

we go back to the **3<sup>rd</sup>** year of Ahaz, **[3404]**. In this year, Isaiah 7:8 prophesied "sixty and five years shall Ephraim be broken, that it be not a people". This era is charted **[1 ... 65]**. This prophecy was fulfilled by Esarhaddon. "In **B.C. 673 or 672** Esarhaddon carried into captivity the remnant of Israel, and sent Manasseh, King of Judah, prisoner to Babylon. In the following year, **B.C. 671**, Manasseh was released" (George Smith)<sup>143</sup>. Putting the **65<sup>th</sup>** year in **[673/72] (3468)** means that the **1<sup>st</sup>** year is **[3404]**, the **3<sup>rd</sup>** year of Ahaz: **[65→3468: 65-64→3468-64: 1→3404]**. Isaiah prophesied the demise of Pekah of Israel<sup>144</sup> after giving the **65** year prophecy. Therefore, the **65**-year prophecy must begin before Pekah is off the throne of Israel. The last opportunity for this is the **3<sup>rd</sup>** year of Ahaz, **[3404]**, since Pekah was chased out of most of his domains that year by the Assyrians.

On the world era, Isaiah 7:16  $\leq$  **[3404]**. Isaiah 7:8  $\leq$  Isaiah 7:16. Therefore, Isaiah 7:8  $\leq$  **[3404]**. Isaiah 7:8 begins the **65** year prophecy, so the **1<sup>st</sup>** Year  $\leq$  **[3404]**. That is the **1<sup>st</sup>** year begins before or equal to **[3404]**. Therefore, the **65<sup>th</sup>** year must begin before or equal to **[3468]**.

On the other hand, 40 years are required for the sin of Judah: **[1 ... 40]**. Sixteen years are already taken by, Amon (2), Jehoahaz (1), Jehoiakim (11), and Jehoiachin (1). This leaves **24** years to Manasseh before he repented. Since Esarhaddon removed Manasseh and Ephraim in the same operation, the **24<sup>th</sup>** year is synchronous with the **65<sup>th</sup>** year. The number of regnal years available from the **3<sup>rd</sup>** year of Ahaz (**[3404]**) to the **25<sup>th</sup>** year of Manasseh is Ahaz (14), Hezekiah (29), and Manasseh (25). The sum **14 + 29 + 25 = 68**, three years more than **65** years allows. This means **1<sup>st</sup>** year = **[3<sup>rd</sup>** of Ahaz = **[3404]**. One year is recovered by counting the **65** years on a spring basis, and the other two by two overlaps in reigns, and there are only two places to put them. Both Hezekiah and Manasseh must have used the *non-accession year* method. The **1<sup>st</sup>** year of Hezekiah will be the latter half of Ahaz's **16<sup>th</sup>** year, and the **1<sup>st</sup>** year of Manasseh will be the latter half of Hezekiah's **29<sup>th</sup>** year. Hezekiah's non-accession **1<sup>st</sup>** year follows co-regency precedent. Manasseh's is on account of his young age and the prophesied time of his death.

This is derived from the internal biblical data. The icing on the cake is that the secular record of Esarhaddon's military operation in **[673/72] B.C.** agrees with the chronology.

#### *Amon, King of Judah*

Amon was a wicked king of Judah. He reigned two years using the *accession year* method. A year cannot be subtracted from the reign length because it would reduce the era of the *disruption* to **389 ½** years instead of **[390]**. The ambiguity of where to put overlaps remained only while the remaining regnal years were greater than **390**. Manasseh's last year

<sup>143</sup> The Romance of Bible Chronology, Martin Anstey (251.6), pg. 217. Messiah: His First Coming Scheduled, David L. Cooper (251.31), pg. 295

<sup>144</sup> "For before the child shall know how to refuse the evil, and choose the good, the land that thou abhorrest shall be forsaken of both her kings" (Isaiah 7:16).

was **[341]** of the *disruption*. We have available, Amon (2), Josiah (31), Jehoahaz (½), Jehoiakim (11), Jehoiachin (½), and Jehoiachin's captivity (5). The total = **49 ½**. In addition, **[341 + 49 ½ = 390 ½]**. We see that only a **½** year is available for overlap, and this half year is required for the first year of Jehoiachin's captivity, *Nisan 597 – Tishri 597 B.C.* Amon they assassinated and Josiah succeeded him.<sup>145</sup>

#### *Josiah-Jehoiachin, Kings of Judah*

Ezekiel 1:1 begins a **[30]**-year era in the **[18<sup>th</sup>** year of Josiah, **[3518]**, and synchronizes it with the **[5<sup>th</sup>** year of Jehoiachin's captivity **[3548]**. This makes the **1<sup>st</sup>** year of Jehoiachin's captivity **[3544]**, **[3548 → 5<sup>th</sup>: 3548 – 4 → 5<sup>th</sup> – 4: 3544→1<sup>st</sup>]**. According to the *Babylonian Chronicle*, Jerusalem fell on the **2<sup>nd</sup>** day of Addaru in the **7<sup>th</sup>** year of King Nebucadnezzar: (March **16, 597 B.C.**)<sup>146</sup> This means that **[3543] → [598/597 B.C.]<sup>147</sup>**

Since Jehoiachin ruled three months, and was carried off in the spring by the king of Babylon, the death of his father, Jehoiakim occurred in the winter of **[3543]**. The first part of **[3543]** is the **11<sup>th</sup>** year of Jehoiakim. This makes his **4<sup>th</sup>** year **[3536]**: **[3543→11<sup>th</sup>: 3543 – 7 → 11<sup>th</sup> – 7: 3536 → 4<sup>th</sup>]**. The autumnal year is *Tishri 605* to *Tishri 604: [605/604]*.

Jeremiah confirms the chronology by stating that he prophesied from the **13<sup>th</sup>** year of Josiah to the **4<sup>th</sup>** year of Jehoiakim for **23** years. Therefore, **[3536] – [3513] = 23**. This leaves the **5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup>** months of **609 B.C.** for the reign of Jehoahaz. Josiah was killed in the **17<sup>th</sup>** year of Nabopolassar, in the month of Duzu/Tammuz (June 25 – July 23) **609 B.C.**<sup>148</sup>

This means that Jehoahaz's three-month reign would stretch into the new year, going past *Tishri 1, 609*. The remaining space requires, **[609/608] (3532)** to be Jehoiakim's *accession year*.

<sup>145</sup> It should also be noted that Amon's accession year is counted in one of the **40** years for the sin of Judah. Therefore, his reign cannot be shortened. For this reason, and by reason of the sabbatical year that was not observed (E-3500), and also because Amon was assassinated and Josiah so young, it is most likely that Josiah's accession year was insignificantly short.

<sup>146</sup> This date is derived from VAT 4956. *Venus Astronomical Text* 4956 records a sufficient number of astronomical observations in the **37<sup>th</sup>** year of Nebucadnezzar to obtain an unambiguous fix on the B.C. date. The text of the **7<sup>th</sup>** year is *British Museum Tablet no. 21946*.

<sup>147</sup> The double notation 598/597 means that **[3543]** began in 598 and ended in 597.

<sup>148</sup> Finegan (252.38), *Handbook of Biblical Chronology*, §430.