

grouping is different from the one which we have today. That being the situation it is easy for someone to say that Josephus just made up his own arrangement, and ignored the standard arrangement but no one would have a right to say that. If Josephus had made out that every Jew considers these books as inspired and is willing to die for them--it would seem rather strange if just ignored them. # 3 is the point--it is not to be ^{merely} assumed without evidence. That a fixed and an unalterable arrangement of the books of the O.T. was tenaciously maintained among the earliest writers. This should be proved first. It is so easy just to merely assume things without proof--let us look at the evidence and if you don't find proof to the contrary we could assume that it was always the same and if we don't find proof, then say that it is only probable. In this case you have a pretty good reason why not to assume it. Small a - in the earliest time the books of the O.T. were not bound together in one large book but were preserved as separate rolls, or scrolls. That is a very very important fact. It is a fact that is known to every student, or scholar in this field, liberal, conservative and yet most all ignore the fact--here is the fact and then they go on as though the fact didn't exist. When did they quit writing in scrolls and start writing in books? Papyrus was used very early and this was in the form of roll--between 200 and 400 A.D. was the transition. There was a time there when the change was being made and if you go back to the time of Christ, I think one can safely say this--that all books--Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Aramaic were in scroll form. That was the form at that time and normally were written on papyrus. It speaks of Christ taking the scroll of Isaiah and a scroll of Isaiah has since been discovered and one can see it in Baltimore--you roll it from one side to the other and you look along from one column to another in this long scroll. That was the customary arrangement and it might have the whole book of Psalms, but that is about as long as they ever would get--that is why the 12 Minor Prophets are all found in one book. Now every liberal introduction to the O.T. mentions this fact and every conservative Intro. mentions it also but they ignore the facts. How many of you ever get the order of your O.T. books mixed up? You never do because they are bound together and if bound in a book, you can't leave the order of the books as uncertain--they just stay in that order and there is no question about changing the order; but if you go home and find your Heb. Bible, Hodge's Theol., Greek Grammar, and Heb. Grammar, they are not always in the same order. As long as you have them in separate books it takes special effort to keep them in the same order. Even in a set you can get it mixed up--even when the vols. are numbered it takes a little effort to keep them in order, or take books that you stand up on a shelf, you don't