

Understanding the Scriptures by the Scriptures

1. The length of the kingdoms

- From 975 BC-the beginning of the reign of Jeroboam 1 to the end of the reign of Hoshea-721 BC equals 255 yrs for the kingdom of Israel.
- From 975 BC-the beginning of the reign of Rehoboam to the end of the reign of Zedekiah-586 equals 390 yrs for the kingdom of Judah.
- Ezek 4:4-5 has Ezekiel laying on his side for 390 days for the iniquity of the house of Israel, a day for each yr. So we see that it equals the length of time that the kingdom of Judah existed
- In 975 BC, Jeroboam 1 made the golden calves, causing Israel to sin. From that time until the destruction of Jerusalem (586 BC), is 390 yrs. As you read of the various kings of the northern kingdom, you will see that they continued in sin with all of their kings being evil. The kingdom of Judah had a mixture of good and bad kings, but even with the good kings you will see that not all of the evil practices were totally eliminated.

2. Examples of the accession method and the non-accession method.

- Nadab claimed the last yr of Jeroboam as his first yr.
- Baasha also claimed the last yr of Nadab as his first yr. This shows the non-accession method used by the northern kings.
- In the kingdom of Judah, you see Asa having an accession yr in the last yr of Abijah.
- You will not find the words accession and non-accession in the scriptures, but it is a recognized principle among scholars. The scriptures themselves and the graph will help you to understand which kings used which method. The scriptures do not lie, so let us see how all of this plays out on the graph before you.

3. Did Baasha come out against Judah in the 36th yr of Asa's reign?

- 2 Chron 16:1 This is when Baasha started building Ramah to stop people from leaving his kingdom to go to Judah, which was the 36th yr of the reign of Asa.
- 1 Kgs 15:33 says that Baasha slew Nadab and began to reign in the third yr of Asa and reigned 24 yrs.
- If Baasha started to rule in the 3rd yr of Asa and died in the 27th yr of Asa, how could he build Ramah in the 36th yr, 10 yrs after he died?
- This seems like a pretty big scribal error if you ask me! (it is not!!!)
- The word 'reign' of Asa in 2 Chron 16:1 is translated elsewhere as "realm", "dynasty", or "kingdom".
- This is speaking about the years of the kingdom of Judah and not the yrs that Asa has reigned.
- 2 Chron 14:8-15:19 shows how Asa defeated Zerah the Ethiopian in the 15th yr of his reign. Many people came to Asa from the northern kingdom because they saw that God was with him.
- Baasha would have lost little time in trying to stop the flow of his people to Judah. Remember what Jeroboam did to stop people from going to Judah, he set up the two golden calves. A king without subjects is not a king at all.
- So Baasha built Ramah in the 36th yr of the kingdom of Judah, which was the 16th yr of Asa.
- This answers two dilemmas, first, how could Baasha build Ramah 10 yrs after he died, and secondly, why would Baasha wait 21 yrs to stop the flow of people going to Judah?

4. Tibni and Omri (Israel)

- Omri slays Zimri but only half of the people follow him, the rest follow Tibni.
- Scripture shows that he reigned for 6 yrs in Tirzah but a total of 12 yrs. It seems like both Tibni and Omri reigned 6 yrs until Tibni died or was killed.

5. Ahaziah (Israel)

- Began to reign in the 17th yr of Jehoshaphat. This would have been the 21st yr of Ahab, who reigned for 22 yrs.
- This is the first example of a co-rex. Ahab went to war with Jehoshaphat against Ramoth-gilead, and put his son in charge as a co-ruler with him. Ahab was then killed in battle.
- Ahaziah fell through the lattice and ended up dying.

6. Jehoram (Judah) and Joram (Jehoram of Israel)

- 1 Kgs 3:1 says that Jehoram (Israel) began to reign in the 18 yr of Jehoshaphat
- 1 Kgs 1:17 says that Jehoram the son of Ahab began to reign in the second yr of Jehoram son of Jehoshaphat. Looking at the graph, this places it at the 18th yr of Jehoshaphat, who ruled for 25 yrs.
- 2 Kgs 8:16 says that Jehoram (Judah) began to reign in the 5th yr of Jehoram (Israel). That would still be the 22 yr of Jehoshaphat.
- Jehoram (Judah) reigned for 8 yrs.
- How can all these statements be true?
- As you look at the graph, you will see that both Ahab and Jehoshaphat had someone taking care of business while they were away at war at Ramoth-gilead. Ahab's son was a co-rex for 2 yrs until he fell through the lattice and died from it and then Jehoram took over Israel.
- Jehoram of Judah is the only king of Judah that was a co-rex. In fact he was a pro-rex, co-rex, and sole rex. Jehoshaphat also went into the ship building business with Ahaziah and also went to war against Moab with Jehoram (Israel).
- How do we explain this?
- Jehoshaphat gave Jehoram his son some authority when he went to war against Ramoth-gilead with Ahab (making him pro-rex), then when he went to war with Jehoram of Israel against Moab, and he must have made him a co-rex until his death when Jehoram became sole rex of Judah. Remember that the years of a pro-rex are not counted.
- In the last 2 yrs of Jehoram's (Judah) life, he was stricken with a disease of the bowels and died.

