

Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

3 April 2016

Topics

A.M. Bible Class:

Warning against unbelief (Hebrews 3:7f)

A.M. Lesson:

Revive us again! (Psalm 85:6)

P.M. Lesson:

Ancient paths (Jeremiah 6:16)

Wednesday:

Singing

Pulpit Evangelist

Ken Knowlton: 428-3494

Elders

Greg Briggs: 428-8756

John Cunningham: 428-0895

Sunday Bible Class	10:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship	11:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship	6:30 P.M.
Wednesday Evening Class	6:30 P.M.
Thursday Ladies Bible Class	10:00 A.M.

*Great are the works of the Lord,
studied by all who delight in them. Psalm 111:2
Please silence your cell phones and other electronic devices.*

The Books of the Old Testament

Neil Short

The books of the Old Testament are in a particular order that follows a kind of logic that is associated with the content of the books. The books are organized by type. Knowing the type of a particular book is helpful for being able to turn to it quickly when you need to. Below, I will briefly describe the sections that are typically found in our Protestant Bibles.

Law (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy): This section covers the history of the creation to the end of the Israelite wandering period. It ends with the Israelites ready to enter into the land of Canaan. Much of this section details rules and regulations associated with the Law of Moses.

History (Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1&2 Samuel, 1&2 Kings, 1&2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther): These books cover the Israelite history from the Conquest period (Joshua) through well into the Persian period (Esther).

Poetry (Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs): As the name suggests, this section is all poetry. These books are not the only poetical books in the Bible; so we sometimes refer to them as Wisdom Literature; but that word does not quite describe the section either. It contains wisdom literature (Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes) a musical collection (Psalms) and a romance poem (Song of Songs).

Major Prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel): These books are prophets. They are called "major" because of their length. They are longer than the other Old Testament prophets—except for Lamentations. While Lamentations is short, it is traditionally ascribed to the prophet Jeremiah and so it is located right after the book of Jeremiah.

Minor Prophets (Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi): These books are generally shorter than the Major Prophets and thus the term, "Minor."

If you have not yet memorized the order of the books of the Old Testament, and it is still on your to-do list, some folks find it helpful to learn them in their respective sections. It is a strategy.

The Books of the Tanakh

Neil Short

Tanakh is just a regular word... if you speak modern Hebrew (which I don't). Tanakh is the word that modern Jews call the Bible. It is their word for the Old Testament.

The order of the Old Testament books in Protestant Bibles follows the order of the Septuagint translation of the Hebrew Scriptures. The Septuagint was the Bible used by the Apostle Paul and by most first century churches outside of Judea. Since the Septuagint was the primary Christian Bible in the first century, Christian Bibles today follow the Septuagint order of the Old Testament books.

But the Hebrew Bible, used by many first century Christians, especially in Judea, has a different order to the Old Testament books. Some modern Bibles actually honor the Hebrew order of the books. The Tanakh order is as follows:

Torah ("teachings, instruction," Genesis-Deuteronomy): These books are also called "The Five Books of Moses" or the "Pentateuch" (which is a transliteration from Latin to English... itself a transliteration from Greek to Latin [*pentā*=five *teuchoi*=books]).

Nevi'im ("Prophets," Joshua, Judges, 1&2 Samuel, 1&2 Kings, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, The Twelve [=Minor Prophets]): Notice the absence of Ruth, 1&2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Lamentations and Daniel. They appear in the next section.

Ketuvim ("Writings," Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, 1&2 Chronicles): This section contains a general variety of books ranging from historical works (Chronicles), Psalms, wisdom literature and apocalyptic prophecy (Daniel). The reason these various books are grouped together has more to do with *when* they were recognized as canonical and less to do with the kind of literature each book represents (source: Jewish Study Bible).

There is strong evidence that the Bible Jesus used was the Hebrew Bible. Knowledge of the order of the books in the Hebrew Bible gives us a clearer understanding of some passages we may not otherwise notice. For example,

Luke 24:44, NRSV

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled."

In this passage, Jesus effectively cites the entire Old Testament by identifying the law of Moses (Torah), the prophets (Nevi'im) and the psalms (the first book of the Ketuvim and so representative of the entire section).

Matthew 23:34-35

Therefore I send to you prophets, sages, and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town, so that upon you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar.

In this passage, Jesus effectively cites all of the righteous martyrs in the Old Testament, beginning with Abel, in the first book of the Bible (Genesis 4:8ff) and ending with Zechariah, in the last book of the Hebrew Bible (2 Chronicles 24:21).

News:

We will send off Keith and Linda Yoder with an Ice Cream Social, April 16, 2 P.M. at the church building.

Prayer list:

Jonda Gardner has requested prayers for her brother Randy.

Joy Gibson has requested prayers for her family. Christian Children's Home in Portales, New Mexico Dan Keele—mission work

Robin Richards—depression, back pain

Sam Appleton—declining health

John Cunningham—cancer

Norma Robinson—health

Linda Boling—health

H.L. Boling—general health and complications from leukemia

Tatyana Knowlton—macular degeneration

Nic and Ani Self—health and personal needs

Neil Short, editor. neshort@yahoo.com. <http://saffordchurchofchrist.org>

