

Daniel and the remaining histories,—Ruth, Esther, Ezra, Nehemiah and Chronicles.

This group is also sometimes called the Psalms (Luke 24 : 44.) because the book of Psalms was usually placed first in the group.

Within the two latter groups,—the Prophets and the Scriptures, the order in which the several books were placed sometimes varied, but the double book of Chronicles was generally put last. Hence the saying of Christ (Matt. 23 : 35) about all "the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of Abel to that of Zechariah, slain between the temple and the altar," as mentioned in 2 Chron. 24 : 21, included the whole Old Testament from beginning to end.

Modern Classification

For our purpose in studying the Old Testament a more useful classification, and one following our own familiar order, will be a division according to subject :

(1) The Pentateuch (the fivefold book) or Law, including Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.

These five books bear especially on the period of the deliverance of Israel from Egypt and on the organization of the people as a nation. The book of Joshua is sometimes associated with them as relating closely to the same period. The sixfold book is then called the Hexateuch.

(2) The Historical books, from Joshua to Esther inclusive, as they stand in the English Bible.

These books give us our chief information regarding the history of the Jews from the time of the occupation of the land of Caanan, to the time of Ezra, after the restoration from the Babylonian captivity—a period of about 1000 years. Some portions are given with a good deal of detail, such