

## TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Before beginning this set of charts, there are some terms and definitions that must be looked at in order to understand how the differences between the kings of Israel and kings of Judah harmonize:

- Regnal year: The year of the reign of a sovereign
- Hebrew word for 1st month-Abib (April 1) Aramaic word for 1st month is Nisan
- Hebrew word for 7th month-Tishri (Oct 1)
- The kings of Judah used the Nisan to Nisan regnal system (pages 116-129 of 'The Chronology of the Old Testament' by Dr. Floyd Nolen Jones).
- Accession year: Under the accession year method, if a king died in the middle of the year, the period to the end of that year would be called the accession year of the new king, whose year 1 would begin at the new year. That accession year would be counted for the previous king's total number of years. Judaic kings customarily used this method.
- Non-accession year: Under the non-accession year method the period to the end of the year would be year 1 and year 2 would begin at the start of the new year. The Israelite kings used this method ending up with the previous king claiming his last year and the following king claiming that same year as his first.
- The reigns of the kings of Israel from Jeroboam to 6th yr of Hoshea= 241 yrs, 7 mos and 7 days
- The reigns of the kings of Judah from Rehoboam to 6th yr of Hezekiah=261 yr.
- This 20 yr difference for the same time period must be resolved, but which is right? Israel or Judah?
- Working backward from (kings of Judah) Zedekiah and the fall of Jerusalem (586 BC) to the sixth yr of Hezekiah (Hoshea's 9th-721 BC) gives us 135 years. The numbers for the kings of Judah fill in the time perfectly. Judah is the lineage to base our chronology on. Page 3 and 4 of this introduction have it laid out to see the chronology.
- Judah was the more faithful kingdom. There were some good and some bad kings, but basically of the lineage of David.

Gen 49:10 The scepter shall not depart from Judah...until Shiloh come. The kings are a direct lineage to the Messiah-King Jesus

### Definitions:

Interregnum: A period of time when no king is occupying the throne. The normal government is suspended between successive reigns or regimes. Examples: a) 1 Kgs 22:47 there was no king in Edom, a deputy was king, b) Babylonian records show interregnums of 2 yrs in 703-704 BC and 8 yrs in 688-681 BC, c) in England, Oliver Cromwell governed as 'protectorate from 1653-1658 AD, with the monarchy coming to a

temporary halt.

Pro-rex (Pro-regent): Position does not possess the broader authority and powers of a co-regent.

The years of a pro-rex are not included with the years served as sole rex.

Example: Jehoshaphat's son Jehoram was placed in some royal capacity during the 17th year of Jehoshaphat, yet this undisclosed term is not added to his total number of years (2 Kgs 1:17, 1 Kgs 22:51). Read about Jehoshaphat and his battles and ship building in the scriptures listed with Jehoshaphat to understand why someone needed to be there with some authority but not sole sovereignty.

Co-rex (Co-regent): Has broader authority than pro-rex, and the years served as co-rex are reckoned in the total number of years served as sole rex. Example:

Jehoshaphat's son Jehoram is credited with an 8 year tenure even though about half of it was served as a co-regent with his father and only about 4 years as a sole rex (2 Kgs 8:16-17). This is the only co-regency in the Judaic kingdom.

Sole rex: The sole authority.

## Which Lineage Do We Follow- Judah or Israel?

The problem with working out the chronology for the period following Solomon's death (975 BC) when the kingdom was divided until the destruction of Jerusalem (586 BC) is readily apparent when we compare the reigns of the kings of Israel and Judah beginning at the reign of Jeroboam to the collapse of the Northern Kingdom in the ninth year of Hoshea, and from the reigns of Rehoboam to the sixth year of Hezekiah which was the ninth year of Hoshea 2 Kings 18:10:

<u>Israel</u>	<u>Judah</u>
1. Jeroboam 22 years	1. Rehoboam 17 years
2. Nadab 2 years	2. Abijah 3 years
3. Baasha 24 years	3. Asa 41 years
4. Elah 2 years	4. Jehoshaphat 25 years
5. Zimri 7 days	5. Jehoram 8 years
6. Omri 12 years	6. Ahaziah 1 year
7. Ahab 22 years	7. Athaliah 7 years
8. Ahaziah 2 years	8. Joash 40 years
9. Joram 12 years	9. Amaziah 29 years
10. Jehu 28 years	10. Uzziah 52 years
11. Jehoahaz 17 years	11. Jotham 16 years
12. Jehoash 16 years	12. Ahaz 16 years
13. Jeroboam II 41 years	<u>13. Hezekiah 6 years (of his 29 total)</u>
14. Zachariah 6 mos.(or 12 yrs?)	Total 261 yrs
15. Shallum 1 mo.	
16. Menahem 10 years	
17. Pekahiah 2 years	
18. Pekah 20 years	
<u>19. Hoshea 9 years</u>	
Total 241 yrs 7 mos and 7 days	

- The difference for the same time period is nearly 20 years.

There are only two possible solutions to this paradox:

1. The chronologist accepts Israel's 241 plus years as correct and adjusts off the nearly 20 years of Judah by assuming periods of co-regencies whether the scriptures actually say this or not.
2. The chronologist accepts the 261 years as the length of this span of time as the standard. He then "hangs" Israel from this standard, the 241 years being "stretched" by the insertion or addition of a period of years for one or more interregna. (The only scriptural co-regency in Judah is that of Jehoshaphat and his son Jehoram (2 Kings 8:16).

The solution to the problem is not by solving it by beginning at the death of Solomon (975 BC) and working from that point in time towards the collapse of the Kingdom of Israel via the Assyrian capture and dispersion.

The solution is approached by starting at the opposite end and working backward. Going to the fall of the Kingdom of Judah (586 BC) and work backward to the sixth year of Hezekiah (Hoshea's ninth), which is the year of the fall of the Kingdom of Israel. Now the problem becomes clear and direct as there is only one kingdom and the data relevant to that kingdom to consider.

First, we sum up the years of reign of these final kings of the Judaic monarchy.

1. Zedekiah	11 yrs
2. Jehoiachin	3 mos. 10 days
3. Jehoiakim	11 yrs
4. Jehoahaz	3 mos.
5. Josiah	31 yrs
6. Amon	2 yrs
7. Manasseh	55 yrs
8. <u>Hezekiah</u>	<u>24 yrs</u> (29-6=24 yrs. inclusive of his 6th year)
total	134 yrs. 6 mos. and 10 days.

- The time from the fall of the Northern Kingdom (721 BC) to the fall of Jerusalem (586 BC) equals the 135 year time period (721-586=135).
- The Kingdom of Judah is the standard data that should be used to chronologically order the monarchs.