

Josephus gives a three-fold grouping, but it is a different three-fold grouping from the one we have today. (f) Baba-Bathra, there is a section of the Talmud which is called Baba-Bathra and in it there is a Baraith. It is not a part of the original Baba-Bathra but it was put in very early. We cannot say when it was written. It is something which may be of importance and which may not be of any importance. This tract speaks of the books of the O.T. and it tells us about their order and any O.T. Intro. will quote a part of this section. Our rabbis teach that the order of the prophets is Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Isaiah the prophet. That is exactly what we have in our present Hebrew Bible. The order is somewhat different, but the books are exactly the same. Then we have 11 books, exactly the number you have in your Hebrew Bible. Eleven books in the Hagiographa. They are not the same order, but they are exactly the same books. Baba Bathra is worthy of consideration. It shows that at least as early as the 8th century perhaps as early as the 2nd century you have exactly the same books in the three divisions as we have today. It is very important for that reason. We don't know when Baba-Bathra was written but in Jerome we have the list of the grouping that we have today. Green says that Ezra made the arrangement which we have in our Bible and just assumed it; Baba-Bathra is given as evidence to prove this point. Greek rearranged all the books into their own system; they put the law together; historical books together; poetical books together--it was a logical arrangement. Jerome translated the whole Bible into Latin and Jerome in his preface to the first books which he translated, Samuel and Kings--a horned preface, a preface with sharp thorns on it to protect it--he tries to show what the Scriptural books are and tries to keep them from getting mixed up with other books; in this preface he puts down what the books are of the Bible. He even divides the Book into sections and gives the names in each section. He says that thus you have the arrangement in the Bible--5 books in the law; 8 books in the prophets, and 11 books in Hagiographa making 24 but he says that there are other people that divide the books up into 22 books instead of 24. That is because they put only 9 in the Hagiographa and the reason that some do this is that they consider Ruth to be part of Judges and they consider Lamentations to be a part of Jeremiah and thus he made out 22 books. But he like others kept them separately and thus made out 24 as the same number as the elders in Jerusalem or as mentioned in Revelation. *This is a statement of Jerome!!*