7. Ahaziah (Judah)

- With his father being afflicted with a bowel disease that he eventually dies from, Ahaziah is pro-rex for one yr and sole rex for one yr
- 2 Kings 9:29 And in the eleventh year of Joram the son of Ahab began Ahaziah to reign over Judah.
- 2 Kings 8:25 In the twelfth year of Joram the son of Ahab king of Israel did Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah begin to reign.
- Only the years of co-rex or sole rex are credited.
- This next point sure looks like a 'scribal error'.
- 2 Kings 8:26 Two and twenty years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign; and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Athaliah, the daughter of Omri king of Israel.

- 2 Chron 22:1-3 And the inhabitants of Jerusalem made Ahaziah his youngest son king in his stead: for the band of men that came with the Arabians to the camp had slain all the eldest. So Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah reigned. 2 Forty and two years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Athaliah the daughter of Omri.³ He also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab: for his mother was his counsellor to do wickedly.
- 2 Kgs 8:16-17 shows that Jehoram, Ahaziah's father was only 40 yrs old when he died, how could his son be 2 yrs older than his father?
- In 2 Chron 22:2, the word *was* is in italics, added by the translators to make a smoother transition. The literal translation thus reads "a son of 42 yrs", similar to 1 Sam 13:1 where that passage translates "a son of one year" in his reigning.
- Chronicles was written about 500 yrs after Kgs. Furthermore, as in the case of Baasha, Chronicles recorded an incident and referenced it to the beginning of Asa's dynasty rather than to his actual years of reign. Ahaziah's mother is Athaliah, daughter of Ahab and granddaughter to Omri; hence he is in the direct lineage of both the dynasties of Israel and Judah and moreover is said to be of "the house of Ahab" (2 Chron 22:3-4).
- Checking the graph, we see that the Chronicler established a precedent with reference to Asa's dynasty, and so now we have a verse that calls attention to Omri and it may be readily seen that it is exactly the 42nd yr of the dynasty in Israel which he founded in 929 BC when he slew Zimri.
- So we see that Ahaziah was 22 yrs old when he began to reign during the 42nd yr of the dynasty of Omri, of which he is also an integral part.
- Also on the chart you will see that Ahaziah's year was a non-accession year.
- When Ahaziah was killed by Jehu, Athaliah took over and claimed that same yr as her first year.

8. Jehu (Israel)

- God gave a word to Elijah who then gave it to Elisha who talked to Hazael and sent one of the children of the prophets to anoint Jehu at Ramoth-gilead.
- Jehu killed Jehoram (Israel) and Ahaziah (Judah) and Jezebel. He also killed the brethren of Ahaziah who were coming to Israel to greet the families of the king and queen.

9. Athaliah (Judah)

- She claimed the yr that Ahaziah reigned as her first year as well.
- She was the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel and the granddaughter of Omri
- She destroyed all the royal seed. She would have killed her own grandson Joash if Ahaziah's sister Jehosheba wouldn't have hidden him.

10. Joash (Judah)

- In the seventh yr of Jehu, he began to reign for 40 yrs

11. Jehoahaz (Israel)

- He began to reign in the 23 yr of Joash (Judah) and reigned 17 yrs
- Syria oppressed Israel all his days
- Was the battle raging during the last 3 yrs of his reign? Was that why his son Jehoash was pro-rex for 3 yrs?

12. Jehoash (Joash) of Israel

- Began to reign in the 37th yr of Joash (Judah) and reigned 16 yrs.

13. Amaziah (Judah)

- He began to reign in the 2nd yr of Jehoash (Israel) and reigned 29 yrs.
- He fought against Jehoash (Israel) and lost. Jehoash broke down part of the wall of Jerusalem, took all the gold and silver, all the vessels that were in the house of the Lord, treasures in the king's house and hostages before returning to Samaria
- Amaziah lived 15 yrs after the death of Jehoash (Israel).

