

## The OT: Why in this Order?

A brief review of the ordering of the Bible is useful to see, for example, Isaiah in its context: The Masoretic Text (MT) is the authoritative Hebrew text of the Jewish Bible regarded almost universally as the official version of what is known as the Tanakh. The MT was primarily copied, edited and distributed by a group of Jews known as the Masoretes between the seventh and tenth centuries CE. The MT is also widely used as the basis for translations of the Old Testament in Protestant Bibles. I encourage you to read through your Bibles in the sequence of the MT to augment your familiar and usual English sequence readings.

English Sequence	Jewish Sequence The Tanakh (The weeks assigned offer a way of teaching an OT survey).	
<p><b>Torah</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Genesis</li> <li>2. Exodus</li> <li>3. Leviticus</li> <li>4. Numbers</li> <li>5. Deuteronomy</li> </ol> <p><b>OT Narratives</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Joshua</li> <li>7. Judges</li> <li>8. Ruth</li> <li>9. 1 Samuel</li> <li>10. 2 Samuel</li> <li>11. 1 Kings</li> <li>12. 2 Kings</li> <li>13. 1 Chronicles</li> <li>14. 2 Chronicles</li> <li>15. Ezra</li> <li>16. Nehemiah</li> <li>17. Esther</li> </ol> <p><b>Wisdom Literature</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>18. Job</li> <li>19. Psalms</li> <li>20. Proverbs</li> <li>21. Ecclesiastes</li> <li>22. Song of Songs</li> </ol> <p><b>Major Prophets</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>23. Isaiah</li> <li>24. Jeremiah</li> <li>25. Lamentations</li> <li>26. Ezekiel</li> <li>27. Daniel</li> </ol> <p><b>Minor Prophets</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>28. Hosea</li> <li>29. Joel</li> <li>30. Amos</li> <li>31. Obadiah</li> <li>32. Jonah</li> <li>33. Micah</li> <li>34. Nahum</li> <li>35. Habakkuk</li> <li>36. Zephaniah</li> <li>37. Haggai</li> <li>38. Zechariah</li> <li>39. Malachi</li> </ol>	<p><b>Torah (Instruction)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Genesis <b>Week 1</b></li> <li>2. Exodus <b>Week 2</b></li> <li>3. Leviticus <b>Week 3</b></li> <li>4. Numbers</li> <li>5. Deuteronomy</li> </ol> <p><b>Nevi'im (Prophets)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Joshua <b>Week 4</b></li> <li>7. Judges</li> <li>8. Samuel (1 and 2)</li> <li>9. Kings (1 and 2)</li> <li>10. Isaiah <b>Week 5</b></li> <li>11. Jeremiah</li> <li>12. Ezekiel</li> <li>13. The Twelve</li> <li style="padding-left: 20px;">a. Hosea</li> <li style="padding-left: 20px;">b. Joel</li> <li style="padding-left: 20px;">c. Amos</li> <li style="padding-left: 20px;">d. Obadiah</li> <li style="padding-left: 20px;">e. Jonah</li> <li style="padding-left: 20px;">f. Micah</li> <li style="padding-left: 20px;">g. Nahum</li> <li style="padding-left: 20px;">h. Habakkuk</li> <li style="padding-left: 20px;">i. Zephaniah</li> <li style="padding-left: 20px;">j. Haggai</li> <li style="padding-left: 20px;">k. Zechariah</li> <li style="padding-left: 20px;">l. Malachi</li> </ol> <p><b>Ketuvim (Writings)</b> <b>Week 6</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>14. Psalms</li> <li>15. Job</li> <li>16. Proverbs</li> </ol> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>17. Ruth <b>Week 7</b></li> <li>18. Song of Songs</li> <li>19. Ecclesiastes</li> <li>20. Lamentations</li> <li>21. Esther</li> </ol> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>22. Daniel <b>Week 8</b></li> <li>23. Ezra-Nehemiah</li> <li>24. Chronicles (1 and 2)</li> </ol>	<p>The Pentateuch: 5-Scroll-cases</p> <p>“Rise of a Nation from Creation”</p> <p>“Rise of a Monarchy”</p> <p>“The Poetic Books”</p> <p>The Megillot: 5-Scrolls Read during Jewish festivals; Song of Songs is read over Passover.</p> <p>No formal grouping in the Jewish tradition, but all describe later events in OT history.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>A Gentile Christian Perspective: The Coming Messiah</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>A Jewish Perspective: Israel Restored</b></p>	

All Old Testament canons (lists or set of Biblical books) are related to the Jewish Bible Canon (Tanakh), but with variations. The most important of these variations is a change to the order of the books: the Hebrew Bible ends

with the Book of Chronicles, which describes Israel restored to the Promised Land and the Temple restored in Jerusalem. In the Hebrew Bible God's purpose is thus fulfilled and the divine history is at an end. In the Christian Old Testament, the Book of Malachi is placed last so that a prophecy of the coming of the Messiah leads into the birth of the Christ in the Gospel of Matthew.

The early Christian Church used the Septuagint (or LXX), the oldest Greek version of the Hebrew Bible, as its religious text until at least the mid-fourth century. Koine Greek was the type of Greek used which was the Lingua Franca of the day (a language used to communicate between persons not sharing the same mother tongue). To this day, the Eastern Orthodox church uses the Septuagint. According to tradition 70 scholars were brought together to translate the Hebrew into Greek. The LXX also forms the basis for many early ethnic versions of the OT.