

2 Kings 8:26, 2 Chronicles 22:2, King Ahaziah 22 and 42

Introduction

The passages in question concern Ahaziah, king of Judah and *“the son of Jehoshaphat”* 2 Chronicles 22:9 and an apparent discrepancy between them with respect to Ahaziah’s stated age. The passages read as follows. Note carefully the wording with respect to the *beginning* of Ahaziah’s reign and his one-year reign *“in Jerusalem.”* Note also the identity of Ahaziah’s mother.

“Two and twenty years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign; and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. And his mother’s name was Athaliah, the daughter of Omri king of Israel” 2 Kings 8:26.

“Forty and two years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. His mother’s name also was Athaliah the daughter of Omri” 2 Chronicles 22:2.

This work gives an explanation for the apparent discrepancy between 2 Kings 8:26, 2 Chronicles 22:2 with respect to Ahaziah’s age, 22 versus 42 *“when he began to reign.”*

This explanation draws from the material published by Dr Gerardus Bouw, *The Book of Bible Problems*, pp 112ff, Dr Peter S. Ruckman, *Problem Texts*, pp 241ff, the late Dr Dennis Spackman from New Zealand, *The Stand*, Oct/Nov 2007, pp 35ff and brandplucked.webs.com/kjbarticles.htm *How Old was Ahaziah, 22 or 42?* by Will Kinney. All four accounts differ in some respects and this account differs slightly from all of them. Nevertheless, this writer is very grateful for the efforts of those other four researchers. All four writers are agreed that the KJB is correct with respect to the above passages and therefore cannot be charged with error or inconsistency.

Another account that seems to match this one most closely is www.kjvtoday.com/home/forty-and-two-years-old-or-twenty-two-years-old-in-2-chronicles-222 *“Forty and two years old” or “Twenty-two years old” in 2 Chronicles 22:2?*. It too is a most helpful reference.

See **Table 1 Overlapping Reigns of the Kings of Israel and Judah** for a summary depiction of the kingly lines of Ahaziah and those roughly contemporaneous with him. It will be shown that the 1611 Holy Bible is consistent in 2 Kings 8:26, 2 Chronicles 22:2. Ahaziah is 22 and 42.

Ahab and Jehoshaphat

The starting point is the reign over Israel of Ahab, son of Omri, according to 1 Kings 16:29 **“And in the thirty and eighth year of Asa king of Judah began Ahab the son of Omri to reign over Israel: and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty and two years.”**

King Asa reigns 41 years 1 Kings 15:9, 10, 24 **“And Jehoshaphat the son of Asa began to reign over Judah in the fourth year of Ahab king of Israel”** 1 Kings 22:41. The expression **“began to reign over Judah”** indicates that Jehoshaphat is co-regent with his father Asa for the last year of Asa’s reign *but over Judah, not in Jerusalem*. Jehoshaphat is in effect deputizing for his father, in that a deputy can be a king as in 1 Kings 22:47 **“There was then no king in Edom: a deputy was king.”**

Note that **“Jehoshaphat was thirty and five years old when he began to reign; and he reigned twenty and five years in Jerusalem”** 1 Kings 22:42 with 2 Chronicles 20:31. That is, Jehoshaphat’s 25-year reign is reckoned according to the years that he reigns **“in Jerusalem”** but, as shown, **“he began to reign”** a year before that **“over Judah”** when he was aged 35.

The reigns of Ahab and Jehoshaphat overlap considerably and furnish basic timelines for the explanation that follows.

Ahaziah of Israel, Jehoram of Israel

Note that **“Ahaziah the son of Ahab began to reign over Israel in Samaria the seventeenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and reigned two years over Israel”** 1 Kings 22:51. Like Jehoshaphat, Ahaziah has a co-regency with his father in that **“Ahaziah...began to reign over Israel in Samaria the seventeenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah.”** Ahaziah is at that time a deputy king like Jehoshaphat had been in the last year of his father Asa’s reign. Ahaziah then **“reigned two years over Israel.”** Reigning in Jerusalem at this time, Jehoshaphat is still **“king of Judah.”**

Note that Ahaziah of Israel then has one year as king senior to his father Ahab, who is out in battle, 1 Kings 22, 2 Chronicles 18 and another year as king after Ahab’s death 1 Kings 22:37, 2 Chronicles 18:34 because **“...after this did Jehoshaphat king of Judah join himself with Ahaziah king of Israel, who did very wickedly”** 2 Chronicles 20:35. Ahaziah of Israel suffers his fatal accident and dies at the end of that year, the second year of his reign as senior king in Israel, 2 Kings 1:2, 17.