14. Jeroboam II (Israel)

- He began to reign in the 15th yr of Amaziah and reigned 41 yrs
- Amos prophesied to Amaziah the priest at that time that his wife would be a harlot in the city and that his sons and daughters would fall by the sword and the land divided by line, also that Amaziah would die in a polluted land
- Could this be a part of history that explains what we see with Jeroboam's son Zachariah?

15. Zachariah (Israel)

- In the 38th yr of Uzziah, Zachariah reigned over Israel in Samaria 6 months
- Either there was an interregnum at the death of Jeroboam II until the 38th yr of Uzziah when Zachariah reigned for only 6 months, or could what Amos prophesied have happened at that time and they became subservient to another nation and Zachariah was only a puppet ruler until the 38th yr of Uzziah? There is no scripture that mentions the total length of time that Zachariah reigned.

16. Uzziah (Azariah) (Judah)

**** Here is another area of scripture that needs clarification. A contradiction seems to be involved with the synchronization of the reigns of Amaziah and Uzziah of Judah compared to Jeroboam (II) of Israel. This perception arises as a result of Amaziah's being credited with a 29 yr rule (2 Kings 14:1-2) followed by the statement that Jeroboam (II) began his 41 yr reign in Amaziah's 15th (2 Kings 14:23). So far it precisely fits with the 16th and final yr of Jehoash, Jeroboam's father and predecessor.

The scriptures show that Amaziah of Judah lived 15 yrs after the death of Jehoash, son of Jehoahaz of Israel (2 Kings 14:17).

The problem arises with 2 Kings 15:1-2 where it states that Uzziah (Azariah) began to reign in the Southern kingdom at age 16 in the 27th yr of Jeroboam (II) and continued in that post for 52 yrs. The problem lies in that the 27th yr of Jeroboam would be the 12th yr of Uzziah, which causes the modern scholars problems. Once again, if you are a biblicist, believing that God preserved his word for us, you will believe that there is an answer in the scriptures instead of leaving it to man to determine which scriptures are to be accepted and which ones should be rejected.

Although we do not know the true historic details with the circumstances, several viable answers are available which do not violate any of the known facts and at the same time allow one to honor the testimony of all the scriptures. It is significant to note that whichever of the three solutions offered is correct or accepted as so, the relative chronological positions and dates of all the kings involved do not change. As resolving the problem does not rely upon any of the admittedly somewhat subjective judgments, the chronology is independent of the solution and stands correct.

The three possible solutions:

1.) The first and very probably the correct answer is that which has been offered many times in the past, yet without just cause steadfastly rejected by liberal and secular scholarship alike. Namely, that upon Jehoash's going to face the Syrians in a war in which he overthrew Ben-hadad (III) in three pitched battles and recovered out of his hands the cities which his father (Jehoahaz) had lost to Hazael (Ben-had's father), he placed Jeroboam (II) as pro-rex over the government.

2.) When young Uzziah ascended the throne, he inherited a kingdom in dire circumstances from his father, Amaziah, who had been soundly defeated by Jehoash of Israel, captured, and brought back in shame by that northern monarch. Jehoash also made a breach in the wall of Jerusalem, plundered all the treasure in the temple and Amaziah's house, and returned to Samaria with hostages thereby reducing Judah to vassalage, or at least nearly so, under the kingdom of Israel.

Thus the 2 Kings 15:1 passage could be understood to mean that in Jeroboam's 27th yr an older maturing Uzziah finally succeeded in strengthening himself and his kingdom to the point in which he was able to break out from under the heavy hand of the Northern Kingdom and to govern as indisputable sovereign.

3.) A third possible solution is that 2 Kings 15:1-2, which mentions Uzziah's age as being 16 yrs at his enthronement, is also giving forth Jeroboam's age at that occasion so that the year of his birth may likewise be ascertained.

* It is unworthy of chronologists and scholars to resolve chronological problems by casting aside any verse containing data causing difficulty.

- Uzziah's cunning men made machines that shot arrows and great stones-catapults.
- Uzziah became a leper after entering the temple to offer incense on the altar of incense.

17. Jotham (Judah)

2 Kgs 15:5 says that when Uzziah became a leper and lived in a separate house that Jotham his son was over the king's house, judging the people of the land.

