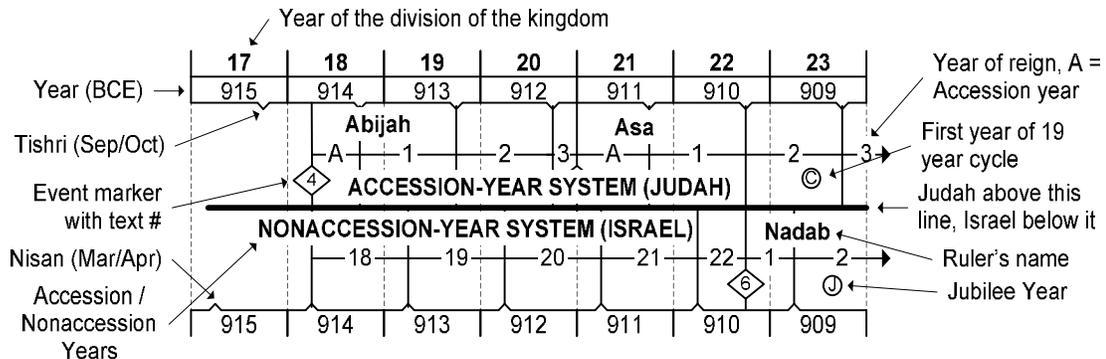


Introduction and References

This is a paper based on the works of Edwin Thiele¹ who studied and compiled what some consider the flagship of the chronology of the kings of Judah and Israel. In 1991, an advocate of Thiele's work, Leslie McFall², wrote a paper titled "A Translation Guide to the Chronological Data in Kings and Chronicles" to further refine Thiele's work. Following up in the endeavors of Thiele and McFall is an excellent series of papers on chronology written by Rodger Young³ that further refine their efforts. My paper is derived from McFall's work with Young's suggestion that McFall took into consideration concerning the year Solomon died⁴. Here is a summary of the features of this paper:

- Instead of using the same format to show the time lines Thiele and McFall used in their writings I broadened the view in a slightly different format and put them in a PDF file which can be easily printed out on four sheets of legal size paper.
- McFall used text from the Revised Standard Version (RSV) bible in which he added text in square brackets, [], to enhance meaning and clarity into the text. I used the English Standard Version (ESV) of the Bible⁵ for my scriptural references. Read Appendix A, Understanding the Texts, to get the full background on how to understand these texts.
- I kept all 68 of McFall's texts and added more starting with text 69 and up. However, my notes and comments may vary from those by McFall. In some instances I've used McFall's text in addition to mine.

The texts begin on the following page and are divided by the charts on which they appear. Text 54 appears on both Charts #3 and #4. Here is a key to the charts:



¹ Edwin Thiele, *The Mysterious Numbers of the Hebrew Kings* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan/Kregel, 1983); earlier editions were in 1951 (New York: Macmillan) and 1965 (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans). See these two links:

http://creationwiki.org/Edwin_Thiele and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Mysterious_Numbers_of_the_Hebrew_Kings

² Leslie McFall, Former Fellow, Tyndale House, Cambridge, England, in *Bibliotheca Sacra*, 1991 (Note: McFall's web site is <http://lmf12.wordpress.com>.)

³ Rodger Young, Various papers which can be found on his website at <http://www.rcyoung.org/papers.html>.

⁴ The suggestion that Solomon died between Nisan (April) and Elul (August) 931 B.C. was first put forward by Rodger Young, "When Did Solomon Die?" *JETS* 46 (2003) 589-603. Consequently, the first four Judean kings (from Rehoboam to Jehoshaphat) have been moved back one year. The implication of this minor, but very important, shift does away with Thiele's suggestion that Judah's system was imposed on Israel's for these four kings by the biblical scribes.

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Chart #1: Judah and Israel 932 – 843 BCE

1. 1 Kings 14:20 (ESV) Jeroboam (I-1) (K22)

²⁰ And the time that Jeroboam reigned was twenty-two [nonaccession] years. And he slept with his fathers, and Nadab his son reigned in his place. (931n – 910t/909n BCE)

2. 1 Kings 14:21 (2 Chron. 12:13) (ESV) Rehoboam (J-1) (K17)

²¹ Now Rehoboam the son of Solomon reigned in Judah. Rehoboam was forty-one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned seventeen [accession] years in Jerusalem... (932t – 914n/914t BCE)

3. 1 Kings 14:25 (2 Chron. 12:2) (ESV)

²⁵ In the fifth [accession] year of King Rehoboam, Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem. (927t – 926t BCE)

4. 1 Kings 15:1-2 (2 Chron. 13:1-2) (ESV) Abijah (J-2) (K3)

¹ Now in the eighteenth [nonaccession] year of King Jeroboam the son of Nebat, Abijah (or Abijah) began to reign over Judah. ² He reigned for three [accession] years in Jerusalem... (914n/914t – 912t/911n BCE)

5. 1 Kings 15:9-10 (2 Chron. 16:13) (ESV) Asa (J-3) (K41)

⁹ In the twentieth [nonaccession] year of Jeroboam king of Israel, Asa began to reign over Judah, ¹⁰ and he reigned forty-one [accession] years in Jerusalem. (912t/911n – 871t/870n BCE)

6. 1 Kings 15:25 (ESV) Nadab (I-2) (K2)

²⁵ Nadab the son of Jeroboam began to reign over Israel in the second [accession] year of Asa king of Judah, and he reigned over Israel two [nonaccession] years. (910t/909n – 909t/908n BCE)

7. 1 Kings 15:28 (ESV) Nadab (I-2) (K2)

²⁸ So Baasha killed him [Nadab] in the third [accession] year of Asa king of Judah and reigned in his place. (909t/908n BCE)

8. 1 Kings 15:33 (ESV) Baasha (I-3) (K24)

³³ In the third [accession] year of Asa king of Judah, Baasha the son of Ahijah began to reign over all Israel at Tirzah, and he reigned twenty-four [nonaccession] years. (909t/908n – 886t/885n BCE)

9. 2 Chron. 15:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ They were gathered at Jerusalem in the third month of the fifteenth [accession] year of the reign of Asa. (897t/896t BCE)

10. 2 Chronicles 15:19 (ESV)

¹⁹ And there was no more war until the thirty-fifth year [from the division of the kingdom] of the reign of Asa. (897t/896t BCE)

