

The Structure of Scripture (Part II)

The Bible is a Book (“Thus says the LORD”)

The Bible is one book and many books—one divine author, using many human authors (2 Peter 1:21/ Ps 45:1; 68:12). The Bible is a coherent, legal document that testifies one message, about one person:

KINGDOM —> COVENANT —> CHRIST

The Structure of the Old Testament

The Old Testament as a whole is often called “the Law and the Prophets,” referring to both the covenant (Law) and all prophetic writings based on that law (i.e., the rest of the OT: cf. Acts 13:15; 24:14; 28:23).

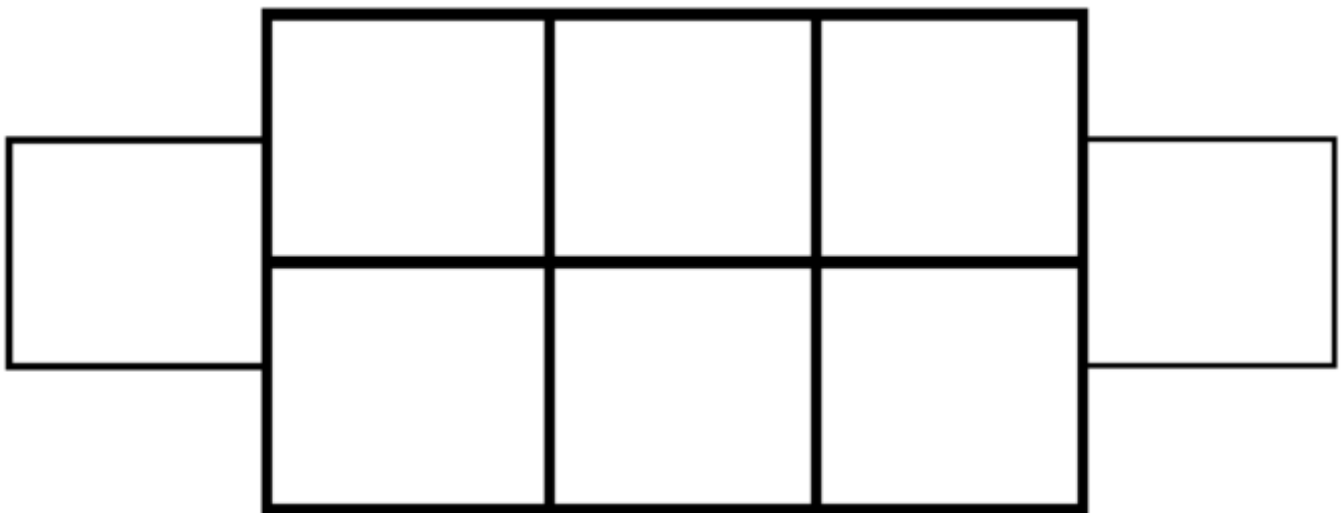
To be more specific, the term used to refer to all three sections of the OT distinctly was the *Tanakh*.

T.N.K. = Law/Prophets/Writings: *Torah* (Law) *Nevi'im* (Prophets) *Kethuvim* (Writings)

Studying the Structure of Jesus’ Bible

(Q.) What does Luke 24:44 teach us about the structure of scripture? (a.) *Message* (b.) *Structure*

(Q.) What would your reaction be if a new translation relocated the book of Genesis? Or Revelation?



I. _____

C. _____

C. _____ C. _____
C. _____ H. _____ L. _____

I. The Function of the Law/Prophets/Writings

- A. The Old Covenant (“Old Testament”) is *Legal, Historical, and Prophetic/Instructional*:
Each section of the canon corresponds well with Paul’s description of scripture (2 Tim 3:16):

Doctrine	Reproof/Correction	Instruction
LAW	PROPHETS	WRITINGS
The Terms of the Covenant: (a.) For Covenant Blessing (b.) For Covenant Curse Covenant Loyalty is 100% Blessed Covenant Disloyalty 100% Cursed	Former: Covenant Witnesses (<i>Collecting Legal Evidence</i>) Latter: Covenant Lawyers (<i>Publishing Covenant Lawsuit</i>) YHWH has been 100% Faithful Israel has been 100% Unfaithful	Former Writings: Covenant Life in the Land Latter Writings: Covenant Life in Exile Showing us 100% Faithful Living Warning vs. 100% Disloyal Living

II. The Message of the Law/Prophets/Writings

- A. The Gospel from the Law
We have broken all ten laws; Christ kept all ten laws; Christ was cursed for all ten,
So that we could be saved from all ten, in order for us to keep . . . all ten! (Gal 3:10-13)
- B. The Gospel from the Prophets
God has been 100% faithful to the covenant; God’s people have been 100% unfaithful:
God is 100% faithful to the covenant to curse our every sin—but there is hope:
God is 100% faithful to the covenant to forgive our sin if we repent and believe. (Isa 1:18-20)

- C. The Gospel from the Writings
God shows us what the 100% righteous path and 100% righteous person look like to inherit
the ultimate blessing: the Presence of God for the Promised People in the Promised Place.

Since we have been sinful in covenant, we deserve to be exiled from the Presence of God.
Since God is merciful in covenant, he offers to restore us to the Presence of God. (Lam 3:21)

III. The Super-Structure of the Law/Prophets/Writings

- A. How did the Biblical writers structure the original text? With chiasms:
Gen 1-2-3: A. Creation B. Institution of Marriage C. Serpent’s Victory
Rev 22-21-20: A. New Creation B. Restoration of Marriage C. Serpent’s Defeat

Gen 3: Losing God’s Presence Rev 20: Securing God’s Presence
Gen 2: The Promised People Rev 21: The Promised People
Gen 1: The Promised Place Rev 22: The Promised Place