- Jotham became pro-rex until his father Uzziah died
- Jotham reigned 16 yrs

2 Kgs 15:32 says that Jotham began to reign in the second yr of Pekah

- Another 'discrepancy' in the scriptures is found in 1 Kgs 15:30 where it says that Hoshea slew Pekah and reigned in his stead in the 20th yr of Jotham. Jotham only reigned 16 yrs so how could that be?
- This is answered as we look at the time period of Ahaz and Hoshea

18. Shallum Israel)

- Shallum began to reign in the 39th yr of Uzziah and reigned for 1 month after slaying Zachariah

19. Menahem (Israel)

Menahem slew Shallum in the 39th yr of Uzziah and reigned 10 yrs

20. Pekahiah (Israel)

- In the 50th yr of Uzziah, Pekahiah began to reign for 2 yrs

21. Pekah (Israel)

- Pekah slew Pekahiah

- In the 52 yr of Uzziah, Pekah began to reign for 20 yrs

22. Ahaz (Judah)

- Ahaz began to reign in the 17th yr of Pekah and reigned for 16 yrs
- Ahaz did evil like the kings of Israel
- Ahaz was put to the worst by Pekah and Rezin king of Syria
- The Philistines and Edomites also rebelled at this time so Ahaz sent to the king of Assyria for assistance.
- Tilgath-pileser, king of Assyria took over about 75% of the northern kingdom
- Ahaz's accomplishments were chronicled in both Israel and Judah
- Ahaz is also called the king of Israel
- There was an interruption in the kings of Israel at this time. In the notes that I gave you about the kings of Israel and the kings of Judah you will find the scriptures that bring about a possible scenario that is scriptural when you look at both Ahaz and Hoshea.

23. Ahaz (Judah) and Hoshea (Israel) time period

- Scripture shows that Hoshea slew Pekah and reigned in his stead in the 20th yr of Jotham. This date would be the fourth yr of Ahaz.
- Scripture also says that Hoshea began to reign in Samaria in the 12th yr of Ahaz and reigned for 9 yrs. How can that be?
- The 20th yr date is probably reckoned from the beginning of Jotham's rule to underscore the Lord's displeasure against wicked Ahaz for: (1) calling upon Tiglath-pileser for help instead of the Living God, (2) having Urijah, the high priest, build an altar like that at Damascus at which he might inquire, (3) cutting off the borders of the bases, removing the laver off them, and taking down the laver from off the brasen oxen that were under it, (4) sacrificing unto the gods of Damascus, (5) shutting up the doors of the temple in Jerusalem, (6) making altars and placing them at every corner in Jerusalem, and (7) making high places to burn incense unto other gods in every city of Judah
- Hoshea slew Pekah in the 4th yr of Ahaz's reign, but did not become king until the 12th yr of Ahaz. The king of Assyria had taken over 75% of the Northern Kingdom, anarchy seemed to reign, who could be found to rule at such a time?
- The scriptures show that Israel did have a king at this time but it was not Hoshea. Scriptures refer to Ahaz not only as the king of Judah, but also bearing the title "king of Israel". So it would appear that upon the death of Pekah, the Assyrian vassal Ahaz, having the religious demeanor of the kings of Israel, was viewed as then being "king" of Israel as well. Perhaps Tiglat-pileser placed his vassal in authority over the conquered Northern Kingdom and bestowed the title "King of Israel" upon Ahaz, though he remained in Jerusalem and Hoshea functioned as the "on site" overseer in Samaria.
- Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up against Hoshea and Hoshea became his servant and sent tribute to him.
- Hoshea tried to have a conspiracy with Egypt against the king of Assyria.
- Shalmaneser came up against Israel and in the 7th yr of Hoshea came against Samaria and besieged it until the 9th yr of Hoshea.
- Commentators differ if Hoshea was taken before the fall of Samaria or after. The scriptural account could give the pertinent information and then recount how it happened.

- This was the end of the Northern Kingdom

24. Hezekiah (Judah)

- Hezekiah began to reign in the 3rd yr of Hoshea and reigned for 29 yrs
- Hezekiah made proclamation throughout all Israel about coming to the Passover festival that they were having. Some of the Northern Kingdom came.
- In the 14th yr of Hezekiah, Sennacherib, king of Assyria, came against all the fenced cities of Judah and took them. Hezekiah paid him tribute.
- Hezekiah got sick in this same yr and God gave him 15 more yrs.
- The Babylonians came to see him at this time.
- The Assyrians came a second time against Judah when Tartan, Rab-saris, and Rab-shakeh came from Lachish to Jerusalem

