

Of course the thing is it is giving it in 10's. Just as if I said, It's 1000 miles to Chicago; it is giving it in 10's. If I wanted to be more accurate I would say it was 10 across and 32 in diameter, but that wouldn't be very accurate. If they wanted to be more accurate they would say, It's 31.7. But that would not be precise. You'd have to say 31.716, and even that wouldn't be. It would have to be 31.7159. And I believe they have figured out the pi's out to several hundred digits. It never comes out exactly even.

So the question is, How precise are you going to give it? Are you going to give it in 10's? In what element are you giving it? I looked into an Encyclopedia a few minutes ago and saw an article by a very fine scholar who tried to show that the shape of the laver must have been exactly 30 around, even though it was 10 across. I think that is the sort of argument that is unnecessary. I think you want to recognize just how great a degree of accuracy or precision you desire to give, and that takes care of a great many problems.

Now there have been errors in the Bible in the chronology. In the Judges, if you take all the reigns of the judges and add them together you will get a figure that is far larger than could possibly have been between the time of Elijah and the time of Samuel (???) And of course I agree, it is far larger. The fact of the matter is of course that some of the judges were at the same time in different parts of the land. But we are not told exactly how they were. The purpose of the Bible isn't to give us a complete chronology. I heard the other day of an archaeologist who said he had found a coin that was minted in 1421 B.C. and in proof of it there was the figure right on it! 1421 B.C. I think we all agree there could be no such coin. Our system of numbering chronology actually began in 500 A.D. when a monk named Dionysius tried to figure out how long it was since the birth of Christ. He did a mighty good job; he got within 4 or 5 yrs. of it. So we say Christ was born in the year 4/5 B.C. Christ born before Christ! He was very near being accurate, but just a few years off. Since he did that we have a wonderful system of keeping track of time. We don't find that in any ancient writings, except in the kingdom of the Seleucid which began in 312 B.C., and they figured numbers along 1,2,3,4. But in all other ancient countries there were other systems so they could not use numbers right along like we do.

So in the books of Kings and Chronicles we read, in the 3rd yr. of this king such a king began to reign in the other kingdom and in the 5th yr. of the other kingdom such a king began to reign in this kingdom. People have added up those figures and found they don't come out even. So I have a book here called the Mysterious Numbers of the Hebrew Kings by Prof. E. R. Thiele which has an introduction signed by Wm A. Irvin, prof. of OT at the University of Chicago, a man who has very strongly defended the higher criticism, probably still does if he's still living. A man who was very far from being an evangelical Christian as we would use the term.