11. 2 Chronicles 16:1 (ESV)

¹ In the thirty-sixth year [from the division of the kingdom] of the reign of Asa, Baasha king of Israel went up against Judah and built Ramah, that he might permit no one to go out or come in to Asa king of Judah. (896t/895t BCE)

12. 1 Kings 16:8 (ESV) Elah (I-4) (K2)

⁸ In the twenty-sixth [accession] year of Asa king of Judah, Elah the son of Baasha began to reign over Israel in Tirzah, and he reigned two [nonaccession] years. (886t/885n – 885t/884n BCE)

13. 1 Kings 16:10 (ESV) Zimri (I-5) (K 7 days)

¹⁰ Zimri came in and struck him down and killed him [Elah], in the twenty-seventh [accession] year of Asa king of Judah, and reigned in his place. (885t/884n BCE)

14. 1 Kings 16:15 (ESV) Zimri (I-5) (K 7 days)

¹⁵ In the twenty-seventh [accession] year of Asa king of Judah, Zimri reigned seven days in Tirzah. (885t/884n BCE)

15. 1 Kings 16:21-23 (ESV) Omri (I-6) (R6/K6/T12; A-B pattern) and Tibni (R6)

²¹ Then the people of Israel were divided into two parts. Half of the people followed Tibni the son of Ginath, to make him king, and half followed Omri. ²² But the people who followed Omri overcame the people who followed Tibni the son of Ginath. So Tibni died [after six years], and Omri became [sole] king. ²³ In the thirty-first [accession] year of Asa king of Judah, Omri began to reign over Israel, and he reigned for twelve [nonaccession] years [as rival and sole king]; six [nonaccession] years he reigned in Tirzah [and six (nonaccession) years he reigned in Samaria]. (885t/884n – 880n/880t BCE [rivals], 880n/880t – 874t/873n BCE [Omri sole reign])

16. 1 Kings 16:29 (ESV) Ahab (I-7) (K22)

²⁹ In the thirty-eighth [accession] year of Asa king of Judah, Ahab the son of Omri began to reign over Israel, and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty-two [nonaccession] years. (874t/873n – 853n/853t BCE)

17. 2 Chron. 16:12 (ESV)

¹² In the thirty-ninth [accession] year of his reign Asa was diseased in his feet, and his disease became severe. Yet even in his disease he did not seek the LORD, but sought help from physicians. (873t/872t BCE)

18. 2 Chron. 16:13 (ESV)

¹³ And Asa slept with his fathers, dying in the forty-first [accession] year of his reign. (871t/870n BCE)

19. 1 Kings 22:41-42 (2 Chron. 20:31) (ESV) Jehoshaphat (J-4) (C3/K22/T25; B-B pattern)

⁴¹ Jehoshaphat the son of Asa began to reign over Judah in the fourth [nonaccession] year of Ahab king of Israel. ⁴² Jehoshaphat was thirty-five years old when he began to reign [when he became coregent], and he reigned twenty-five [accession] years in Jerusalem. (873t BCE – [coregent], 871t/870n – 848n/848t BCE [sole reign])

20. 2 Chronicles 17:7 (ESV)

⁷ In the third [accession] year of his reign he [Jehoshaphat] sent his officials... (868t/867t BCE)

21. 1 Kings 22:51 (ESV) Ahaziah (I-8) (K2)

⁵¹ Ahaziah the son of Ahab began to reign over Israel in Samaria in the seventeenth [accession] year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and he reigned two [nonaccession] years over Israel. (853n/853t – 852n/852t BCE)

22. 2 Kings 1:17 (ESV) Joram (I-9) (K12)

¹⁷ So he [Ahaziah] died according to the word of the LORD that Elijah had spoken. Jehoram (Joram) became king in his place in the second [coregent] year of Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, because Ahaziah had no son. (852n/852t BCE)

23. 2 Kings 3:1 (ESV) Joram (I-9) (K12)

¹ In the eighteenth [accession] year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, Jehoram (Joram) the son of Ahab became king over Israel in Samaria, and he reigned twelve [nonaccession] years. (852n/852t – 841n/841t BCE) (Note: Jehoshaphat's eighteenth year = Jehoram's second [coregent] year.)

24. 2 Kings 8:16-17 (2 Chron. 21:5, 20) (ESV) Jehoram (J-5) (C6/K8/T14; A-A pattern)

¹⁶ In the fifth [nonaccession] year of Joram the son of Ahab, king of Israel, when Jehoshaphat was king of Judah, Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, began to reign. ¹⁷ He was thirty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned eight [nonaccession] years in Jerusalem. (854t BCE – [coregent], 848n/848t – 841n/841t BCE [sole reign]) (Note: From texts 22 and 23 one can determine a 6 year coregency between Jehoram and Jehoshaphat beginning in 854t BCE)

Chart #2: Judah and Israel 844 – 755 BCE

25. 2 Kings 8:25-26 (2 Chron. 22:2) (ESV) Ahaziah (J-6) (K6 mos.)

²⁵ In the twelfth [nonaccession] year of Joram the son of Ahab, king of Israel, Ahaziah the son of Jehoram, king of Judah, began to reign. ²⁶ Ahaziah was twenty-two years old when he began to reign [coregent and king], and he reigned one [nonaccession] year in Jerusalem... (841n/841t – 841n/841t BCE) (Note: See text 26 that eludes to a possible short coregency between 842t/841n BCE)

26. 2 Kings 9:29 (ESV) Ahaziah (J-6) (C?; A-B pattern)

²⁹ In the eleventh [nonaccession] year of Joram the son of Ahab, Ahaziah began to reign [coregent and king] over Judah. (842t/841n BCE)

27. 2 Chronicles 22:2 (RSV) [Revised Standard Version]

² Ahaziah became king forty-two (Nisan) years from the time Omri became king over Israel, and he reigned one [nonaccession] year [either as coregent and king, or as king] in Jerusalem" (841 BCE), (ESV) ² Ahaziah was twenty-two years old when he began to reign, and he reigned one [nonaccession] year [either as coregent and king, or as king] in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Athaliah, the granddaughter of Omri. (841 BCE)

(Note: Literally this verse reads, “A son of forty and two years is Ahaziah in his reigning...”. The phrase “a son of...” does not necessarily or always indicate personal age. See text number 34 below for further notes. Ahaziah could not have been 42 years old because 2 Kings 8:26 (text no. 25) states that he was 22 years of age when he became king. If he was 42 years of age, he would have been two years older than his father.)