25. Manasseh (Judah)

- 12 yrs old when he began to reign and reigned 55 yrs
- He was evil
- He was taken by the captains of the host of the Assyrians and brought to Babylon
- He humbled himself, prayed, and returned to Jerusalem. He took away the strange gods, idols, and altars, commanding Judah to serve the Lord God of Israel

26. Amon (Judah)

- He reigned 2 yrs in Jerusalem
- He did evil and his servants conspired against him and killed him

27. Josiah (Judah)

- Josiah was 8 yrs old when he began to reign and reigned for 31 yrs
- Josiah cleansed Judah and Jerusalem, and he also cleansed Manasseh, Ephraim, Simeon, unto Naphtali because there was no king in Israel.
- Josiah had four sons: Johanan-never mentioned again, Jehoahaz-23 yrs old when began to reign, Jehoiakim-25 yrs old when began to reign, Zedekiah-21 yrs old when began to reign

28. Jehoahaz (Shallum) (Judah)

- He reigned in Jerusalem for 3 months
- the people of the land took Jehoahaz the son of Josiah, and anointed him, and made him king in his father's stead.
- Jer 22:11 calls him Shallum
- Pharaoh-nechoh put him in bands and took him captive, he died in Egypt
- Pharaoh-nechoh made Eliakim the son of Josiah king and changed his name to Jehoiakim

29. Jehoiakim (Eliakim) (Judah)

- Jehoiakim reigned for 11 yrs and did evil before the Lord
- Dan 1:1-6 Daniel was taken in the third yr of Jehoiakim along with the vessels from the house of the Lord, 606 BC, one yr prior to Nebuchadnezzar's actual accession to the throne.
- The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, that was the first year of Nebuchadnezzar king of

Babylon; (the first yr mentioned here is the accession yr of Nebuchadnezzar-605 BC).

- **The whole process of clarifying the dating process and reconciling some scriptures during this time take up several pages in "The Chronology of the Old Testament", so I would encourage those who seek to understand to get a copy of this book. The change in calendars is that the Babylonian calendar data shifts six-months to the right.**
- In his days Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up, and Jehoiakim became his servant three yrs: then he turned and rebelled against him. (this must have taken place somewhere around the fifth yr or so of Jehoiakim for in Jer 36:1-9 it is the fifth yr of Jehoiakim when he cuts up the scroll of Jeremiah and burns it in the fire).
- Nebuchadnezzar came and took Jehoiakim captive along with the vessels of the house of the Lord and took them to Babylon.

30. Jeconiah (Jehoiachin) (Judah) grandson of Josiah

- 2 Kgs 24:8 has him at eighteen yrs old and 2 Chron 36:9 has him at 8 yrs old. Which is it? Is this a scribal error?
- Was he eight or eighteen? 2 Kings 24:15 says that his wives were also taken indicating that he was 18, old enough to be married.
- There are three Bible honoring solutions, none of which violate the context or veracity of the Scriptures:
 1. 2 Chron 36:9 literally "a son of eight years" references the fact that his dynasty or kingdom had been under Nebuchadnezzar as its suzerain since the fourth yr of his father Jehoiakim. From that year until Jehoiachin succeeded his father on the throne, an eight-year span had elapsed during which he was a vassal crown prince. Thus, upon his accession, the beginning of his reign could be rightly referenced to the time in which Nebuchadnezzar placed the Babylonian yoke upon him and his kingdom, thereby he was "a son of eight years" under Nebuchadnezzar's dominion.
 2. A second alternative for the confusion is that, taking both statements to be factual, Jehoiakim named or anointed his son to succeed him at an early age in an attempt to secure the throne through his lineage by way of Jehoiachin. This would have been done in order to deny the throne to his weak and ineffective younger brother, Zedekiah.
 3. The third solution offered, and preferred by Dr. Jones in the light of that which follows, is that Josiah must have anointed Jehoiachin, his grandson, to succeed him just prior to his encounter with Pharaoh Neco. This solution, along with the two previous, has been proffered many times in the past. However, this study has developed and refined this third resolution with additional internal biblical evidence to a far higher degree of certitude and believability than that given in the past.

Realizing that his sons were wicked, godly Josiah must have hoped that his grandson Jehoiachin, though only eight years old at the time, would turn out better. As Josiah himself was but eight when he began to reign, he would have few qualms in placing so young a child upon the throne of Judah. Josiah fully realized that he might not return from this conflict with the Egyptians.

- David also was anointed to reign, but many yrs passed before he actually ascended to the throne

In the first place, he was going up against a much larger contingency. Secondly, it had been prophesied that he would die young and also prior to the judgment that God would send upon the Kingdom of Judah (2 Kings 22; 2 Chron 34). Having already reigned 31 years, Josiah was now about 39 years of age. Thus he knew that his time was very possibly at hand.