The end of Ahaziah’s reign is at the beginning of the 2nd year of Jehoram, son of Jehoshaphat, according to 2 Kings 1:17 **“And Jehoram reigned in his stead in the second year of Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat king of Judah; because he had no son.”** **“Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat king of Judah”** would have been co-regent with his father, see below. Clearly, both Israel and Judah have co-regencies or joint reigns with deputy kings because life was precarious in those days. Oded’s description fits them well.

“And in those times there was no peace to him that went out, nor to him that came in, but great vexations were upon all the inhabitants of the countries” 2 Chronicles 15:5.

Jehoram of Judah is 32 when he becomes king effectively succeeding his father and reigns a total of 8 years, some of which is contemporaneous or co-regent with his father Jehoshaphat, 2 Chronicles 21:5. He also marries an unnamed daughter of Ahab, 2 Chronicles 21:6.

Jehoram the son of Ahab, i.e. another Jehoram, begins to reign over Israel in the 18th year of Jehoshaphat, according to 2 Kings 3:1 **“Now Jehoram the son of Ahab began to reign over Israel in Samaria the eighteenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and reigned twelve years.”** By inspection, see **Table 1**, the first year of Jehoram of Israel’s reign is contemporaneous with the last year of that of his father Ahab out in battle, 1 Kings 22, 2 Chronicles 18 and that year and the next are contemporaneous with the reign of Ahaziah son of Ahab. Ahaziah of Israel and son of Ahab dies at the end of the 19th year of Jehoshaphat’s reign, 1 Kings 22:51, 2 Kings 1:17. Jehoram of Israel’s 12-year reign as senior king of Israel follows.

Jehoram of Judah

2 Kings 8:16-17 state **“And in the fifth year of Joram the son of Ahab king of Israel, Jehoshaphat being then king of Judah, Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat king of Judah began to reign. Thirty and two years old was he when he began to reign; and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem.”** See also 2 Chronicles 21:5. Comparison of 2 Kings 1:17, 3:1, 8:16-17 shows that both Jehoram of Judah and Jehoram of Israel must have been deputy kings before their stated reigns of 8 years, 2 Kings 8:17 and 12 years, 2 Kings 3:1 respectively. This comparison also shows that **“the fifth year of Joram the son of Ahab king of Israel”** 2 Kings 8:16 must be counted from **“the eighteenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah”** 2 Kings 3:1 and include Jehoram’s 2 years as a deputy king with Ahab for the first of those years and with Ahaziah of Israel for both those years before Jehoram of Israel’s (Joram’s) stated 12-year reign, 2 Kings 3:1. Otherwise, the numbers will not balance.

Jehoram of Judah has been a deputy king with his father Jehoshaphat for 3 years. See *Ahaziah of Israel, Jehoram of Israel*. Jehoram of Judah, aged 32, now succeeds his father, aged 57, but his father is still king because Jehoshaphat is described as **“being then king of Judah.”** Jehoram of Judah is co-regent with his father Jehoshaphat for the first 4 years of his 8-year reign but senior to him as king.

Jehoram of Judah remains king in Jerusalem for the next and last 4 years of his life but is critically ill for the last 2 years and then dies, 2 Chronicles 21:18, 19, 20.

If Jehoram is 32 in the 22nd year of Jehoshaphat's reign and his father 57, then Jehoshaphat is 25 when Jehoram is born. Jehoshaphat has another six sons after Jehoram, two of whom have the same name, Azariah, which is also used for Ahaziah later king of Judah, 2 Chronicles 21:2, 22:2, 6, who is different from the two Azariahs of 2 Chronicles 21:2. Perhaps the first of the two Azariahs who are Jehoram of Judah's direct siblings dies in infancy. Jehoram then kills *all* his surviving siblings ***“and divers also of the princes of Israel”*** 2 Chronicles 21:4. Note the underlined word, in addition to the mention of the princes of Israel.

