

trouble. According to the Assyrian data¹ Hoshea was set on the throne in 732. The Bible puts his accession 9 years before the fall of Samaria in 721. We have not ventured to correct the Bible here, for his regency may not have been admitted at once. But Pekah, the same data say, was dead before 732. The Bible insists that Pekah reigned 20 years, which is not a mere error of transcription, for it also says that in his 17th year Ahaz acceded. He therefore began in 752 or 751. Since Menahem was on the throne of Israel in 738 (see table of Assyrian data) he reigned ~~with Pekah~~ a while with Pekah (or rather, in defiance of Pekah), and there is no difficulty there. But if Menahem, who reigned ten years, acceded in 748, then Shallum also acceded in 748 and Zachariah (son of Jeroboam II) in 749. But Pekah had begun to reign in 752 or 751, so Jeroboam II must have died in 751 at the latest, Pekah usurped the throne for two years, and then the rightful heir must have prevailed for a short time. There was civil war in Israel as reflected in II K.15:8-13. Mach² puts the death of Jeroboam II in 751, Davis³ puts it in 749. We shall assume 751 to be correct. The reign of Jeroboam II from 792-751 should therefore be a landmark. Now Azariah acceded in Jeroboam's 27th year, i.e. 765. He must have been king before, or else he would have reigned to 713; so 765 merely marks the beginning of his sole reign and the death of Amaziah, who therefore acceded in 794, 29 years earlier. This point agrees with the 40 year reign of Joash from 835-795. We thus establish a co-reign of Amaziah and Azariah, which is quite logical, since Amaziah was conspired against and fled to Lachish (II K.14:19), where he was killed.

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1. Barton, op.cit. p. 464.

2. In the I.S.B.E., loc.cit.

3. Op. cit., p. 137.