Exodus 40:20..a mark that God had indeed given this
action.   Likewise the injunctions to kings and priests
to honor the law as noted in Dt. 31:9, 1 Kings 8:58,
etc., indicate a similar reverencing of the messages
given.   What was written was not merely human opinion
but something binding on the heart and lives of the
hearers.   That the captivity would be viewed as retri-
bution for forgetting these laws would indicate the
reverential place they held in the nation.   Later books
are not given the opportunity for this recognition just
due to the passing of time...in other words when you
come to the last books of the Old Testament we are not
given any historical recording of similar reverential
treatment.

(3)   Attitude towards the
Prophets

A prophet was a spokesman
for God and was so recognized even in areas where dis-
belief was rampant (as in the Ahab and Micaiah sequence
in 1 Kings).   The attitude towards his message is indi-
cative of the canonical spirit that saw the message of
God as being binding.   Among the many examples of this
respect would be the Davidid response to the words of
Nathan in 2 Samuel 7-8, as well as his acceptance of
judgment from the same source in 2 Samuel 12.   That the
prophets expected this sort of regard from the hearers
of the Word they gave may be seen through the Isaiah/
Ahaz dialogue in Isaiah 7:9-14.   The prophet was speak-
ing for God...the listener was bound by what he said.

The recognized prophets
were not simply persons who had a degree in prophetic
utterance or who held a distinguished office.   They were
men whose work had qualified them as spokesmen after the
prophetic texts of Deuteronomy 13-18 as noted earlier.
When one who spoke with these credentials one spoke as
an immediate messenger for the Lord and obedience was
required or a penalty was exacted.

(4)   Historical notes in the
progress of O.T. history.

Several points in the narra-
tion of history in the Old Testament help us see this
evidence of canon in a powerful way.   Among them we
mention the following:

--Solomon's temple prayer