The Chronicler arrived at the figure of 42 years by adding together the figures for Omri and each of the three kings following him: thus Omri had 6 years reign as sole king; Ahab had 22; Ahaziah had 2; and Joram had 12 years. The biblical writer apparently regarded Ahaziah’s period of rule as an extension of Omri’s dynasty and rule and not in the tradition of the Davidic kings. These 42 years are nonaccession regnal years. The actual calendar years is 38.)

28. 2 Kings 10:36 (ESV) Jehu (I-10) (K28)

³⁶The time that Jehu reigned over Israel in Samaria was twenty-eight [nonaccession] years. (841n/841t – 814t/813n BCE)

29. 2 Kings 11:1-3 (2 Chron. 22:12) (ESV) Athaliah (J-7) (Q6)

¹Now when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the royal family. ²But Jehosheba, the daughter of King Joram, sister of Ahaziah, took Joash the son of Ahaziah and stole him away from among the king’s sons who were being put to death, and she put him and his nurse in a bedroom. Thus they hid him from Athaliah, so that he was not put to death. ³And he remained with her six [nonaccession] years, hidden in the house of the LORD, while Athaliah reigned over the land. (841n/841t – 835n/835t BCE) (Also see text 30.)

30. 2 Kings 11:4 (2 Chron. 23:1) (ESV) Athaliah (J-7) (Q6)

⁴But in the seventh [nonaccession] year [of Athaliah’s reign] Jehoiada sent and brought the captains of the Carites and of the guards... (Athaliah’s last year, see text 29.)

31. 2 Kings 11:21 - 2 Kings 12:1 (2 Chron. 24:1) (ESV) Joash (J-8) (K40)

²¹Jehoash (or Joash) was seven years old when he began to reign. ¹In the seventh [nonaccession] year of Jehu, Jehoash began to reign, and he reigned forty [nonaccession] years in Jerusalem. (835n/835t – 796n/796t BCE)

32. 2 Kings 12:6 (ESV)

⁶But by the twenty-third [nonaccession] year of King Jehoash, the priests had made no repairs on the house. (814t/813t BCE)

33. 2 Kings 13:1 (ESV) Jehoahaz (I-11) (K17)

¹In the twenty-third [nonaccession] year of Joash the son of Ahaziah, king of Judah, Jehoahaz the son of Jehu began to reign over Israel in Samaria, and he reigned seventeen [nonaccession] years. (814t/813n – 798n/798t BCE)

34. 2 Chronicles 24:15 (ESV)

¹⁵But Jehoiada grew old and full of days, and died. He was 130 years old at his death. (802/801 BCE) (Note: McFall⁶ writes “But Jehoiada grew old and full of days and he died in the 130th

⁶ McFall, page 23

year from the division of the kingdom”. Literally this verse reads, “A son of one hundred and thirty in his death.” Numbers 10 and 11 are also reckoned according to the era of division.)

35. 2 Kings 13:10 (ESV) Jehoash (I-12) (K16)

¹⁰In the thirty-seventh [accession] year of Joash king of Judah, Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz began to reign over Israel in Samaria, and he reigned sixteen [accession] years. (798n/798t – 782t/781n BCE) (Note: McFall⁷ believes that Jehoahaz was coregent one year, 799, with his father Jehoahaz because he deals with the thirty-seventh year to be nonaccession. Contrary, Thiele⁸ treats the thirty-seventh year to be accession (McFall’s thirty-eighth nonaccession year) as shown on Chart 2. Young is silent on this matter which leads me to believe he takes Thiele’s approach. McFall’s dates would be (coregent, 799 – 798/797 BCE; king, 798/797 – 782/781 BCE; B-A pattern).

36. 2 Kings 14:1-2 (2 Chron. 25:1) (ESV) Amaziah (J-9) (K29)

¹In the second [accession] year of Joash (or Jehoash) the son of Joahaz (or Jehoahaz), king of Israel, Amaziah the son of Joash (or Jehoash), king of Judah, began to reign. ²He was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty-nine [accession] years in Jerusalem. (796n/796t – 767n/767t BCE)

37. 2 Kings 14:17 (2 Chron. 25:25) (ESV)

¹⁷Amaziah the son of Joash, king of Judah, lived fifteen years after the death of Jehoash son of Jehoahaz, king of Israel. (782t/781n – 767n/767t BCE)

38. 2 Kings 14:21 (2 Chron. 26:1) (ESV) Uzziah (J-10) (C24/K28/T52; B-B pattern)

²¹And all the people of Judah took Azariah (or Uzziah), who was sixteen years old, and made him king [coregent] instead of his father Amaziah. (791t BCE – [coregent], 767n/767t – 740t BCE [sole reign]) (See text 40.)

39. 2 Kings 14:23 (ESV) Jeroboam II (I-13) (C12/K29/T41; A-B pattern)

²³In the fifteenth [accession] year of Amaziah the son of Joash, king of Judah, Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel, began to reign [sole reign] in Samaria, and he reigned forty-one [accession] years [as coregent and king]. (793n – 782t/781n BCE [coregent], 782t/781n – Elul 753 [Sep] BCE [sole reign])

40. 2 Kings 15:1-2 (2 Chron. 26:3) (ESV) Uzziah (J-10) (C24/K28/T52; B-B pattern)

¹In the twenty-seventh [accession] year [from the coregency] of Jeroboam king of Israel, Azariah (or Uzziah) the son of Amaziah, king of Judah, began to reign [sole reign]. ²He was sixteen years old when he began to reign [coregent], and he reigned fifty-two [accession] years in Jerusalem. (791t BCE – [coregent], 767n/767t – 740t BCE [sole reign]) (See text 38.)

⁷ McFall, page 23

⁸ *The Mysterious Numbers of the Hebrew Kings* (second edition, 1965 Grand Rapids: Eerdmans); page 72.

(Note: Jeroboam II of Israel died in his 41st year, which was the 38th [accession] year of the coregency of Azariah. Azariah's sole reign began in Jeroboam II's 27th year, 14 years earlier. Thus Azariah's sole reign began in his 24th year. So 24 years prior to 767n/767t, when Amaziah died, gives us the year 791t BCE when he became coregent with Amaziah at the age of 16. Azariah's 52nd year would have been between 740t and 739t. He died before Tishri 739.)

