

of the reigns of Azariah, Jotham, and Ahaz was extensive. We are expressly told (II K.15:5) that when Azariah was smitten with leprosy Jotham was over the king's house. A 14-year co-reign here from 749 (Jotham's accession in Pekah's 2nd year) to 735 is quite possible. It is interesting to note that leprosy runs its course in fourteen years, after which it becomes a "burnt-out" case.¹ Azariah's leprosy of course was of supernatural origin, and even natural leprosy may be fatal before or after the 14-year period. But the coincidence is interesting. As to the co-reign of Jotham and Ahaz, we are told that Jotham reigned 16 years (II K.15:33) and again that Hoshea acceded in the 12th year of Ahaz and the 20th of Jotham. (II Kings 15:30; 17:1). This leaves Jotham only 8 years before being associated with Ahaz. Our table we believe allows for these co-reigns by putting Jotham on the throne in the second year of Pekah (749), 14 years before Azariah's death in 735. Then we have put Ahaz's accession year 8 years after Jotham's (741), making his co-reign with Jotham extend until he takes the throne alone in 734, the 17th year of Pekah, and rules the remainder of his allotted 16 years until 726, at which time Hezekiah comes to the throne 6 years before the fall of Samaria in 721. Isaiah therefore prophesies from the year that king Uzziah died (735 B.C.) (Isa.6:1) through the reign of Hezekiah in 698 or 697 and possibly beyond according to the Jewish tradition² into the days of Manasseh, although the latter is not mentioned in Isaiah 1:1.

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1. Private conversation with Mr. C.N. Weisiger, who has observed lepers in India.
2. Delitzsch Commentary, 4th ed., Vol. I p.30, sums up the tradition of Isaiah's martyrdom by Manasseh, calling it "credible".