The only biblical and legal way that a grandson, etc., could be made to inherit the throne while his father and uncles were still alive was that of *adoption*, to the status of a full son. (See Gen 48 where Joseph's sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, are placed as sons, adopted by Jacob [verse 5, cp. vv. 12 and 16 for the ritual] so that they could become equal heirs with his other sons). It is the contention of this writer that Josiah did adopt and name as his successor young Jehoiachin just prior to departing for his fatal encounter with Neco at Megiddo. Moreover, this scenario enjoys scriptural corroboration:

And Josiah *begat Jeconiah and his brethren*, about the time they were carried away to Babylon (Matt 1:11, author's emphasis).

This scripture occurs in Matthew's roll of Christ Jesus' ancestors. Beginning with David and Solomon at the 6th verse, it continues through the 11th listing the kings of Judah in His lineage. Verse 11 asserts that Josiah *begat Jeconiah* (Jehoiachin being his "throne" name) though he was not his son. Although in a larger biblical sense, it is permissible to speak of "begetting" descendants beyond the generation of one's own offspring, the context of this "begetting" would have occurred at the time of the adoption. The truth of this is clearly seen in that which follows: "and his brothers."

Now this is indeed very strange, for the allusion is clearly to Josiah's sons and as such, are Jehoiachin's uncles and father--unless--unless he had been adopted. Then and only then could it be said that Josiah's sons are Jehoiachin's brothers! Lest there remain any reservations, consider:

And when the year was expired, king Nebuchadnezzar sent, and brought him (Jehoiachin, see v. 9) to Babylon, with the goodly vessels of the house of the Lord, and made *Zedekiah his brother* king over Judah and Jerusalem (2 Chron 36:10, author's italics).

Again, how can Zedekiah be Jehoiachin's brother? Only by his being adopted to full sonship. However, the people of the land did not abide by Josiah's decision, placing Josiah's 23 year old son Jehoahaz (not his eldest, 2 Kings 23:36) on the throne (2 Kings 23:8). After reigning but 3 months, Jehoahaz was removed by Pharaoh Neco and carried prisoner to Egypt where he died. Placing the land under tribute, Neco installed Jehoahaz's older brother Jehoiakim (father of Jehoiachin) as his vassal on the throne of Judah (2 Kings 23:33-37) where he reigned 11 years.

Of course, this does not demand that he reigned 11 years to the very day. For example, if he reigned 10 years and 3 months, that would qualify as being "in his eleventh year." Thus, whereby Jehoiachin was anointed to be king when but a child (2 Chron 36:9), he did not actually occupy the throne until he was 18 years of age (2 Kings 24:8-12)--a span of 11 years when numbered inclusively. Moreover, Chronicles is stating the situation as viewed from the priest's, the temple's, and God's perspective, whereas the Book of Kings is presenting it from the historical political/throne view.

The "discrepancy" or "scribal error" between 2 Kings 24:8 and 2 Chron 36:9 is thus

resolved. The verses are seen to signify that Jehoiachin's first year upon the throne would have been his "year of accession"; hence he would have been eight during his first official year of reign (Judaic method of reckoning). Thus 2 Kings 24:8, 2 Chron 36:9, and Matt 1:11--Scriptures long held by liberals, agnostics, infidels, and most scholars to be in error--when placed together, actually explain, confirm, and sustain one another.

- Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came against the city, and his servants did besiege it. Jehoiachin the king of Judah went out to the king of Babylon, he, and his mother, and his servants, and his princes, and his officers: and the king of Babylon took him in the eighth year of his reign.
- In the 37th yr of his captivity, Evil-Merodach brought him up out of prison

31. Zedekiah (Mattaniah) (Judah)

- Son of Josiah- brother of Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, and Johanan
- King of Babylon made Mattaniah king of Judah-Changed his name to Zedekiah
- Jerusalem fell in his 11th yr

32. GRAPHS AT THE BOTTOM

1st one- 70 yrs of no temple-"The Desolations". Dan 1:9-18

2nd one- 70 yrs of "Servitude"- Dan 1:1; Jer 29:10

3rd one-"The Captivity"-2 Kgs 24:15; Ezek 33:21; Ezek 40:1

4th one-70 yrs of indignation- "Epoch of the boiling cauldron"-Ezek 24:1-14 This began when Zedekiah rebelled. The final siege began 1 yr to the day from this prophecy and lasted 18 months from 10-10-9th yr of Zedekiah Jer 52:4; 39:1, and 2 Kgs 25:1