Chart #3: Judah and Israel 754 – 723 BCE

41. 2 Kings 15:8 (ESV) Zechariah (I-14) (K6 mos.)

⁸ In the thirty-eighth [accession] year [from the coregency] of Azariah king of Judah, Zechariah the son of Jeroboam reigned over Israel in Samaria six months. (Elul 753 [Sep] – Adar 752 [Mar] BCE)

42. 2 Kings 15:13 (ESV) Shallum (I-15) (K1 mo.)

¹³ Shallum the son of Jabesh began to reign in the thirty-ninth [accession] year [from the coregency] of Uzziah king of Judah, and he reigned one month in Samaria. (Adar 752 [Mar] – Nisan 752 [Apr] BCE)

43. 2 Kings 15:17 (ESV) Menahem (I-16) (K10)

¹⁷ In the thirty-ninth [accession] year [from the coregency] of Azariah king of Judah, Menahem the son of Gadi began to reign over Israel, and he reigned ten [accession] years in Samaria. (Nisan 752 [Apr] – 742t/741n BCE)

44. 2 Kings 15:23 (ESV) Pekahiah (I-17) (K2)

²³ In the fiftieth [accession] year [from the coregency] of Azariah king of Judah, Pekahiah the son of Menahem began to reign over Israel in Samaria, and he reigned two [accession] years. (742t/741n – 740t/739n BCE)

45. 2 Kings 15:27 (ESV) Pekah (I-18) (R12/K8/T20; A-B pattern)

²⁷ In the fifty-second [accession] year [from the coregency] of Azariah king of Judah, Pekah the son of Remaliah began to reign over Israel in Samaria, and he reigned twenty [accession] years [from his breakaway from Menahem]. (Nisan 752 [Apr] – 740t/739n BCE [rival with Menahem/Pekahiah], 740t/739n – 732t/731n BCE [sole reign]) (Note: 2 Kings 15:25 suggests that Pekah's rival rule was over the eastern tribes in the land of Gilead for twelve years. Once he had Pekahiah slain in Azariah's fifty-second [coregency accession] year he ruled in Samaria for eight years thus completing his twenty year reign.)

46. 2 Kings 15:30 (ESV) Hoshea (I-19) (K9)

³⁰ Then Hoshea the son of Elah made a conspiracy against Pekah the son of Remaliah and struck him down and put him to death and reigned in his place, in the twentieth [accession] year [from the coregency] of Jotham the son of Uzziah. (732t/731n BCE) (See text 49.)

47. 2 Kings 15:32-33 (2 Chron. 27:1, 8) (ESV) Jotham (J-11) (C16/K4/T20; B-B pattern)

³² In the second [accession] year of Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel, Jotham the son of

Uzziah (or Azariah), king of Judah, began to reign [coregent].³³ He was twenty-five years old when he began to reign [coregent], and he reigned sixteen [accession] years in Jerusalem. (750t BCE [first coregency], 740t/739t – 735n/735t BCE [sole reign], 735n/735t – 732t/731t BCE [second coregency])

(Note: Pekah was co-rival with Menahem and both of their reigns [accession] began in 752 BCE so Jotham's coregency began in 750n/750t. This would have been Azariah's 41st [accession] year, three years after Jeroboam II's of Israel death. Jotham's 16th [accession] year would have been 735n/735t. Jotham had a second coregency with his son Ahaz for 4 more years, see texts 46 and 48.)

48. 2 Kings 16:1-2 (2 Chron. 28:1) (ESV) Ahaz (J-12) (C4/K16/T20; B-A pattern)

¹ In the seventeenth [accession] year [of the breakaway kingdom] of Pekah the son of Remaliah, Ahaz the son of Jotham, king of Judah, began to reign [coregent]. ² Ahaz was twenty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem [after his four year coregency with Jotham]. (735n/735t – 732t/731t BCE [coregency], 732t/731t – ca. March 715 BCE [sole reign]) (See text 49.)

49. 2 Kings 17:1 (ESV) (ESV) Hoshea (I-19) (K9)

¹ In the twelfth [accession] year of Ahaz king of Judah [from his coregency with Jotham beginning 735n/735t BCE], Hoshea the son of Elah began to reign [properly – had reigned] in Samaria over Israel, and he reigned nine [accession] years. (732t/731n – 723n/723t BCE) (Note: Ahaz's twelfth year would have been 724t/723t BCE, thus Hoshea's ninth year lasted no more than six months. McFall properly explains "began to reign" in his paper⁹.)

50. Kings 17:6 (ESV)

⁶ In the ninth [accession] year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria, and he carried the Israelites away to Assyria and placed them in Halah, and on the Habor, the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes. (723n/723t BCE)

51. 2 Kings 18:1-2 (2 Chron. 29:1) (ESV) Hezekiah (J-13) (C13/K29/T42; B-A pattern)

¹ In the third [accession] year (729t/728t BCE) of Hoshea son of Elah, king of Israel, Hezekiah the son of Ahaz, king of Judah, began to reign [coregent]. ² He was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty-nine [accession] years in Jerusalem. (729t – ca. March 715 BCE [coregent], ca. March 715 – 687t/686t BCE [sole reign])

52. 2 Kings 18:9-10 (ESV)

⁹ In the fourth [accession] year (726t/725t BCE) [of the coregency] of King Hezekiah, which was the seventh [accession] year of Hoshea son of Elah, king of Israel, Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up against Samaria and besieged it,¹⁰ and at the end of three years (723n/723t BCE) he took it.

⁹ McFall, Text 49, pages 30-31.

53. 2 Kings 18:10 (ESV)

¹⁰and at the end of three years (723n/723t BCE) he took it. In the sixth [accession] year (724t/723t BCE) [of the coregency] of Hezekiah, which was the ninth [accession] year of Hoshea king of Israel, Samaria was taken.

