

Personally I feel that this argument from change is almost conclusive; we have a number of phenomenon which are very hard to account for in any other way--that Lam. was in the prophets and transferred to the Hag. and transferred there for liturgical purposes. Green and Ravin would agree with this--it would be very natural to have those for the feast days put together so when the feast days came you would know exactly where to look.

c. The fact that within the last two groupings the order of these they are arranged in different order and groupings and varies greatly in different MSS and different lists. Now Swete is very helpful is concerned with the Greek O.T. and the order of the books in the different types of MSS. and he shows us that there is a large group of MSS of the O.T. which we call Spanish MSS and then there is a large group which we call German and French MSS and the Span. MSS have one order and the others have another order.

27--They put Jer. ahead of Isaiah but in the Hag. the order of the Spanish MSS is Chron. Psalms, Job, Proverbs, Song of Sol., Eccl., Lam. Esther, Daniel and Neh. Now give the order of German and French MSS which is a different order. Then in the Baba-Bathra you find still another listing. Our early leaders of the church who wanted to get the correct list--we find all sorts of orders, one even putting Num. ahead of Lev. That is quite natural since it is rather difficult to know which book comes first--the other three is quite clear. These MSS of which I have been speaking were written in the Middle Ages and the earliest is the 10th Cent. A.D. for our Heb. MSS. so all the MSS were made in these countries. Spanish were cultured Jews while the German and French were not considered nearly as cultured but Ferdinand and Isabella ran all the Jews out of Spain as well as ~~sending the Jews out of Spain~~ helping discover America and thus they were scattered all over the world and have considered themselves as the elite group of Jewry and in Palestine though the great bulk of the Jews there are from France and Germany, Polish and Russian, they are trying to talk Hebrew with a Spanish pronunciation. The Massoretic text was written in Palestine and Babylonia in the early centuries and then the copies of it were taken to Spain and to France but all these copies are lost and new copies have been made from them and the copies are very very close--the words are almost the same but the order of the books are different, which would suggest that the early MSS taken were put in a different order. If the books were not kept in the same order within the prophets or within the Hag. it is certainly pretty hard to say that Ezra said that this or that order should be--that is not to say that he didn't know which were the correct books but you can ^{not} say that he had a special order which we hold to clear till today.