33. Ezekiel's vision

- In the 25th yr of the captivity, the 14th yr after the city was smitten

34. Evil-Merodach

- In the 37th yr of captivity, he raised up Jehoiachin

35. Nabonidus

- Belshazzar was the grandson of Nebuchadnezzar, not his son. The word 'father' in Daniel 5 is speaking of his ancestor. Nabonidus would have had to have married a daughter of Nebuchadnezzar.
- Nabonidus and his son Belshazzar were co-rulers. That is why Belshazzar offered Daniel the proposition that he could be the third ruler in the country if he could interpret the writing on the wall.
- The Medes and Persians took over that same night-539 BC

36. Darius and Cyrus

- Darius took over the kingdom of Babylon and ruled for 2 yrs while Cyrus continued to annex the rest of the empire.
- Cyrus took over in 536 BC and gave the decree to rebuild the temple

37. Cambyses and Pseudo-Smerdes

- In Ezra 4:4-24 we see that the enemies of the Jews wrote to Ahasuerus and Artaxerxes about the Jews rebuilding the temple and got the work stopped.
- Is Cambyses the Ahasuerus and Pseudo-Smerdes the Artaxerxes of Ezra?

38. Darius I (Hystaspis)

- Ezra 4:24 says the work was stopped until the second yr of Darius
- The temple was completed in 516 BC under Zerubbabel

39. Who was the King Ahasuerus of the book of Esther?

- Out of 24 different translations of the Bible, I found that 13 call him Ahasuerus, 10 call him Xerxes, and 1 calls him Artaxerxes.
- Out of 15 commentaries I found 13 call him Xerxes, 1 calls him Ahasuerus, 1 is unsure
- Esther 1:14 refers to the seven princes of Persia and Media. As the book of Esther mentions Persia before Media (1:3, 18-19), this Ahasuerus cannot precede Cyrus' first year as sole king over the expanded empire (536 BC) for during Darius the Mede's short reign (539-537 BC) the Medes were named before the Persians (Dan 6). During Cyrus' first yr as sole sovereign, the Persians gained political ascendancy over the Median constituency and were thereafter consistently mentioned ahead of the Medes.
- Secondly, King Darius the Mede had set 120 princes over the kingdom (Dan 6:1). At the time of Esther, King Ahasuerus' Medo-Persian Empire, extending from India to Ethiopia, had increased into 127 provinces or "satrapies" (Esther 1:1). These satrapies constitute a major key as to the correct identity of Esther's "Ahasuerus".
- Although today's standard chronologies would have Esther the wife of Xerxes (485-464 BC), by the beginning of his reign the Persian empire had begun to lose satrapies. Therefore, the name "Ahasuerus" must refer to a monarch after Darius the Mede, but before the reign of Xerxes. Conventional chronological schemes have completely ignored this problem choosing instead to give preference to and place reliance upon a tenuous etymological identification, the merit of which will be presently examined.
- Esther 1:1 declares: "This is that Ahasuerus which reigned from India even unto Ethiopia over 127 provinces. During the fifth year of his reign, all Egypt had submitted to Cambyses (525 BC) and he also subdued the Ethiopians, at least in part. Having already inherited Cambyses' conquests in Egypt and Ethiopia, Darius I Hystaspis invaded and conquered India (506 BC). Therefore, the Ahasuerus of Esther cannot be a Persian before Darius Hystaspis (Darius of Marathon) because it was not until Darius that the Empire extended from "India unto Ethiopia."
- Also, during 496 BC, the fleet of Darius conquered Samos, Chios, Lesbos and the rest of the islands of the Aegean Sea.
- Diodorus Siculus relates that the islands were all lost again by his son Xerxes immediately after his 479 BC defeat to the Greeks--before the 12th year of his reign. Yet it was after the 12th year of the reign of Ahasuerus of Esther that he imposed a tribute upon the isles (Est 3:7,12-13; 9:1,21; 10:1)

The age of Mordecai is also a factor:

- Esther 2:5-6 clearly states that Mordecai was taken away from Jerusalem with Jeconiah in the "captivity" of 597 BC.
- Scholars reject the notion that Mordecai was carried away at that time because they have

already erroneously assumed that Ahasuerus is Xerxes. This would cause Mordecai to be at least 113 yrs old (597-484 BC [the third yr of Xerxes; Est 1:1-3]). Moreover, Mordecai would have been a minimum of 125 at the close of the book when he became "prime Minister" in the king's 12th year (Est 10:3).

