

But Prof. Irvin said in his Introduction to Prof. Thiele's study that everyone felt that chronology of the kings of Israel and Judah was one of the points where it was absolutely impossible to reconcile, because you add the years together of the two kingdoms and they don't come out even. And you take the cases where it says in this year of this king, this man began to reign and it does not come out even. And he says in view of Prof. Thiele's researches we can in practically every one of these explain exactly how this was and see that the numbers are absolutely accurate.

Prof. Thiele discovered a vital principle, a principle that when you say the 5th year of a king, you have to know to start the king's reign. And in ancient times a king would often associate his son with him in his reign. Then if you say the 5th yr. of his son's reign, the ~~fix~~ 5th year when he was associated with his son's father, you see, or is it the ~~x~~ 5th yr. after he became king? alone, after his father's death.

Another thing Prof. Thiele demonstrated was that in some periods the kings of Israel and Judah, when a king died they did not begin numbering until the beginning of the next year. So if you add the king died say in June, his son would be reigning in the last year of this man's reign, or you might call it his ascension year, and then starting in the beginning of the next year, they would call it the first year of his reign. While at other times it was customary to call the first year of his reign the year ~~of~~ he began to reign, and then the next year would be called the second year. Even in more recent history, it was customary in many countries to begin the year at Christmas time. So we find some dates between Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 which have the yr. numbered one yr. later than in other records. The reason is some began the yr. at Christmas time and some began it Jan. 1. Of course it is altogether arbitrary where we are going to begin.

So to me this is one of the most striking things in this matter of inerrancy to see how even such a man as Prof. Irvin would recognize that in what he describes as perhaps one of the greatest difficulty of acceptance of statements of the OT this whose spreading (?) of chronological statements that in that, in the light of the recognition of these new principles in practically every case a satisfactory solution has been found and that means we have maybe 100 numbers here, and numbers are one of the hardest things to translate correctly. But we have nearly 1000 numbers that have been preserved without any mistake as far as in any one of them. Alongside this is the fact that ~~some~~ not knowing how old Saul was when he became king, or how many years he reigned, it seems to be very secondary. (I'm going to stop now for 15-20 min. and then come back and answer any questions you like to raise.)