

the scroll by the way it starts. The Greeks logically desired a title that would describe what was in the book, and Exodus is a very good title for the book.

When we come to the third book, in the Hebrew you will find the word "and he called." That is only the first word, but the rest, "And called the LORD unto Moses, and spoke unto him out of the tabernacle of the congregation, saying..." does not tell you any more about the book of Leviticus than "These are the names" tells you about the book of Exodus. It simply is the beginning of the book. It was quite a natural way to do it, if one long book of Moses was put on different scrolls making a division at a fairly logical place. Therefore, we call this third one by the first two Hebrew words of the book. Nevertheless, the Greek name for the book is a name which describes pretty much what is in this book, Leviticus: the book of the Levitical legislation which was a book of the laws relating to the priests and the Levites. The title immediately tells us the nature of the great bulk of material in this book.

When you come to the fourth book, the situation is almost exactly reversed. The Hebrew does not take the first word of the fourth book. It does not say, "Spake the LORD unto Moses in the wilderness." Why not? I suppose the reason they did not call it that was because the one before was "and called." Consequently, it would be quite confusing to call the third book "And called," and the fourth book "And spoke." Therefore, the Hebrews skipped over the first two or three words until they came to the word "in the wilderness," and they called this book "In the Wilderness." The Greeks looked at the books and they said, "We are not interested in just taking the first word or words out of the first verse, let's give it a title." Now what is the title to the book? Unfortunately, whoever made the Greek title to this book did not bother to read the book!

It is not a very good idea to make a title for a book unless you have read it. You will still find such things done today. I had a very embarrassing experience when I was a senior in college. I had been elected editor of the college paper, and quite a number of the members of its staff were carry-overs from the previous year. I had no