The mother of Jehoram of Judah and his siblings is not named. However, it is clear that the mother of Jehoram and his 6 siblings is not ***“Athaliah, the daughter of Omri king of Israel”*** 2 Kings 8:26. See 2 Kings 8:16, 17, 2 Chronicles 21:2, 3, 4, 5, 20 with 2 Kings 8:26, 2 Chronicles 22:2, 9, 10.

Jehoshaphat dies 4 years into the reign of his son Jehoram, 2 Chronicles 20:31. Jehoram carries out the massacre of 2 Chronicles 21:4 sometime in the next 2 years of his reign, with his father Jehoshaphat out of the way, ***“when...he strengthened himself”*** 2 Chronicles 21:4 and before God inflicts on Jehoram of Judah the debilitating illness that kills him at the end of the 8th year of his reign, 2 Chronicles 21:15, 18, 19.

Ahaziah of Judah

Jehoram of Judah's death at the end of the 8th year of his reign, 2 Chronicles 21:15, 18, 19 explains why Ahaziah, his half-brother, see remarks above with respect to Athaliah, *begins* his reign immediately afterwards as king *over Judah*, according to 2 Kings 9:29 ***“And in the eleventh year of Joram the son of Ahab began Ahaziah to reign over Judah.”***

However, 2 Kings 8:25 then states ***“In the twelfth year of Joram the son of Ahab king of Israel did Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah begin to reign.”***

2 Kings 8:26, see *Introduction*, resolves the apparent contradiction between 2 Kings 8:25, 9:29 in that ***“Ahaziah...reigned one year in Jerusalem”*** i.e. specifically in Jerusalem rather than simply ***“over Judah.”*** Ahaziah's one-year reign in Jerusalem corresponds to ***“the twelfth year of Joram the son of Ahab”*** and Ahaziah's previous one-year reign ***“over Judah”*** but not explicitly ***“in Jerusalem”*** corresponds to ***“the eleventh year of Jehoram the son of Ahab.”***

Ahaziah is said in 2 Kings 8:26 to be 22 years old when he begins his reign but 2 Kings 8:26 also states that ***“Two and twenty years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign; and he reigned one year in Jerusalem”*** i.e. *he has begun his reign elsewhere before reigning over Judah and then in Jerusalem. The only possibility is the northern kingdom of Israel.* See remarks under *Ahaziah of Israel, Jehoram of Israel* and below.

2 Chronicles 22:1-2, the equivalent passage, states that ***“...Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah reigned. Forty and two years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem.”*** 2 Chronicles 22:2 confirms that Ahaziah's one-year reign is *in Jerusalem* but as in 2 Kings 8:26 the wording of 2 Chronicles 22:2 allows that *Ahaziah could have been reigning elsewhere before his one-year reign in Jerusalem i.e. over Judah and before that in Israel.*

Ahaziah is said to be Jehoram's son but he cannot be Jehoram's literal i.e. biological son because he is a year older than his 'father,' 2 Chronicles 21:20, 22:2. This problem will be discussed below. First, the apparent inconsistency of Ahaziah's age will be resolved.

Ahaziah, Jehoshaphat and Athaliah

The resolution of Ahaziah's ages is first to consider the statement in 2 Kings 8:26, 2 Chronicles 22:2 that Ahaziah's mother is Athaliah, daughter of Omri, i.e. sister to Ahab, 1 Kings 16:29 above. Note the **"also"** in 2 Chronicles 22:2. It has been inferred from this term that 42 year-old Ahaziah is another son of Athaliah, 20 years older than the Ahaziah of 2 Kings 8:26 and they reign jointly and die at about the same time. However, only one death, even though with slightly differing details, for Ahaziah is recorded, 2 Kings 9:27, 2 Chronicles 22:9 that Jehu inflicts upon him **"when Jehu was executing judgment upon the house of Ahab"** 2 Chronicles 22:8. Moreover, the narrative in the contexts of 2 Kings 8:28, 29, 2 Chronicles 22:6-9 is describing the same individual. Note especially the following scriptures that must be referring to one individual, not two:

"And Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah went down to see Joram the son of Ahab in Jezreel, because he was sick" 2 Kings 8:29. This is the 22 year-old Ahaziah in 2 Kings 8:26.

