, and collection? Why?
- 2) Are there passages in Scripture that make you scratch your head or at least wonder how it got in? Which ones and why?
- 3) Given that the “canon is still open,” how shall we think of other Christian writings?

