

cubits rather than in individual cubits. Some have erred in trying to take these statements as referring to single cubits and have therefore said that the statement is geometrically incorrect because it would give an inaccurate reading for pi. But if it were intended to give a precise reading for pi the statement that its circumference was 31 cubits would still not be precise. If one should say 31.4 cubits, this would still be imprecise. If one should say 31.416 cubits this would still be imprecise. Scientists have calculated pi to hundreds of decimals, and still reached no end.

We often say that two places are a certain number of hundreds of miles apart without specifying whether we mean from town hall to town hall or from city line to city line. If the distance were given in hundreds, or in tens, or perhaps even in individual miles, it would doubtless still be imprecise and might be so even if feet and inches should be added. We should not insist on a degree of preciseness in biblical statements beyond what God intended.

Yet we must not be quick to lay aside biblical figures as not dependable. Professor Irwin of the University of Chicago, himself no conservative, has pointed out that the numbers of years mentioned for the reigns of the various kings of Israel and Judah, which, he said, "formerly excited only derision," have now been shown to be remarkably accurate, once the chronological principles involved in them were found.

It is a matter of some interest to know who is the human author of a particular section of the Bible but decision on this matter is not particularly vital. The important thing is that God is the author and He has given us in the Scripture sufficient material to enable us to find the information He desires to give us. If the name of the author, or the time when he lived