"And Azariah the son of Jehoram king of Judah went down to see Jehoram the son of Ahab at Jezreel, because he was sick" 2 Chronicles 22:6. This is the 42 year-old Ahaziah in 2 Chronicles 22:2. However, 2 Kings 8:29 and 2 Chronicles 22:6 must by inspection be referring to the same individual, his different ages stated in 2 Kings 8:26, 2 Chronicles 22:2 notwithstanding.

Finally, Athaliah, 2 Kings 11:1, 2 Chronicles 22:10, is said to murder her grandchildren, **"the seed royal,"** when she sees that **"her son was dead,"** i.e. Ahaziah, not her sons, plural, each named Ahaziah. The term **"also"** may therefore simply be included in 2 Chronicles 22:2 for emphasis i.e. 'also don't forget that etc.' The expression **"his mother's name also"** occurs 5 times in scripture besides 2 Chronicles 22:2; 2 Kings 18:2, 2 Chronicles 13:2, 24:1, 26:3, 27:1 with respect to Hezekiah, Abijah, Joash, Uzziah, Jotham respectively. Each of those names clearly refers to one individual only, not two.

Of Ahaziah 2 Chronicles 22:9 states **"said they, he is the son of Jehoshaphat, who sought the LORD with all his heart."** It is feasible for Ahaziah to be Jehoshaphat's biological son by Athaliah because Jehoshaphat would be about 24 at the time of Ahaziah's birth, 1 Kings 22:42, 2 Kings 3:1, 8:16, 17, 2 Chronicles 22:2. Athaliah could have been about the same age as Jehoshaphat. See **Jehoram of Judah** and remarks on 2 Kings 8:16, 17 above with respect to Jehoram, son of Jehoshaphat, who begins to reign contemporaneously with his father, though senior to him, in the 5th year of Joram (Jehoram) son of Ahab. It is feasible that Ahaziah would, biologically, be Jehoram's half-brother because Jehoshaphat has two wives, including Athaliah, by whom Jehoshaphat has his son i.e. Ahaziah, 2 Chronicles 22:9 and other sons, by **"Athaliah, that wicked woman"** i.e. **"the brethren of Ahaziah king of Judah"** 2 Kings 10:13, **"the princes of Judah...the brethren of Ahaziah"** 2 Chronicles 22:8. Yet another son could have been **"Mattan the priest of Baal"** 2 Chronicles 23:17 because **"the sons of Athaliah, that wicked woman, had broken up the house of God; and also all the dedicated things of the house of the LORD did they bestow upon Baalim"** 2 Chronicles 24:7.

See remarks on 2 Chronicles 21:2, 4 above under **Jehoram of Judah**.

Note again that although all the children of Jehoram's mother either die or are killed by their eldest brother, 2 Chronicles 21:4, Athaliah's son Ahaziah has brethren, 2 Kings 10:13, who could be surviving **"princes of Israel"** because Jehoram only kills **"divers"** of these princes, i.e. several of them, not all. Note 2 Chronicles 30:11 **"Nevertheless divers of Asher and Manasseh and of Zebulun humbled themselves, and came to Jerusalem"** i.e. not all members of those tribes.

These princes could also be **"the princes of Judah...the brethren of Ahaziah"** because Jehoshaphat, although king of Judah, is also said to be **"Jehoshaphat king of Israel"** 2 Chronicles 21:2. *This is key in resolving the apparent discrepancy in the reported ages of Ahaziah in 2 Kings 8:26, 2 Chronicles 22:2.* Remember that Athaliah is **"the daughter of Omri, king of Israel"** 2 Kings 8:26 and sister to **"Ahab the son of Omri"** 1 Kings 16:29 above. So the offspring of Jehoshaphat and

Athaliah could be “*princes of Israel*” for that reason as well. Some of these princes clearly survive Jehoram’s massacre but not Jehu’s purge.

Jehu kills all of them remaining, with their sons and, it seems, their servants, making the total number of dead 42, 2 Kings 10:14, 2 Chronicles 22:8. It would be reasonable to reckon that members of the royal families of that time travel with a retinue.

See remarks below on 2 Chronicles 22:8, under *Ahaziah, Athaliah and Ahaziah’s Brethren*.

