



## How the Bible was Built

*Charlse Merrill Smith, a longtime friend of Charles Merrill Smith, is the award-winning author of several young adult novels, including [Old Hoss](#) and [The Squared Circle](#), as well as the spiritual memoir [A Quiet Desperatio](#) James W. Bennett*

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The Bible continues to be the world's runaway best-seller. But very few people could say just how its seemingly disparate jumble of writings — stories, letters, poems, collections of laws, religious visions — got there. Filling this knowledge gap, *How the Bible Was Built* clearly tells the story of how the Bible came to be. Penned by Charles Merrill Smith in response to his teenage granddaughter's questions, the manuscript was discovered after Smith's death and has been reworked by his friend James Bennett for a wider audience. Free of theological or sectarian slant, this little volume provides a concise, factual overview of the Bible's construction throughout history, outlining how its various books were written and collected and later canonized and translated. Written in an easy conversational style and enhanced by two helpful appendixes (of biblical terms and dates), *How the Bible Was Built* will give a more informed understanding of the Bible to people of virtually any reading level and any religious persuasion.

## Did you know?

- The word "Bible" comes from *biblion*, a Greek word meaning "papyrus scroll."
- It took several thousand years to construct the Bible.
- The book we call Deuteronomy was discovered hidden away in a dark corner during the reconstruction of the temple under King Josiah.
- The Apocrypha contains some of the earliest "detective" stories on record.
- Church councils had many disagreements about which books ought to be authoritative (a book called the Shepherd of Hermas almost made the cut; the book of Revelation almost didn't).
- A heretic helped form the canon.
- Debate over the canon didn't really end until the Protestant Reformation and the use of the printing press.

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