

AN OVERVIEW OF OLD TESTAMENT CHRONOLOGY

Based upon Eugene H. Merrill, *An Historical Survey of the Old Testament*, 2nd ed. (Baker, 1991), 98f.

Bear in mind that biblical statements of duration often are rounded up or down.

Also, some biblical passages use a regnal-year system; others use a accession-year system.

(Underlined bold dates are non-sequential. They serve to argue for Merrill's dating)

(I have not yet reconciled Merrill's dates for Jeroboam's 22-year reign)

Merrill's Dates in his Order of Presentation

- 16 763 Solar eclipse in Assyria (linking the Assyrian calendar with modern astronomy)
- 13 853 Battle of Qarqar (Assyria defeats Syrian/Israeli alliance) 90 years before eclipse
(1 Kings 22:1 speaks of 3 years of peace between Israel and Syria: the time of the alliance)
- 14 **853** Then Ahab attacked Syria—ending the alliance—Ahab died in that battle: 1 Kings 22:37
- 15 **841** Jehu (in his first year) pays tribute to Assyria (Black Obelisk)
(Twelve years elapsed between Ahab and Jehu: 2 Kings 3:1; 9:24)
- 12 874 Ahab became Israel's king (1 Kings 16:29), ruling for 22 years (until 853/2)
- 11 886 Ahab's father, Omri, became Israel's king (1 Kings 16:23), ruling for 12 years (until 874)
- 10 887 Omri's predecessor, Elah, became Israel's king (1 Kings 16:8), ruling for 2 years (until 886)
- 9 910 Elah's father, Baasha, became Israel's king (1 Kings 15:33), ruling for 24 years (until 887)
- 8 912 Nadab became Israel's king (1 Kings 15:25), ruling for 2 years (until 910)
- 7 931 Jeroboam became Israel's king (1 Kings 14:20), ruling 22 years (until 912)
- 5 971 Solomon became the united kingdom's king (1 Kings 11:42), ruling 40 years (until 931)
- 6 **967** In Solomon's 4th year, Temple building began, 480 years after the Exodus (1 Kings 6:1)
- 4 1446 The exodus, 430 years after Israel came to Egypt (Exodus 12:40) in 1876
- 3 1876 Jacob moved to Egypt at age 130 (Gen 47:9), so he was born in 2006
- 2 2006 Jacob's father, Isaac, was 60 when Jacob was born, so Isaac was born in 2066
- 1 2066 Isaac's father, Abraham, was 100 when Isaac was born, so Abraham was born in 2166

Merrill's Dates in Sequence (Earliest to Latest)

- 1 2166 Abraham was born 100 years before Isaac (in 2066)
- 2 2066 Isaac was born 60 years before Jacob was born (in 2006)
- 3 2006 Jacob was born 130 years before he moved to Egypt (in 1876)
- 4 1876 Jacob moved (at age 130) to Egypt 430 years before the Exodus (in 1446)
- 5 1446 The exodus was 475 years before Solomon became king (in 971)
- 6 971 Solomon was king for 4 years before starting the Temple (in 967)
- 7 **967** Solomon reigned for 36 more years after starting the Temple (until 931)
- 8 931 Jeroboam reigned as king for 22 years (until 912)
- 9 912 Nadab reigned for 2 years (until 910)
- 10 910 Baasha reigned for 24 years (until 887)
- 11 887 Elah reigned for 2 years (until 886)
- 12 886 Omri reigned for 12 years (until 874)
- 13 874 Ahab reigned for 21 years before allying with Syria in the Battle of Qarqar (in 853)
- 14 853 Battle of Qarqar (Assyria defeats Syrian/Israeli alliance) 90 years before eclipse
- 15 **853** Ahab attacked Syria (ending alliance) and died in battle (12 years before Jehu's tribute)
- 16 **841** Jehu (in his first year) pays tribute to Assyria (Black Obelisk)
- 17 763 Solar eclipse in Assyria (ninety years after the battle of Qarqar)