

both must wait for acceptance of the basic documents and then they may be added to it as they reflect its teachings, prophecies, or national trends. Virtually all critics find it impossible to believe that the same prophet could speak of both the fall and rising of Jerusalem. It is the shortsightedness of critical understanding that overlooks the basic character of God's dealings with man in which the Lord can both reduce and exalt as He wishes.

When the Pentateuch gained national status, a general reverence developed for the former books...especially as these spoke of judgment which apparently could be seen as having been fulfilled in the Babylonian trials...which trials seemed, to many, to complete the predictive sequence of Deuteronomy 28-29.. These books became a groundwork to show the importance of the Pentateuchal documents and to explain how Israel came to her humber state. The prophets, then, even though wildly condemnatory, fitted in nicely with the new national picture. Obviously the latter prophets speaking of the coming glory and rule of Israel's god over other gods and nations tied in closely with this picture.

Presumably these books as a body received their final form about 200 BC. One critical proof for the final nature of this date is the inclusion of Daniel in the Hagiographa. They assume it was written in the Maccabean period and, had it been written earlier, would have been in the prophetic canon. Hence it is assumed that the prophetic canon was closed by the time of the Maccabees.

On this line the critical arrangement of the prophetic literature would look like this:

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| 700-800 | Amos, Hosea, Micah, 1 Isaiah |
| 600-700 | Zephaniah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Jeremiah |
| 500-600 | Ezekiel, 2 Isaiah, Haggai, Zechariah |
| 400-500 | Malachi, 3 Isaiah, Obadiah, Joel |

after 400, Joshua, Judges, Kings, Samuel... the earlier traditional forms being completed at this time and possibly Jonah as well.

Note that few of the books are left intact by the critics and multiple authorship is alleged for almost all of them. Particular parts of any book could have been written in another age or time.