- Only one other man's age in scripture as being that great was since the days of the judges (over 700 yrs prior) (Jehoiada the priest)
- Esther was Mordecai's first cousin (Est 2:7) and would tend to be too old to fit the context of the story.
- The Mordecai of Ezra and Nehemiah should, in all likelihood, be identified as the Mordecai of the Book of Esther so that we have only one Mordecai, not two as is being taught today.
- If Mordecai was taken into captivity in 597 BC, he would have been 61 yrs old at the time of Cyrus' decree to rebuild the temple.
- If Mordecai went with Zerubbabel to Jerusalem at the time of Cyrus' decree and was there for 4 or 5 yrs and then got word that his uncle and aunt had died, he would have been about 66 yrs old returning to Shushan, if Haddaseh was a new born. This would make Haddaseh around 18 yrs old when she went into the presence of Ahasuerus, in the 7th yr of Ahasuerus.
- This would make Mordecai around 88 yrs old when he was elevated next to the king after Haman was hung.

40. Ezra and Nehemiah

- I will try to give a shortened version without all the background information that Dr. Jones gives just to give an idea of what was taking place here. I highly recommend that you get his book if you are truly interested in fully understanding what was taking place and why this fits the narrative of scripture.
- The list of priests and levites listed in Neh 10, who sealed the covenant with Nehemiah, were the same who had returned with Zerubbabel in the first year of Cyrus.
- The two page graph shows how the information in the books of Ezra and Nehemiah correlate. For a detailed explanation of this sequence of events, please see Dr. Jones' book.

Ezra/Nehemiah Graph

1. Sheshbazzar, also called Zerubbabel returned to Jerusalem
2. The genealogies of those returning
3. The altar was rebuilt on the 1st day of the 7th month
4. Ezra and Nehemiah read the law
5. The feast of tabernacles was restored
6. Fasting, worship, and the sealing of the covenant
7. Repopulating Jerusalem
8. Ezra was listed among the priests and levites that came with Zerubbabel
 - All this took place in the 1st year of Cyrus
9. 2nd year of Cyrus-the temple foundation was laid
10. Then you have Cambyses-is this the Ahasuerus mentioned that the adversaries of the Jews wrote to
11. The Artaxerxes mentioned-was this Pseudo-Smerdis and Patizithes
12. The temple restarted and finished in the 2nd to 6th year of Darius (the Ahasuerus of Esther)
13. The Passover in Darius' 6th year
14. The decree for Ezra to beautify the temple in Artaxerxes 7th year. This is also when they divorced

the pagan wives they had married

15. In Artaxerxes' 20th year, the decree to rebuild the wall. Dedication of the wall by Ezra and Nehemiah

16. Artaxerxes 32nd year

- Many scholars designate two Ezras and two Nehemiahs because of their designation of Xerxes as the Ahasuerus of Esther. Since Ezra and Nehemiah went with Zerubbabel (536 BC) and the book of Nehemiah ends in the 32nd year of Artaxerxes (434 BC), both men would have been very old. Being leaders, they would have been at least 30 years of age in 536 BC, Ezra would have been about 121 years old and Nehemiah would have been about 132 years old.
- To compensate for the ages of the men, scholars have concluded that there had to be two different men - 2 Ezras and 2 Nehemiahs
- The only problem is what do you do with the other priests and levites mentioned in the lists who would have had to have lived very long lives when the average age was similar to today.
- Seeing how the graph lays out actually brings their ages closer to acceptability.
- If you take 473 BC as the "first year" of Artaxerxes Longimanus' joint reign, Nehemiah's age would have been as little as 124 years old in the 32nd year of Artaxerxes ($536-442=94+30$). Ezra's life span could have been no more than 112 years ($536-454=82+30$).
- Although the life span of most during this time were similar to ours, even in our day we have examples of more than average life spans:
 1. Walter Williams-the last survivor of the Civil war, died in 1959 at 117
 2. Carey White in 1991 at 115
 3. A Japanese woman, Shigechiyo Izumi, in 1986 at 120
 4. Nearly 5,000 individuals in the Caucasus Mountain region of Russia were documented as attaining 100 years with some becoming 110 to 141 years along with equal and even greater claims for Indians in the mountains of Ecuador
- As many scholars could not accept the older ages, could God have given them long life to accomplish His purposes for his people, even as he granted Jehoiada 130 years?

41. The 483 years

- From 454 BC to the death of Christ is 483 years as seen on the Creation to Christ graph