54. 2 Chronicles 29:3 (ESV)

³In the first [accession] year of his [sole] reign, in the first month, he (Hezekiah) opened the doors of the house of the LORD and repaired them. (ca. March 715 BCE)

Chart #4: Judah 720 – 560 BCE

55. 2 Kings 18:13 (ESV)

¹³In the fourteenth [accession] year of King Hezekiah, Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and took them. (September 702 – September 701 BCE)

56. 2 Kings 21:1 (2 Chron. 33:1) (ESV) Manasseh (J-14) (C11/K44/T55; B-B pattern)

¹Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign [coregent], and he reigned fifty-five [accession] years in Jerusalem. (697t – 687t BCE [coregent], 687t – 643t BCE [sole reign])

57. 2 Kings 21:19 (2 Chron. 33:21) (ESV) Amon (J-15) (K2)

¹⁹Amon was twenty-two years old when he began to reign, and he reigned two [accession] years in Jerusalem. (643t – 641t BCE)

58. 2 Kings 22:1 (2 Chron. 34:1) (ESV) Josiah (J-16) (K31)

¹Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty-one [accession] years in Jerusalem. (641t – Tammuz (July) 609 BCE)

59. 2 Chronicles 34:3 (ESV)

³For in the eighth [accession] year of his reign, while he was yet a boy, he began to seek the God of David his father, and in the twelfth [accession] year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, the Asherim, and the carved and the metal images. (The eighth year was September 633 – September 632 BCE; the twelfth year was September 629 – September 628 BCE)

60. 2 Kings 22:3 (2 Chron. 34:8; 35:19 and 2 Kings 23:23) (ESV) Sixteenth Jubilee¹⁰

³In the eighteenth [accession] year of King Josiah... (623t BCE)

61. 2 Kings 23:31 (2 Chron. 36:2) (ESV) Jehoahaz (J-17) (K3 mos.)

³¹Jehoahaz was twenty-three years old when he began to reign, and he reigned three months in Jerusalem. (Tammuz (July) 609 – Tishri (October) 609 BCE)

62. 2 Kings 23:36 (2 Chron. 36:5) (ESV) Jehoiakim (J-18) (K11)

³⁶Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eleven [nonaccession] years in Jerusalem. (Tishri (October) 609 – Heshvan (December 7) 598 BCE)

¹⁰ Young, "When Did Solomon Die?" *JETS* 46 (2003); pages 600-601.

(Note: Thiele and McFall have this as eleven [accession] years. Young¹¹ further has refined this as eleven [nonaccession] years to properly date the Battle of Carchemish, see text 69. Jehoiakim reigned slightly more than two months after Tishri 598.)

63. 2 Chronicles 36:9 (ESV) Jehoiachin (J19) (C-10; B-A pattern)

⁹ Jehoiachin was eighteen (eight?) years old when he became king [coregent], and he reigned three months and ten days in Jerusalem. He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD. (609t – Heshvan (December 7) 598 BCE) (Note: Some texts say 8 years, some 18. If there was a coregency then 8 years would be correct, if not then 18 years would be correct. There are no other Biblical references to further suggest one or the other, see text 64.)

64. 2 Kings 24:8 (ESV) Jehoiachin (J-19) (K3 mos. 10 days; A-A pattern)

⁸ Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he became king, and he reigned three months (and ten days) in Jerusalem. (Heshvan (December 7) 598 – Adar 2 (March 16) 597 BCE) (See text 63.)

65. 2 Kings 24:18 (Jer. 52:1, 2 Chron. 36:11) (ESV) Zedekiah (J-20) (K11)

¹⁸ Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven [nonaccession] years in Jerusalem. (Adar 2 (March 16) 597 – Tammuz (July 9) 587 BCE) (Note: Thiele and McFall have this as eleven [accession] years. Young¹² further has refined this as eleven [nonaccession] years to properly date the beginning of his official reign as Tishri 598.)

66. 2 Kings 25:1 (ESV)

¹ And in the ninth [nonaccession] year of his [Zedekiah's] reign, in the tenth month, on the tenth day of the month, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came with all his army against Jerusalem... (590t/589t BCE) (See note on text 65.)

67. 2 Kings 25:2 (ESV)

² So the city was besieged till the eleventh [nonaccession] year of King Zedekiah. (588t/587t BCE) (See note on text 65.)

68. 2 Kings 25:27 (ESV)

²⁷ And in the thirty-seventh [accession] year of the exile of Jehoiachin king of Judah, in the twelfth month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, Evil-merodach king of Babylon, in the year that he began to reign, graciously freed Jehoiachin king of Judah from prison. (561 BCE)

¹¹ Young, "When Did Jerusalem Fall?" *JETS* 47 (2004); pages 33–38; carefully note CONCLUSION on pages 37-38 that items (3) and (4) state that the last 3 kings of Judah were dated with nonaccession years.

¹² Young, "When Did Jerusalem Fall?"; see previous footnote.

The following are my additional texts.

69. Jeremiah 46:2 (ESV) – Battle of Carchemish¹³

² About Egypt. Concerning the army of Pharaoh Neco, king of Egypt, which was by the river Euphrates at Carchemish and which Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon defeated in the fourth [nonaccession] year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah: (605n/605t BCE) (Note: I added this text to clarify the date of this battle. See text 62. The date is about May-June of 605 BCE.)

Daniel 1:1 (ESV) – First Captivity of Judah

¹ In the third [accession] year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. (Note: This occurred about June-August of 605 BCE prior to the death of Nabopolassar, Nebuchadnezzar's father. Daniel was among these captives.)

Wiseman wrote: “The effects of the Babylonian victory were immediate and far-reaching. 'At that time', recorded the chronicler, 'Nebuchadnezzar conquered the whole area of Hatti, the geographical term Hatti including, at this period, the whole of Syria and Palestine.'”¹⁴ This would definitely include Judah.

The chart shows both the nonaccession and accession (in parentheses) of the reign of Jehoiakim. Jeremiah used nonaccession years and Daniel used accession years. They are the same year, 605 BCE.

70. Ezekiel 40:1 (ESV) – Seventeenth and Last Jubilee¹⁵

¹ In the twenty-fifth year of our exile, at the beginning of the year, on the tenth day of the month, in the fourteenth year after the city was struck down, on that very day, the hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me to the city. (574t BCE)

¹³ Donald J. Wiseman, *Chronicles of the Chaldaean Kings (626-556 B.C.) in the British Museum* (London: Trustees of the British Museum, 1956). The Battle of Carchemish (605 B.C.); pages 23-25.

¹⁴ Wiseman, *Chronicles*, pages 25-26

¹⁵ Young, “When Did Solomon Die?”; pages 600-601.

Appendix A – Understanding the Texts

Dating Notation

The following is taken from page 225 of a paper on chronology written by Rodger Young¹⁶ describing the method of notation he uses in his various papers which can be found on his website at <http://www.rcyoung.org/papers.html>. I found it useful to use his notation in this paper. He uses BC (Before Christ) dating in his papers while I choose to use BCE (Before Common Era).