Turn again to 2 Kings 8:26, 2 Chronicles 22:2, where Ahaziah’s age is given as 22 and 42 respectively “*when he began to reign.*”

Subtracting 8 years from the end of Jehoram’s reign and 11 years from Jehoshaphat’s reign from the 22nd year comes to the 11th year of Jehoshaphat’s reign, or the 15th year of Ahab’s. Jehoshaphat is 46. Ahaziah is then 22. About this time, most likely, begins the disastrous affinity with King Ahab, referred to in 2 Chronicles 18:1. Jehoshaphat only narrowly escapes with his life as a result of this alliance, 2 Chronicles 18:31, by God’s mercy. Obviously, dalliances with the house of Ahab, 2 Kings 8:18, and that of Omri, have begun years before, insofar as Jehoshaphat, aged 24, fathers Ahaziah by “*Athaliah, the daughter of Omri king of Israel*” 2 Kings 8:26. See remarks on 2 Chronicles 22:9, 23:17, 24:7.

This disastrous affinity goes on for 8 years i.e. “*after certain years*” 2 Chronicles 18:2, until Ahab is killed in battle, 1 Kings 22:34, 35, 2 Chronicles 18:33, 34 at the end of the 22nd year of his reign. By this time Ahaziah is 30 years old and his father (and mother) 54. The 22nd year of Ahab is the 18th year of Jehoshaphat so he has another 7 years to reign and dies aged 61.

Ahaziah a ‘Spare’ King in Israel

Observe at this time, *Ahaziah is already a king.*

“And the king of Israel said, Take Micaiah, and carry him back unto Amon the governor of the city, and to Joash the king’s son” 1 Kings 22:26.

“Then the king of Israel said, Take ye Micaiah, and carry him back to Amon the governor of the city, and to Joash the king’s son” 2 Chronicles 18:25.

Ahaziah has a wife, “*Zibiah of Beersheba*” 2 Kings 12:1, 2 Chronicles 24:1. “*Joash the king’s son*” is Ahaziah’s son by Zibiah. Note the similarity in wording with respect to “*Joash the king’s son*” 1 Kings 22:26, 2 Chronicles 18:25 in the following passages, 2 Kings 11:1-2, 2 Chronicles 22:10-11. *The king being referred to with respect to Joash is Ahaziah in all 4 passages.* Note that the following passages with 2 Chronicles 22:9 confirm that Ahaziah is the biological son of Jehoshaphat and Athaliah.

“And when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the seed royal. But Jehosheba, the daughter of king Joram, sister of Ahaziah, took Joash the son of Ahaziah, and stole him from among the king’s sons which were slain; and they hid him, even him and his nurse, in the bedchamber from Athaliah, so that he was not slain” 2 Kings 11:1-2.

“But when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the seed royal of the house of Judah. But Jehoshabeath, the daughter of the king, took Joash the son of Ahaziah, and stole him from among the king’s sons that were slain, and put him and his nurse in a bedchamber. So Jehoshabeath, the daughter of king Jehoram, the wife of Jehoiada the priest, (for she was the sister of Ahaziah,) hid him from Athaliah, so that she slew him not” 2 Chronicles 22:10-11.

Joash later becomes king of Judah, 2 Kings 12:1, 2 Chronicles 24:1. Note that the command of 1 Kings 22:26, 2 Chronicles 18:25 can only refer nominally to Joash and would have to have been carried out by “*Amon the governor of the city.*” Ahab’s reference to “*Joash the king’s son*” is to Ahaziah reigning in the southern kingdom while his father is on the expedition north that ended with

Ahab's death in battle at **"Ramothgilead"** 1 Kings 22:15, 2 Chronicles 18:19. See 1 Kings 22:34, 35, 2 Chronicles 18:33, 34. Though an infant, Joash is travelling with Jehoshaphat's retinue most likely as Ahaziah's representative, no doubt scrupulously watched over by Jehoshaphat's servants and even his mother Zibiah. A king can send a son to represent him, Matthew 21:37, Mark 12:6, Luke 20:13. Moreover, God can take care of **"little ones"** Numbers 14:31. Note again that Ahaziah is 30 at this time. See **Ahaziah, Jehoshaphat and Athaliah**. Jehoshaphat's son Jehoram is 29.

