

The Kings of Judah and Israel

LESSON #37 | Was King Ahaziah 22 or 42 years old?

Teacher: Pr. Cornelius Koshy

1. When we encounter a difficult passage with information which seems to be contradictory with another passage, we must:

- ☐ Conclude that the Bible has mistakes and correct the error ourselves.
This way, we help God to make the Bible more and more accurate.
- ☐ Maintain our believe in God's Word which says that it is perfect, without mistakes.
Hence, we prayerfully seek the Lord for wisdom to understand the passage.

2. Fill in the blanks in the following 7 statements. Then find the answers in the wordsearch.

1. The doctrinal term, " _____ ", describes the Bible as having no error nor mistakes.
2. The doctrinal term, " _____ ", describes the Bible as incapable of making errors or mistakes.
3. Psalm 12:6 "The words of the LORD are _____ words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.
4. Psalm 12:7a "Thou shalt _____ them, O LORD,"
5. Psalm 12:7b "thou shalt _____ them from this generation for ever."
6. Matthew 5:18 "For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one _____ or one _____ shall in no wise _____ from the law, till all be _____.
7. Psalm 19:7a "The law of the LORD is _____, converting the soul:"

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Y N F L U K P F M Z B I Y U K I S T I P
U I A M X X E W T X O S S A P I X A F T
T I F Y M N E E N I I O E R Y V U D N T
C S P W Q W K B A I M T T V C O Y Y T I
E G W U P Y S G R R U J C O E J Y O V T
F M B Q R U E V R E S E R P R S J M Z T
R N L Y S E R A E C N W H D P F F V G L
E X Q R K B S V N H S A T T O T X P D E
P S I N F A L L I B L E N I L L S J Z N
D E L L I F L U F L S P V E A U R B K Z

3. In the passage below, either fill in the blanks or circle the correct answer.

In 2 Kings 8:26, Scripture records that Ahaziah was __ years old when he began to reign. However in 2 Chronicles 22:2, it records that Ahaziah was __ years old when he began to reign.

There is no discrepancy in this record. 2 Kings records Ahaziah's real / dynasty age, while 2 Chronicles records Ahaziah's dynasty real / dynasty age.

Ahaziah's father, _____, was __ years old when he began to reign and he reigned for _ years. That means, Jehoram would have been $32 + 8 =$ __ years old when he died and Ahaziah began to reign. Since a son can never be older / younger than his father, it is impossible that Ahaziah was 42 years old when Jehoram died at the age of 40. Ahaziah must always be younger than his father. Hence "42" is not Ahaziah's real age, but the dynasty age when he began to reign.

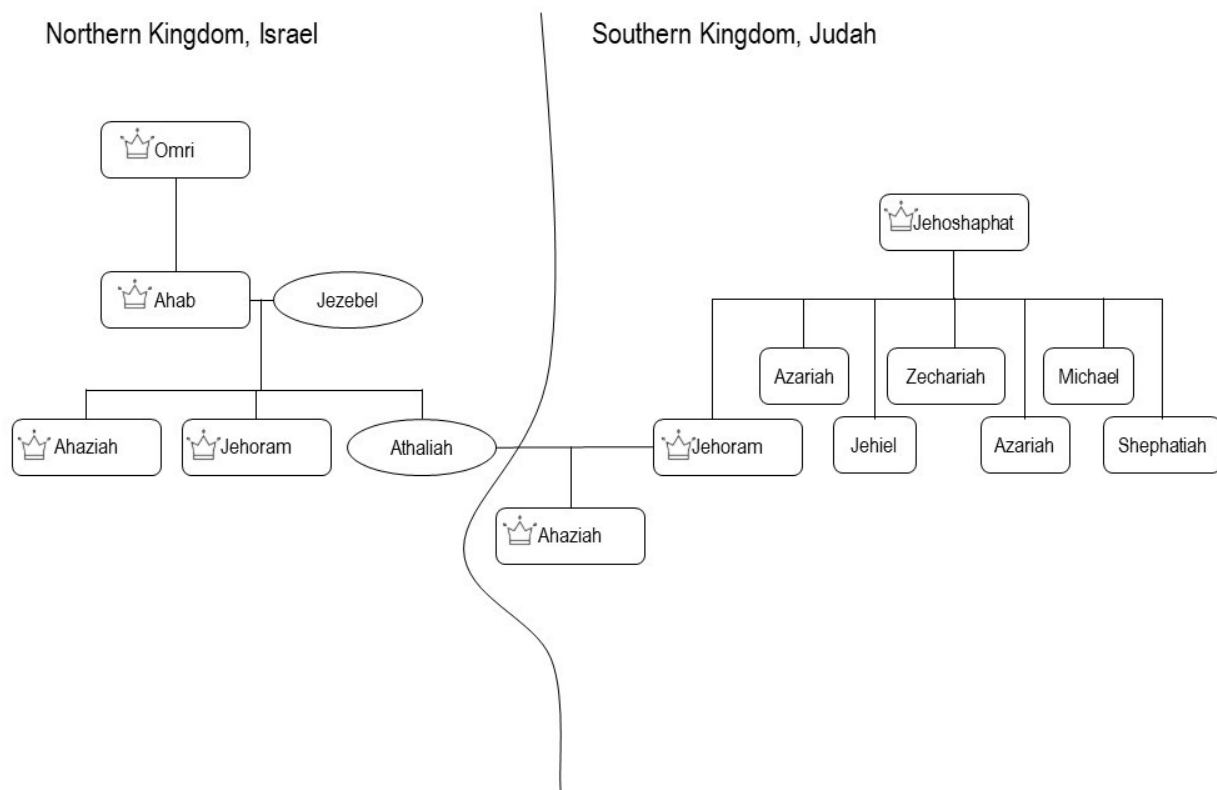
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Which dynasty is Scripture referring to? It is the dynasty of _____, the 6th king of Israel, the Northern / Southern Kingdom. Although Ahaziah was a king of Judah, he was connected to the Omri dynasty of the northern kingdom because of the ungodly alliance between his father, Jehoram, and his mother, _____. She was the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel, and the grand daughter of Omri.

4. If Ahaziah's dynasty age was 42 years at the time of his ascension to the throne, then the total years of the kings of Israel from Omri onwards should add up to 42



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5. By referring to the following passages, fill in the value of the lengths of the reigns of the northern kings:

☐ 1 Kings 16:23. Omri reigned __ years ----- [A]

☐ 1 Kings 16:29. Ahab reigned ____ years ----- [B]

☐ 1 Kings 22:51. Ahaziah reigned ____ years ----- [C]

☐ 2 Kings 3:1. Jehoram reigned ____ years ----- [D]

6. Now, sum up the values of [A], [B], [C], [D]:

_ + __ + _ + __ = __

The sum of the reigns of the dynasty is exactly 42!

2 Chronicles' record of 42 years cannot possibly be the real age of Ahaziah as no son can ever be older than the father. Since Ahaziah began to reign in Judah in the last year of Jehoram's reign in Israel (2 Kings 8:25), Ahaziah would have ascended the throne in the 42nd year of that dynasty in Israel, which explains why he was called "a son of forty-two years."

Therefore, the best explanation for the difference of Ahaziah's ages is that 2 Kings 8:26 gives us Ahaziah's real age, and 2 Chronicles 22:2 gives us the age of his family's rule, or the dynasty age.