To use the tables, it may be helpful to review how the calendar of the Hebrews differs from our own. The Hebrew calendar was (and is) lunarsolar. Each month started with the new moon. Since twelve lunar months fall short of a full solar year, in some years a thirteenth month was added. In later years the formula was worked out with some exactitude as to when this should be done. The month that began near the spring equinox was called Nisan. The northern kingdom (Israel) considered the year to start in Nisan throughout its history, whereas for civil purposes Judah considered the year to start in the seventh month, Tishri, corresponding roughly to our October. The Scriptures often give the number of the month instead of the month's name, and when this is done the numbering always starts from Nisan, independently of whether the official year started in Nisan or Tishri.

In the tables, the expression “931n” is used to represent the year beginning on Nisan 1, 931 BC and ending the day before Nisan 1, 930 BC. This is the kind of year that would be used in the court records of the northern kingdom. “931t” represents the year beginning Tishri 1, 931 BC and ending the day before Tishri 1, 930 BC; this is the kind of year that would be used in Judah. The six-month overlap of these two dates is written as 931t/930n, meaning the time period that began on Tishri 1 of 931 BC and ended the day before Nisan 1 of 930 BC. The overlap of 932t and 931n is written 931n/931t. This method of expressing dates may be called the “Nisan/Tishri” notation.

¹⁶ Young, “Tables of Reign Lengths from the Hebrew Court Recorders” *JETS* 48/2 (June 2005) 225–48

Sample Format of My Texts

The texts are based on a paper by Leslie McFall “A Translation Guide to the Chronological Data in Kings and Chronicles”¹⁷ (Example for Jehoram of Judah shown here.)

24. 2 Kings 8:16-17 (2 Chronicles 21:5, 20) (ESV) Jehoram (J-5) (C6/K8/T14; A-A pattern)

- 24. – Text number that appears on charts in a diamond box near the king’s or queen’s name or the date of a specific event: 
- Scriptures are from the English Standard Version (ESV) of the Bible.
- Name of King or Queen
- (I#) or (J#) – Sequential number of ruler order (Israel – 1 to 19, Judah – 1 to 20)
- Length of reign (Typically years, some reigns may be shown in months and/or days.)
 - (C#) – Coregent if applicable
 - (R#) – Rival King
 - (K# or Q#) – King/Queen sole rule (Most only show K# or Q#.)
 - T# – Sum C# and K# or Q# (Only if a C# is shown.)
- A-B pattern – Coregency pattern if applicable (see below)

The Use of Different Eras¹⁸

The biblical writers have used different eras such as the Era of the Exodus, the Era of the Division of the Kingdom, the Era of Omri, and the Era of the Exile, but most extensive is the use of each king’s reign as an era in itself. This last mentioned series of eras is the main concern of this study due to four systems of reckoning which are employed by the biblical writers of Kings and Chronicles. The four methods of reckoning are as follows:

Coregency Patterns

A-A pattern: The king’s reign is calculated from the first year of his sole reign and the total reign excludes coregency years (e. g., Jehoram and Jehoiachin who both were made coregents before they were crowned as kings). This is the normal pattern where a king did not have a coregency.

A-B pattern: The king’s reign is calculated from the first year of his sole reign but the total does include coregency years (e.g., Omri, Ahaziah of Judah, Jeroboam II, and Pekah).

Pattern B-A: The king’s reign is calculated from the first year of his coregency and the total excludes his coregency years. (Jehoash of Israel, Ahaz, Hezekiah, and Jehoiachin)

B-B pattern: The king’s reign is calculated from the first year of his coregency and the total includes his coregency years (Jehoshaphat, Jotham, Azariah, and Manasseh).

The pattern used in the 11 cases—Thiele noted only 7—where a coregency can be shown to have existed has been included with citation of the text by the number of its presentation in this article (e.g., B-A, where A stands for kingship and B for coregency rule). The relationship of

¹⁷ Leslie McFall, Former Fellow, Tyndale House, Cambridge, England, in *Bibliotheca Sacra*, 1991

¹⁸ McFall, pages 2-3

the coregent to the king is not spelled out in the Bible, though it notes that “Jotham the king’s son was over the household, judging the people of the land” (2 Kings 15:5). This probably became the responsibility of the son who was made coregent as in the case of Jotham.

Table Showing all known Coregencies and Overlapping Reigns for the Kings of Judah and Israel

Jehoram	Jehoiachin	Omri	Ahaziah [J]	Jeroboam II	Pekah	Jehoash [J]	Ahaz	Hezekiah	Jehoiachin	Jehoshaphat	Jotham	Azariah	Manasseh	Point from which each king's reign is calculated
A	A	A	A	A	A									Option A: From the first year of his sole reign
						B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	Option B: From the first year of his coregency
														Total years recorded for each king's reign
A	A					A	A	A	A					Option A: The total excludes coregency years
		B	B	B	B					B	B	B	B	Option B: The total includes coregency years

Accession / Nonaccession Periods¹⁹

The accession-year system distinguished a king’s accession year (the incomplete calendar year in which he began to reign) and reckoned by the number of New Year days a king lived in his reign. In the nonaccession-year system the remainder of a previous king’s last year is counted as the first year of his successor, and then subsequent years are calculated from Nisan to Nisan in Israel, or Tishri to Tishri in Judah. This was the system used in Israel throughout its 207 years except from 797 to 723 B.C. when it used Judah’s accession-year system.

In addition to these differences of meaning there are differences of interpretation of the totals given and the point from which the totals are calculated. Sometimes the number given is from the time a ruler became coregent; sometimes it is from the time he became king. Similarly the total years ruled may or may not include coregency years and unless this is written into the translation it is not possible to make sense of the figures. To convert an accession-year system into a nonaccession-year system one must add a year to the accession-year number. To convert a nonaccession-year system into an accession-year system one must subtract one year from the nonaccession-year number. The initial year of a coregency is termed its first year, never its accession year. (Note: Because of the 1 year correction for the early kings of Judah mentioned in footnote 4 some of McFall’s texts up to 841 BCE have errant references to accession and nonaccession years under the assumption that Judah used accession dating for Israel’s kings. Young corrects this in his Solomon paper. My texts are corrected thusly.)

