

These are defined somewhat in terms of the power bases active in these times. The pre-prophetic period is largely the time before the monarchy is firmly established, the prophetic period moves with the monarchies while the priestly period follows the collapse of the monarchies.

In this light much of the prophetic literature is seen as an expression of one party working against another. As they strive for power they produce the stuff that gives them authority with the populace.

Centrality of religious practice and regimentation of form mark the last period as the religious forces attempt to interpret the history and circumstance of the nation. Denunciation of established rule and practice is very prominent in the second. As these periods develop the picture of God develops as well.

And you should understand that this is the critical thrust and not what I am trying to teach in this course!

2. Affect on the prophetic literature:

- a. Virtually every book is suspect of multiple authorship since it is assumed that no prophet can speak of blessing and cursing in the same book, etc.
- b. Any predictive prophecy that seems to have been fulfilled must be assumed as having been written after the fact.
- c. References to miracle or divine intervention in anything beyond the normal course of life is seen as "fictional".
- d. The dates assigned prophetic literature must suit the assumed national period and the socio-economic conditions that apparently prevailed at that time.

Remember that these are semi-emotional representations of an old fundamentalist. But the ideas are sufficiently accurate to give you a feeling of where this thinking leads.