

## 6–9.1 Primary Translations

### 6–9.1.1 Septuagint

The Former Prophets (the historical books Joshua to 2 Kings) and the Latter Prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and the twelve Minor Prophets) form together the second subdivision of the Hebrew canon, after the Torah and before the Writings (Ketuvim). The contents and names of the second and third divisions are somewhat problematic (→ 3–5.1.1).

The organizing principle of Jewish Greek Scripture (not necessarily Alexandrian) differs from that of the Hebrew canon (→ 1.1.2.1). It may be considered an improvement of the Hebrew arrangement, which could be achieved because the former was organized at a later stage than the Hebrew canon and could therefore be rearranged solely by literary genre and not by a mixture of criteria as in the Hebrew canon. The details of this new arrangement are presented in the overview article of LXX (→ 1.3.1.1.4). The Christian canon (→ 1.1.2.2) follows that of LXX.

In several ways, the arrangement of the Latter Prophets in the Hebrew canon differs from that of their counterpart in Greek, but in both corpora the individual books appear next to each other. The two canons differ in the following ways (→ 1.3.1.1.4):

1. In several manuscripts of LXX: the Prophets appear in the last position, immediately preceding the New Testament.
2. Sequence of the Major and Minor Prophets.
3. Internal sequence of the Minor Prophets.

The books of the Latter Prophets have much in common in the Hebrew canon, and in a different way also in the Greek canon. It has been suggested by Tov,<sup>1</sup> that the bulk of the prophetic books were rendered by a single translator (Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and the Minor Prophets).<sup>2</sup> The style and

vocabulary of this translator differed completely from that of the translator of Isaiah.

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### 6–9.1.2 Pre-Hexaplaric Greek Translations

See → 6–9.1.5 Hexaplaric Greek Translations (Latter Prophets > Primary Translations).

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### 6–9.1.3 Targum

#### 6–9.1.3 Targum Latter Prophets

The standard Aramaic translation of the biblical books of the Latter Prophets is part of a single broader collection known as Targum Jonathan of the Prophets, which also contains Targum Former Prophets (→ 3–5.1.3). Targum Latter Prophets is subdivided into three Major Prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel) and twelve Minor Prophets (Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi).

#### 6–9.1.3.1 Nature, Date, and Milieu

Targum Jonathan has an obscure prehistory, which makes the reconstruction of the date and character of the subdivision Targum Latter Prophets complex (→ 1.3.3.1.1; → 1.3.3.4.4; → 3–5.1.3.1).<sup>1</sup> The consistent and standard use of Jewish Literary Aramaic that characterizes this Targum is inadequate for dating it because the dialect<sup>2</sup> endured in writing be-

sions of Jeremiah and Ezekiel were revised by unknown revisers, and when the archetype of LXX of these books was composed of a combination of unrevised and revised segments. For details, see Tov, \**Jeremiah–Baruch*.

<sup>1</sup> For a general survey on the Targum to the Latter Prophets in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, consult Gordon, *Studies in the Targum to the Twelve Prophets*, 5–19. See also Levey, “The Date of Targum Jonathan to the Prophets.”

<sup>2</sup> See Goshen-Gottstein, “The Language of Targum Onqelos and the Model of Literary Diglossia in Aramaic”; Kutscher, *Studies in Galilean Aramaic*; Kutscher, “Das zur Zeit Jesu gesprochene Aramäische”; Tal, *The Language of the Targum*

<sup>1</sup> Tov, \**Jeremiah–Baruch*, 135–55.

<sup>2</sup> This unity was later disturbed when the Old Greek ver-