

In the foregoing tables 3 and 4 we have anticipated the following discussion of the problems involved in formulating such a chronology. We are unable to say the last word on the subject because it seems our data must remain incomplete. Other chronicles also differ slightly in details, though there is agreement within a year or two on the main points.¹ ~~There~~

There are a few fixed data which we must use as points of departure. Samaria fell in 722-721 B.C. Menahem reigned in ~~738~~ B.C. Jehu was on the throne of Israel in 842 B.C. and Ahab in 854. Now after Ahab, Ahaziah reigned two years (from the 17th of Jehoshaphat to the 18th and therefore not two full years) and Jehoram, Ahaziah's brother, reigned 12 years, again not necessarily twelve full years. From Ahab to Jehu therefore 12 to 14 years intervened. Counting another way, Jehoshaphat of Judah acceded in Ahab's 4th year and therefore outlasted him by seven years. Jehoram then reigned 8 years and Ahaziah 1 year before he was slain by Jehu. Taking these years as inclusive we have thirteen or fourteen years again between Ahab and Jehu. Obviously Ahab must have died in 854 B.C. and Jehu acceded in 842 B.C. to allow these years to intervene. The only other possibility would seem to be that it was a son of Ahab that fought at Qarqar. But the Assyrian kings later called Palestine the land of Omri², not the land of Ahab; so we should expect the Assyrians to refer to Omri rather than to Ahab unless Ahab personally were meant. The death of Ahab at 854 is fairly certain, and also the accessions of Jehu and Athaliah in 842. But at the latter end of our period we find

1. E.g., the Davis Bible Dictionary, 3rd ed., p.136, puts Jehu's succession at 842 and Joash's (of Judah) in 802. Edward Mach in the I.S.B.E., Rev.Ed., Vol.I, p.640, puts the dates at 843 and 803 respectively.

2. Barton op.cit. p. 462.