

That is, generally it is "and" but it's a much wider "and" than English "and." Here is this word Vashni. The first word Vashi would strike one immediately as being peculiar. "The sons of Samuel: the firstborn Vashni, and Abiah." You find a parallel verse back in 1 Sam. 8:2 where you read "Now the name of his firstborn was Joel; and the name of his second, Abiah". Here we have Samuel's second son, Abiah in both cases. But there he's called Joel and here we find him called Vashni. Right here in 1 Chron 6 you read about Joel the son of Samuel in v. 33. So that the firstborn of Samuel was called Joel. How does Vashni get it?

To one who knows Hebrew, the answer is quite simple. The word Washni in Heb. would mean "and the second", and so in Heb. it is quite clear that the word Joel has been left out in the copying of the MSS. "The sons of Samuel, the firstborn Joel, and the second Abiah." And in some way an extra "and" got included so it ~~sax~~ stands Vashni and the second Abiah. It is a very easy thing to see how the mistake occurred. Copied out of one name.

We find the other name so clearly it must have been perfectly clear to the many scribes who copied and recopied through hundreds of years. But they took their MSS and copied it exactly as it was. So the preservation of very early obvious errors like this is an evidence to us of the care the scribes took in copying our MSS and strengthens our confidence that we are very close to the original MSS. We are very close though not exactly at it. I believe the Lord allowed that to happen intentionally as a warning against taking one verse and building too much on it! He wants us to compare Scripture with Scripture and recognize there are early mistakes like this, but that they do not make any great importance and that when we compare Scripture with Scripture we are perfectly safe.

A very interesting error that has come in, a very peculiar one is in 1 Sam. 13:1. "Saul reigned one year; and when he had reigned two years over Israel, Saul chose him three thousand men of Israel" (KJV) Why say that? Particularly when the word "when" isn't in the Heb. at all. So it would be more literal to say, "Saul reigned one year and he reigned two years . . ." In that case it is interesting to note that the NASB reads: "Saul was 40 yrs. old when he began to reign and he reigned 32 yrs. over Israel." But the words 40 and 32 are both in italics meaning that the translators have inserted them in the text, and of course they are a guess. The fact of the matter would seem to be that in very early times it said, "When he began to reign Saul was years. And over Israel he reigned two and (end of line broken off). The form used is the same as in dozens of cases later on where it speaks of other kings. It tells of men who became kings in at least a dozen cases and it says, He was so old when he began to reign and he reigned so many yrs. The end of the line got broken off very early. But if you translated it literally from the Heb. it would be "Saul was a year old when he began to reign and he reigned two years." Of course you know that's not right, and the NASB has made a guess! It says he was 40 yrs. when he began to reign and he reigned 32 yrs. I'm glad they put the 40 and the 30 in italics so they are only guesses.