

CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER OF THE SCRIPTURES

Following is a list of the prophetic books of the Old Testament in the order in which they were written. The books from Genesis through Esther are in chronological order. Job appears to have been written of a time contemporary with Abraham, about 1900/2000 B.C. The books of Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon are poetic in nature and, in effect, separate the books of history from the books of prophecy. The latter are those prophetic books which are not necessarily in chronological order. As you will also note, the first five of these prophetic books are larger in size, thus termed "major prophets." The remaining twelve are smaller in size and are referred to as the "minor prophets." This arrangement and these terms are by human arrangement and do not indicate that major is more important than minor. All the books of the Bible were written separately and were combined over time in their order by human design.

The New Testament books were all written within less than one hundred years of each other, thus their chronological order is interesting, but not necessary for their understanding in relation to one another. The first four record events which took place during the last days of the Old Testament era. This fulfilled the coming, life, and sacrificial death of the Messiah and events preceding the establishment of His kingdom, the church. Acts records the beginning of the Lord's church and events which occurred during its early years. Except for Revelation, the remaining books constitute letters from inspired writers to the various congregations and individual Christians. Revelation is a prophecy concerning events then future which were to come during the Christian era.

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Before Assyrian Conquest (721 B.C.)

Jonah (about 800 B.C.)
Joel (800 B.C.)
Amos (800 B.C.)
Hosea (800 B.C.)
Isaiah (800-726 B.C.)
Micah (750 B.C.)

Between Assyrian Conquest (721 B.C.) and Babylonian Captivity (587 B.C.)

Nahum
Jeremiah (627 - 587 B.C.)
Habakkuk

Book of the Law had been lost, but in the days of Josiah it was found
(2 Kings 22:1-20, 622 B.C.).

During Time of Three Babylonian Invasions (606 - 587 B.C.)

Daniel
Ezekiel

During Time of Babylonian Captivity (587 - 517 B.C.)

Lamentations
Obadiah

Scriptures undoubtedly taken with Jews to Babylon and preserved.

During Time of Rebuilding (517 - 445 B.C.)

Ezra
Haggai
Zechariah
Nehemiah
Esther

After Judah's Return from Babylonian Captivity (445 B.C.)

Malachi