

indicated by just a mark over a number, if it indicated the number otherwise. So there are more mistakes in transmission of numbers than of anything else, in the transmission of (4)

Now it is true that there are many cases where the numbers have been remarkably accurately transmitted. But it is also true that there are doubtless cases where numbers were incorrectly transmitted. For instance, where you read in Kings that ~~He~~ Ahaziah was 22 years old when he began to reign and in Chronicles he was 42, obviously there is an error in transmission in one of the two. And it's easy to tell which it is because you read that his father was 40 when he died, in the verse before, so that makes it perfectly clear which is correct. This is of course simply an error in transmission of numbers, and numbers are always easy to have errors in. They are remarkably accurate in their transmission in the Bible but we do find occasionally where the number is doubtless wrong, so that in that particular instance I do not have ~~anything~~ the instance exactly in mind, but it'd be most likely that there is an error in the number (5) (student.)

Certainly, it is the Hebrew we're speaking of. Our Hebrew mss. all come from about the 9th or 10th century AD ~~but~~ and they are rather late but before that time, the texts were copied and recopied with an accuracy which is phenomenal. If you take the mss. of our Hebrew and compare them with the material which we find on archeological inscriptions dug up, written at the time of the king, you'll find that the accuracy and the spelling of names, difficult names of foreign kinds, is most remarkable in our records of ancient Greece and Rome, the accuracy is not to be compared with the accuracy (6)

So we know that they were copied and recopied with great care. Nevertheless when you do copy over a long ~~per~~ time, there inevitably are errors in copying. The care was great but there were certain errors crept in. (student. 6 1/4) Of course, there's always that possibility with numbers, you have to investigate and you will find some cases where you will ~~find~~