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### **“HOW WE GOT the Bible”**

Do you ever wonder where something incredibly famous like the Bible comes from? I have, this is the reason why I chose to do my book report on the creation of the Bible. The Bible is a collection of holy messages. The Bible provides a heavenly motivation, which will create a relationship between God and Christians. The book *“HOW WE GOT the Bible,”* (Neil R. Lightfoot, 2010) describes the process in which the Holy Bible was put together, from writing material to different interpretations of writing in multiple languages. Ultimately, Neil R. Lightfoot wrote this book to inform people of the creation of the Bible because it is the sacred text for Christianity, which explains to Christians their past, what they need to do during their time and what will come in the future.

The book *“HOW WE GOT the Bible”* was in the theological field of education. It was educating the audiences, anyone who wishes to learn about the construction of the Bible. The book is divided into two different sections: the New Testament and the Old Testament. The first eleven chapters of the book were concentrated on the New Testament, and it was broken up into several categories. The book first introduced the writing

materials, leather in the old testament, and papyrus in the new testaments were the most used materials. The construction of the bible lasted approximately 1500 years. The bible was gradually put together and the books were arranged according to a logical pattern. There are different manuscripts written in various languages that reveal differences between manuscripts and made people think that the manuscript was false. To make it easier for people to read the bible in ancient times, visual aids were provided, called illuminated manuscripts. The Bible was originally written in Hebrew, then began to translate to the Aramaic and then Greek languages, with the majority of the new testament written in Greek. The writers didn't write the books by themselves, they're inspired by God. The manuscripts and the variation between the manuscripts showed spelling, grammar, and syntax errors. The new testament was mainly written in Greek with special structure, uncials, and minuscules. Today's new testament is a restored text from three lines of witness, manuscript, the variation, and the writings of the early church.

The rest of the chapters center on the Old Testament and how it was written. Just like the new testament, the old testament was translated, and errors were inevitable. I think the main difference in the second section is the canon of the scriptures. Canons are a list of books in the bible classify divinely inspired, and the church does not choose these books. Another thing is the apocryphal books; there are fifteen, some people think they

should be added to the bible, but they have been rejected by the Hebrew Canon of the Old Testament.

The author does an outstanding job explaining the construction of the New Testament. It was very informative, and the terms weren't too complex to assure the audiences can understand and relate to it. The author also does well, creating an image for the reading to be more comprehensive. Something that the author can improve is a contrast between new and old testament. There's a similarity; translation causes errors in the text due to the differences in the languages. I know the old testament was based on events far before Jesus; and its difficult translating different languages. Still, I like to see more differences between the construction of the New Testament and the Old Testament.

The author was convincing because he used sources to uphold his claims. He didn't base his claim on opinion but rather fact and primary sources. The references can be found in the notes and index section of the book (211-224.). The author is also convincing because he continues to use updated research to make sure that his information is correct and current. I read the review and expanded 3rd edition.

The book *"HOW WE GOT the Bible"* (Neil R. Lightfoot, 2003) illustrates the creation of the bible, the numerous steps taken to put it together. This book also teaches us that we may think we have a reliable translation of the bible, but there can always be an improvement.

Throughout the years, the bible has been revised, which benefits us because we need to understand more the bridge between God and us. This book is recommended to anyone who would like to understand how the Holy Bible came to be. I think everyone should have an understanding of the bible because those are instructions for us to live like Christ. I would recommend this book to everyone; in fact, I will be rereading this book. I feel like I did not put much time into the book because of the time limit I had to read it. A great book and I definitely learn a lot from this book and hope to expand on that knowledge.

**Works Cited:**

Lightfoot, Neil R. *How We Got the Bible*. BakerBooks, 2010.