

Comments on incorrect dating of Old Testament documents

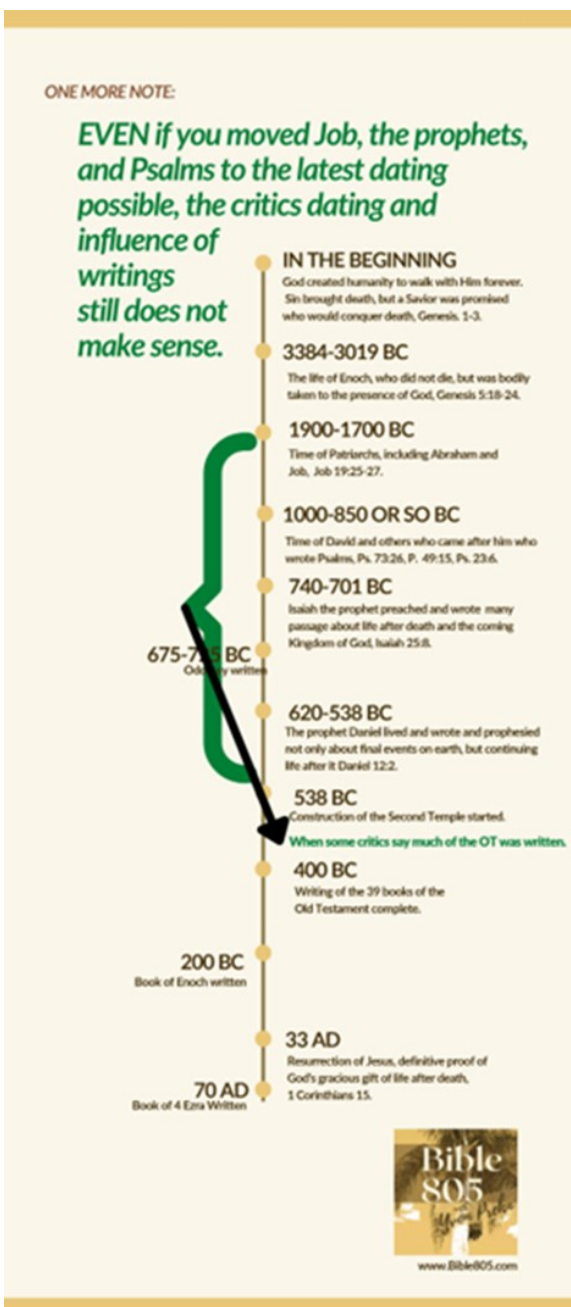
Though this chart was originally created to refute incorrect dating of the Old Testament views of Life After Death in a lesson on Job (see Bible805.com for it), it is useful in our discussion of how we got the Old Testament.

Some writers, scholars, etc., because, I believe of an anti-supernaturalist presupposition assert the majority of Old Testament writings and particularly those of the prophets were written in “the Second Temple Period,” which if they were, would mean all prophecy was written AFTER the events took place.

Though that may sound rational and scholarly on first reading, it contradicts the time stamps of the books themselves that state when they were written, Jewish tradition, and other reputable scholarship that dates them prior to their prophecies being fulfilled.

In addition, when a casual reader comes across this once or twice, it seems plausible—but taken in aggregate, that would mean the majority of the Old Testament was written after 538 BC by unnamed, unverified writers, all around the same time in the same place though there is NO history, verifications, identification of any of them.

A far more rational and logical conclusion is that the Old Testament prophecy was written when and by whom the Old Testament and credible scholarship states that it was.



Commentary on.....

The chart that illustrates the incorrect placement of Biblical books

If you moved ALL the writings that testify to a continuous belief in life after death in the Old Testament into this period, and it is quite unlikely that happened, they are still all written BEFORE the supposed influences.

IMPORTANCE BEYOND THIS ISSUE:
This later dating view is primarily promoted by those with an anti-supernatural bias, meaning they don't believe in real prophecy, so they say all prophecy was written after the fact. The time many choose to say they were written is following the return from the Babylonian exile. It is also referred to as "the Second Temple Period" as that was the time the temple was reconstructed after Solomon's temple was destroyed.

But their theories simply don't make sense on close examination. For them to be true, it would mean that all the writers of the OT really didn't live and write when Jewish and Christian history, documentary proof, and archeological evidence (verified for thousands of years) says they did and that all the writers bunched up at the same time, used fake names, and wrote false prophecies. Goofy when you think about it.

I think this could only happen in modern times when many do not read all the Old Testament or study it in historical order. So, if you read this or that book was written hundreds of years later than biblical scholars say it was or that your Bible commentary says it was, you may not think much of it. However, because that claim invalidates true prophecy and turns God's words into human commentary, it may cause you to doubt all Old Testament truth. But when the claims are grouped together, it shows how nonsensical they are.

It may be difficult to believe that a God outside of time could communicate not only future events to his prophets and also consistently assure them of core eternal truths such as life after death but I think it is much more difficult to believe in some totally unproven group of writers influenced by those who lived after them (still a dating problem) to concoct after-the-fact prophecy and promises of eternal life from a god they know to be a lie.

How much easier on the mind and heart to slightly alter the challenge of Jesus (from Matt. 22:29) and to simply "read the scriptures and believe in the power of God."

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