Because two major source documents formed the basis of the present Hebrew text of the books of Kings and each “converted” the other’s calendar years of reign using its own system, it

¹⁹ McFall, pages 4-7

is necessary to distinguish four distinct periods (A, B, C, and D). (Period D²⁰ covers the single kingdom of Judah after the fall of Samaria). During Periods B and C, Judah and Israel agreed on using the same system; for Period B both used the nonaccession-year system which was brought about by the friendship between Jehoshaphat and Ahab. Jehoshaphat's son, Jehoram, married Athaliah, the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel. When Jehoram became king on the death of Jehoshaphat, he adopted his father-in-law's nonaccession-year system. This system was thrown out by Uzziah 50 years later and the Solomonic system reinstated. It was at this time that Jehoash in the north introduced the accession-year system into the Northern Kingdom for the first time in its breakaway history. Both kingdoms used the accession-year system until their respective captivities, though neither kingdom, it would seem, ever altered the date of their New Year's day, which was 1st Nisan in Israel and 1st Tishri in Judah.

Kings of Israel			
Jeroaboam Nadab Baasha Elah Zimri Omri Ahab Ahaziah Joram Jehu Jehoahaz Jeohash (coregent) Jehoash (King) Jeroaboam II Zechariah Shallum Mehahem Pekahiah Pekah Hoshea	Nonaccession	Accession	ISRAEL'S SYSTEMS JUDAH'S SYSTEMS
Accession	Nonaccession	Accession	
Rehoboam Abijah Asa Jehoshaphat Jehoram Athaliah Joash Amaziah Azariah (Uzziah) Jotham Ahaz Hezekiah			
Kings of Judah			
PERIOD A (931 - 848 BCE)	PERIOD B (848 - 798 BCE)	PERIOD C (798 - 723 BCE)	

The period requiring special attention in synchronisms is Period A. Throughout this period the writer/compiler of the "Chronicles of the Kings of Israel" wrote up Judah's history in nonaccession years, and similarly the writer/compiler of the "Chronicles of the Kings of Judah" wrote up the history of Israel in accession years. Both preferred to use their own dating system then in use during Period A. It is probable that the two sources continued to employ this method of dating throughout Periods B and C but because the same systems were common to both kingdoms the fact is immaterial (from the point of view of "converting" one system into the other) and so there is no need to add or subtract one year to obtain the correct system currently in use for each king.

²⁰ Period D - The exception here is that Jehoiakim and Zedekiah should be dated as nonaccession rather than accession. This confirms the date of the battle of Carchemish (text 69) and makes the date of the fall of Jerusalem to be 587 BCE instead of 586 BCE, Young, "When Did Jerusalem Fall?"

Another helpful indication of the sequence of the Hebrew kings is given by the biblical writer who recorded each king's reign in the sequence of their accessions. The use of two New Year days (1st Nisan and 1st Tishri) has been fortuitous in that it has enabled Bible scholars to date most synchronisms to within half a year of absolute dating as is apparent in the table below²¹. (The kings of Israel and their dates are underlined.) McFall's dates do vary from those of Young's²² further refinements. A later correction by McFall²³ takes Young's dates into consideration except for the date of the fall of Judah, 586 BCE vs. Young's 587 BCE (see Text 65).

<u>Biblical sequence</u>	<u>Kings</u>	<u>Coregent</u>	<u>King</u>	<u>Died</u>	<u>Texts</u>
	Solomon			Sp 931-Apr 930	
1 Kgs 12:1-14:20	<u>Jeroboam</u>		<u>Sp 931-Apr 930</u>	<u>Sp 910-Apr 909</u>	1
1 Kgs 14:21-31	Rehoboam		Sp 931-Apr 930	Apr-Sep 913	2-3
1 Kgs 15:1-8	Abijam		Apr-Sep 913	Sp 911-Apr 910	4
1 Kgs 15:9-24	Asa		Sp 911-Apr 910	Sp 870-Apr 869	5, 9-11 17-18, 20
1 Kgs 15:25-32	<u>Nadab</u>		<u>Sp 910-Apr 909</u>	<u>Sp 909-Apr 908</u>	6
1 Kgs 15:33-16:7	<u>Baasha</u>		<u>Sp 909-Apr 908</u>	<u>Sp 886-Apr 885</u>	7-8
1 Kgs 16:8-14	<u>Elah</u>		<u>Sp 886-Apr 885</u>	<u>Sp 885-Apr 884</u>	12
1 Kgs 16:15-20	<u>Zimri</u>		<u>Sp 885-Apr 884</u>	<u>Sp 885-Apr 884</u>	13-14
1 Kgs 16:21-22	<u>Tibni</u>			<u>Ap 880-Sp 880</u>	
1 Kgs 16:23-28	<u>Omri</u>	<u>Sp 885-Apr 884</u> <u>Sp 885-Apr 884</u>			15
	<u>Omri</u>		<u>Ap 880-Sp 880</u>	<u>Sp 874-Apr 873</u>	
1 Kgs 16:29-22:40	<u>Ahab</u>		<u>Sp 874-Apr 873</u>	<u>Apr-Sep 853</u>	16
*1 Kgs 22:41-51	Jehoshaphat	Sept 873--	Sp 870-Apr 869	Apr-Sep 848	19
1 Kgs 22:52-2 Kgs 2:25	<u>Ahaziah</u>		<u>Apr-Sep 853</u>	<u>Apr-Sep 852</u>	21
2 Kgs 3:1-8:15	Joram		<u>Apr-Sep 852</u>	<u>Apr-Sep 841</u>	22-23
*2 Kgs 8:16-24	Jehoram	Sept 854--	Apr-Sep 848	Apr-Sep 841	24
**2 Kgs 8:25-9:29	Ahaziah	Sept 842--	Apr-Sep 841	Apr-Sep 841	25-27
2 Kgs 9:30-10:36	Jehu		<u>Apr-Sep 841</u>	<u>Sp 814-Apr 813</u>	28
2 Kgs 11:1-21	Athaliah		Apr-Sep 841	Apr-Sep 835	29
2 Kgs 12:1-21	Joash		Apr-Sep 835	Apr-Sep 796	31-32
*2 Kgs 13:1-10	<u>Jehoshaz</u>		<u>Sp 814-Apr 813</u>	<u>Sp 798-Apr 797</u>	33
**2 Kgs 13:11-25	<u>Jehosah</u>	<u>Apr 799--</u>	<u>Sp 798-Apr 797</u>	<u>Sp 782-Apr 781</u>	35
2 Kgs 14:1-22	Amaziah		Apr-Sep 796	Apr-Sep 767	36-37
*2 Kgs 14:23-29	<u>Jeroboam II</u>	<u>Apr 793--</u>	<u>Sp 782-Apr 781</u>	<u>Aug/Sept 753</u>	39
*2 Kgs 15:1-7	Azariah	Sept 791--	Apr-Sep 767	Apr-Sep 739	38, 40
2 Kgs 15:8-12	<u>Zechariah</u>		<u>Aug/Sept 753</u>	<u>March 752</u>	41
2 Kgs 15:13-15	<u>Shallum</u>		<u>March 752</u>	<u>late Apr 752</u>	42
2 Kgs 15:16-22	<u>Menahem</u>	<u>late Apr 752--</u>		<u>Sp 742-Apr 741</u>	43
2 Kgs 15:23-26	<u>Pekahiah</u>		<u>Sp 742-Apr 741</u>	<u>Sp 740-Apr 739</u>	44
2 Kgs 15:27-31	<u>Pekah</u>	<u>late Apr 752--</u>	<u>Sp 740-Apr 739</u>	<u>Sp 732-Apr 731</u>	45
*2 Kgs 15:32-38	Jotham	Apr-Sep 750--	Apr-Sep 739	Sp 732-Sp 731	47
	Jotham	Sp 735-Sp 731	to Sp 735		
*2 Kgs 16:1-20	Ahaz	Sept 735--	Sp 732-Sp 731	c. Mar 715	48
*2 Kgs 17:1-41	<u>Hoshea</u>		<u>Sp 732-Apr 731</u>	<u>Apr-Sep 723</u>	46, 49-50
**2 Kgs 18:1-20:21	Hezekiah	Sept 729--	c. Mar 715	Sp 687-Sp 686	51-55
*2 Kgs 21:1-18	Manasseh	Sept 697--	Sp 687-Sp 686	Sp 643-Sp 642	56
2 Kgs 21:19-26	Amon		Sp 643-Sp 642	Sp 641-Sp 640	57
2 Kgs 22:1-23:30	Josiah		Sp 641-Sp 640	c. July 609	58-60
2 Kgs 23:31-35	Jehoshaz		July 609	c. Oct 609	61
2 Kgs 23:36-24:7	Jehoiakim		Oct 609	9 Dec 598	62
**2 Kgs 24:8-17	Jehoiachin	Sept 608--	Dec 598-Apr 597	after Apr 561	63-64, 68
2 Kgs 24:18-25:7	Zedekiah		Ap 597-Aug 586	c. Aug 586	65-67