Jehoram of Judah, it should be noted, **"walked in the way of the kings of Israel, as did the house of Ahab: for the daughter of Ahab was his wife"** 2 Kings 8:18 with 2 Chronicles 21:6. If Jehoram is married young, it is possible that he and **"the daughter of Ahab"** could have had a daughter aged about 14-15 by the time he was 29. That daughter would most likely be **"Zibiah of Beersheba"** 2 Kings 12:1, 2 Chronicles 24:1 above.

It is very likely-that Ahaziah is crowned a 'spare' king at the time of Jehoshaphat's political alliance with Ahab, 2 Chronicles 18:1 in order to have sufficient successors to the thrones of both kingdoms, as explained above. See **Ahaziah of Israel, Jehoram of Israel** and 2 Chronicles 15:5. However, Ahaziah is crowned a 'spare' king *in Israel* at this time. Note again that Jehoshaphat, although king of Judah, is also said to be king of Israel according to 2 Chronicles 21:2 which refers to **"Jehoshaphat king of Israel."** See again remarks under **Ahaziah, Jehoshaphat and Athaliah**.

"The brethren of Ahaziah king of Judah" 2 Kings 10:13 could therefore be both **"the princes of Israel"** 2 Chronicles 21:4 and **"the princes of Judah"** 2 Chronicles 22:8. They are the ones who survive Jehoram's massacre, 2 Chronicles 21:4, but perish in Jehu's purge, 2 Chronicles 22:8. See remarks under **Ahaziah, Jehoshaphat and Athaliah**.

2 Kings 8:27 indicates that Ahaziah is son-in-law to the house of Ahab: He is married to **"Zibiah of Beersheba"** 2 Kings 12:1, 2 Chronicles 24:1 above, by whom Ahaziah has his son Joash. If **"Zibiah of Beersheba"** is Ahab's granddaughter and that appears to be the case, that would make Ahaziah **"the son in law of the house of Ahab"** 2 Kings 8:27. It is possible, even if distasteful, that Zibiah is promised to Ahaziah at a very young age, for reasons of maintaining the Israel-Judah affinity, 2 Chronicles 18:1, given to Ahaziah as a teenage bride and had a son i.e. Joash by him in their first year of marriage. Such an arrangement is not unknown. It was carried out by English royalty in late medieval times for Margaret Beaufort, Countess of Richmond and Derby.

See en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Margaret_Beaufort,_Countess_of_Richmond_and_Derby#First_marriage

Thus, Ahaziah is eligible to be crowned king aged 22, 2 Kings 8:26 *in Israel* as **"the son in law of the house of Ahab"** and son of **"Jehoshaphat king of Israel"** 2 Chronicles 21:2 but does not become the reigning king of Judah in his own right until 19-20 years later, first **"over Judah"** 2 Kings 9:29, then **"in Jerusalem"** aged 42, 2 Chronicles 22:2. It is at that time, aged 42, that Ahaziah of Judah definitely reigns supreme in Jerusalem, as 2 Kings 8:26, 2 Chronicles 22:2 indicate, after having been a co-regent or 'spare' king in Israel for 7 years, one year in Judah during Jehoshaphat's expedition north, another 11 years as co-regent or 'spare' king in Israel first with Ahaziah and then with Jehoram (Joram), sons of Ahab on the throne of Israel, one year reigning *over Judah* after the death of his half brother Jehoram, 2 Kings 9:29, 2 Chronicles 21:1, 18, 19, 20 and then king *in Jerusalem* for the second and final year his reign, 2 Kings 8:25, 26, 2 Chronicles 22:2. This is similar to the case of David, who is first king of Judah in Hebron and then in Jerusalem.

"And the time that David was king in Hebron over the house of Judah was seven years and six months" 2 Samuel 2:11.

"David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months: and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty and three years over all Israel and Judah" 2 Samuel 5:4-5.

Ahaziah is then killed by Jehu, 2 Kings 9:27, 2 Chronicles 22:9. Note again the wording of the following verses carefully.

“In the twelfth year of Joram the son of Ahab king of Israel did Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah begin to reign” 2 Kings 8:25 i.e. in Jerusalem:

“Two and twenty years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign; and he reigned one year in Jerusalem...” 2 Kings 8:26.

“And in the eleventh year of Joram the son of Ahab began Ahaziah to reign over Judah” 2 Kings 9:29 i.e. **“over Judah,”** not explicitly **“in Jerusalem.”**

“Forty and two years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem” 2 Chronicles 22:2.

