

Appendix B

PLACE IN THE CANON

In the Hebrew Bible, there are three primary divisions of the various biblical books: the Torah, the Prophets, and the Writings. The Book of Daniel, however, is not classified under the prophets (נביאים) but under the Writings (כתובים).¹ Harrison explains:

. . . the book was placed in this part of the Hebrew canon because Daniel is not called a *nābî*' ("prophet"), but rather a *ḥōzeh* ("seer") and a *ḥākām* ("wise man"). None but the works of the *nēbî'im* were put in the second part of the Jewish canon, the third being reserved for the heterogeneous works of seers, wise men, and priests . . .²

Daniel was not a prophet in the sense of other Old Testament prophets, as Harrison points out:

In ancient Israel the prophet was primarily a mediator between God and the nation, speaking to the people of behalf of God. He was in effect a spokesman for the Lord.³

Pentecost adds, "God did not deliver a message through Daniel publicly to the nation Israel."⁴ Daniel was primarily a statesman at a heathen court. The New Testament, however, does call Daniel a prophet (Mt 24:15). The Qumran material also regards Daniel as a prophet:

In 4Q174, col. ii, line 3, however, we find this expression: . . . 'š]r ktwb bspr dny'l hnby', ". . . a]s it is written in the Book of Daniel the prophet." These words are then followed by quotations of Dan 12:10 and 11:32. This Qumran text is to be dated ca. 30-1 B.C. It seems, from this evidence, that the Essenes of the Qumran community considered Daniel as one of the prophets . . .⁵

Josephus (*Antiquities* x 11, 7 [vol. 6, pp. 304-307, in the LCL edition]) refers to Daniel as a prophet and calls his writings prophecies.

¹ In the various Greek manuscripts (e.g., Codex 88), the Book of Daniel is generally grouped with the prophets.

² R. K. Harrison, "Daniel, Book of," in *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*, 1:860.

³ Ibid.

⁴ J. Dwight Pentecost, "Daniel," *Bible Knowledge Commentary, Old Testament*, 1323.

⁵ Alexander A. Di Lella, *The Book of Daniel*, The Anchor Bible, 25-26.