* Minor alterations to Thiele's chronology
 ** Coregencies omitted in Thiele's chronology

²¹ McFall, page 8

²² Young, "When Did Solomon Die?" *JETS* 46 (2003) 589-603 and "Tables of Reign Lengths from the Hebrew Court Recorders" *JETS* 48/2 (June 2005) 225-48.

²³ McFall, <http://lmf12.wordpress.com>, Unpublished Articles, "Hebrew Kings Revised Chronology" (Revised August 2008.)

The basis of the chronological scheme used here is that presented by Thiele in his third edition of his book and in particular the summary table of dates given on page 217.

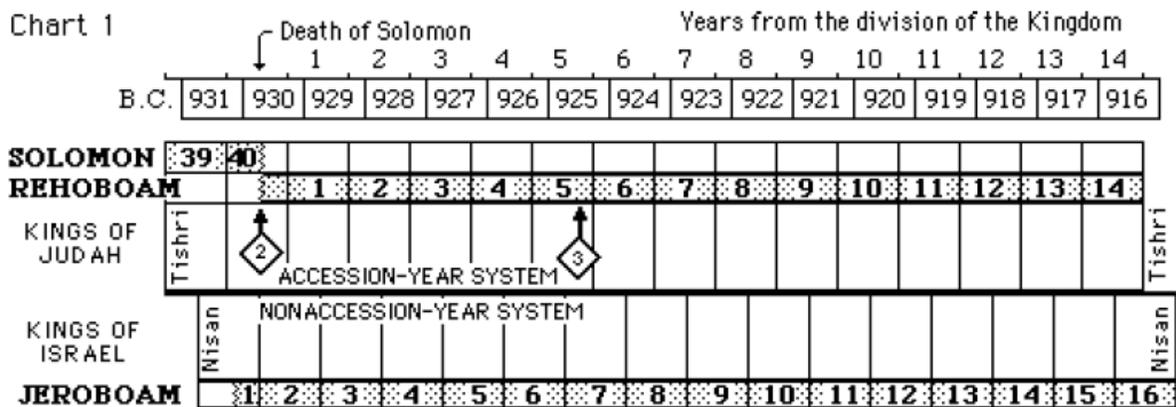
It is important to note that the biblical material alone does not permit scholars (or Thiele, despite his statement on p. 16) to reconstruct an absolute chronology for the Hebrew kings. Only with the help of nonbiblical chronology was absolute dating obtained for events mentioned in the biblical record and it was around these fixed points that the mass of Hebrew figures was made to fit by Thiele under the assumption that the figures had been transmitted accurately.

Note: In the previous chart taken from McFall’s paper the rightmost column titled **Texts** cross references his texts to the scriptures and kings indicated in the first two columns. However, I’ve noticed that there appears to be errors in a few of those text numbers. Here are the minor differences I’ve noticed.

- Text 20 does not refer to Asa, as it refers to Jehoshaphat, so Jehoshaphat should be 19-20.
- Text 30 should be added to Athaliah, so Athaliah should be 29-30.

Also note that Text 34 is not shown on the chart as it does pertain to any king. Texts 69 and 70 are my additions.

The following is an excerpt²⁴ from McFall’s paper showing Chart 1 and its related texts.



2. **1 Kings 14:21** (= **2 Chron.on. 12:13**), “Rehoboam was 41 years old when he became king, and he reigned 17 [accession] years in Jerusalem” (931/930 - 913 B.C.).

Rehoboam became king between September 931 and April 930 B.C. and died between April and September 913 B.C. at the age of 58.

3. **1 Kings 14:25** (= **2 Chronicles 12:2**), “In the fifth [accession] year of King Rehoboam, Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem” (September 926—September 925 B.C.).

²⁴ McFall, page 10