In sum, Ahaziah’s 18 years as a king *in Israel* beginning at age 22 is feasible because by Athaliah, 2 Kings 8:26, 2 Chronicles 22:2, he is one of **“the sons of Jehoshaphat king of Israel”** 2 Chronicles 21:2 and he is **“the son in law of the house of Ahab”** 2 Kings 8:27.

See again **Table 1 Overlapping Reigns of the Kings of Israel and Judah.**

Note that this analysis shows that Jehoram, king of Judah, Ahaziah king of Judah and Jehoram (Joram) king of Israel all die within a couple of years of each other, Jehoram king of Judah of illness, 2 Chronicles 21:19, 20, Ahaziah and Jehoram king of Israel in Jehu’s purge, 2 Kings 9:24, 27, 2 Chronicles 22:7-9. They all incur **“the righteous judgment of God”** Romans 2:5, 2 Thessalonians 1:5 because they all **“wrought evil in the sight of the LORD”** 2 Kings 3:2 and **“did evil in the sight of the LORD”** 2 Kings 8:18, 27.

Conclusion on Ahaziah’s Age

The above analysis, therefore, shows that both passages in question, 2 Kings 8:26, 2 Chronicles 22:2, are correct. They complement each other. This analysis also satisfies other scriptures directly associated with these passages.

Additional Questions

Four additional questions remain, having arisen from scriptures associated with the above analysis.

1. How does Ahaziah get to be the son of Jehoram, who is a year younger than Ahaziah? See ***Ahaziah a ‘Spare’ King in Israel.***
2. How does Ahaziah get to be **“the youngest of his sons”** 2 Chronicles 21:17, 22:1 with respect to Jehoram of Judah? Note that Jehoahaz and Ahaziah are the same individual.
3. How does Ahaziah get to be Jehoram of Judah’s only surviving son, 2 Chronicles 21:17, when he is said to have brethren, the princes of Judah, who have offspring, 2 Kings 10:13, 2 Chronicles 22:8? Note that Ahaziah’s designation as Jehoram of Judah’s only surviving son, 2 Chronicles 21:17 is applied to Ahaziah four years before Jehu’s purge, while the princes of Judah in 2 Kings 10:13, Ahaziah’s brethren, are still alive, along with their offspring.
4. How can the above time intervals be matched with the age of Joash, who is said to be 7 years old, when he comes to reign, 7 years after the death of his father Ahaziah, 2 Kings 11:1-4, 21, 12:1, 2 Chronicles 22:10-12, 23:1, 24:1 and 19 years after the death of Ahab, 1 Kings 22:26, 34, 35, 2 Chronicles 18:25, 33, 34?

The proposed explanations are as follows.

Ahaziah Jehoram’s ‘Son’

It is likely, however shocking, that Jehoram, before his illness, marries his step-mother Athaliah, 25 years his senior, during the 5th or 6th years of his reign i.e. after Jehoshaphat’s death and before Jehoram’s illness, to help consolidate his power. Athaliah may have agreed to this political expedient and have prompted Jehoram to kill his siblings and even some of her own sons, 2 Chronicles 21:4 because she is an evil woman who murders her own grandchildren, 2 Kings 11:1, 2 Chronicles 22:3, 10. As indicated above, Jehoram therefore suffers judgement in kind and a fatal

disease, 2 Chronicles 21:14-20. That judgement would also fall on Jehoram for violation of the Levitical law in taking **“his father’s wife”** 1 Corinthians 5:1, Leviticus 18:8, Numbers 35:31. Note the word **“wives”** in 2 Chronicles 21:14, very likely a reference to Jehoram’s wife **“the daughter of Ahab”** 2 Kings 8:18, 2 Chronicles 21:6 and *Athaliah, sister to Ahab*, 1 Kings 16:28, 29, 30, 2 Kings 8:26, 2 Chronicles 22:2.

Nevertheless, if Jehoram does marry Athaliah, then his half-brother Ahaziah would indeed become his ‘son,’ though a step-son. This is possible in scripture, where a son-in-law can be designated a son, 1 Samuel 24:16, Luke 3:23. Note also 1 Samuel 18:19, 2 Samuel 6:23, 21:8 where step-sons are also sons. Such a solution is therefore consistent with scripture.

Ahaziah Jehoram’s Youngest ‘Son’

Obviously Ahaziah cannot have been younger than any of Jehoram’s biological sons. Yet he is said to be the youngest of Jehoram’s sons because the Arabians slew **“all the eldest”** in their joint raid into Judah with the Philistines, 2 Chronicles 21:17, 22:1.

With respect to Jehoahaz and Ahaziah being one and the same person, see Question 2 above, it was not uncommon at that time for kings to have varying names. Ahaziah and Azariah are the same individual, 2 Chronicles 22:6, 7, 8, 9, Jehoram and Joram of Israel are the same individual, 2 Kings 3:1, 8:16, Jehoram and Joram of Judah are the same individual, 2 Kings 1:17, 8:21, Jehoash and Joash are the same individual, 2 Kings 11:2, 21.

2 Chronicles 21:17 also states that of Jehoram’s sons, only Ahaziah (Jehoahaz), **“the youngest of his sons”** is **“left him.”**

Accepting the biblical definition of sons as sons-in-law and step-sons, see above, these additional details may be explained if Ahaziah is reckoned as the most recent of Jehoram of Judah’s sons by Jehoram’s marriage to Athaliah, and therefore the most junior or youngest in the succession. This approach therefore accounts for Ahaziah as Jehoram’s **“youngest son”** 2 Chronicles 22:1.

Ahaziah of course still has **“brethren”** 2 Kings 10:13 at the time when he is said to be Jehoram of Judah’s sole surviving son. The explanation for that apparent anomaly follows.

Ahaziah, Athaliah and Ahaziah’s Brethren

Ahaziah of Judah’s mother Athaliah, aided and abetted by others of the house of Ahab, 2 Chronicles 22:4, of whom Athaliah was a member, being **“the daughter of Omri king of Israel”** 2 Kings 8:26, would no doubt have been anxious to promote her son in the Judean succession and as indicated, may have prompted Jehoram to eliminate his sibling rivals for this purpose and even some of her own sons. See remarks above under *Ahaziah Jehoram’s ‘Son.’*

Athaliah seems interested only in her son Ahaziah, 2 Kings 11:1, 2 Chronicles 22:3, 10 and unmindful of his brethren **“the princes of Judah...the brethren of Ahaziah”** 2 Chronicles 22:8, i.e. most likely her other sons by Jehoshaphat. This is strongly suggestive of her obsession with royal power, to be realised (at first) through Ahaziah, whom she may have perceived as the most easily manipulated of her sons, according to 2 Chronicles 22:3 **“He also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab: for his mother was his counsellor to do wickedly.”**

Athaliah is quick to seize power herself when the opportunity arises and *eliminate all rivals*, including her own grandchildren, 2 Kings 11:1, 3, 2 Chronicles 22:10, 12. This point is reinforced if, as Jehoram of Judah’s wife, she connives at the murder of at least some of her own sons during Jehoram’s massacre i.e. **“divers...princes of Israel”** 2 Chronicles 21:4, as indicated some of **“the brethren of Ahaziah king of Judah”** 2 Kings 10:13 but both **“princes of Israel”** and **“princes of Judah”** because Jehoshaphat is also **“Jehoshaphat king of Israel”** 2 Chronicles 21:2 as well as **“Jehoshaphat the king of Judah”** 1 Kings 22:2, 10, 29, 2 Kings 3:7, 14, 2 Chronicles 18:28, 19:1. See also 1 Kings 22:51, 2 Kings 1:17, 3:1, 8:16, 2 Chronicles 18:3, 9, 20:35.

An apparent anomaly remains in that Ahaziah is also said to be the only son left to Jehoram of Judah, 2 Chronicles 21:17. Yet, as indicated, Ahaziah has **“brethren”** 2 Kings 10:13, who should therefore also qualify as Jehoram’s sons, according to the biblical definition and who survive until Jehu’s massacre, 2 Kings 10:13, 14. This apparent anomaly will now be addressed in more detail.

The explanation is that Ahaziah’s surviving brethren, certainly after Jehoram of Judah’s massacre of their siblings, are in the *north* while Ahaziah is benefitting from his mother Athaliah’s special protection, in the *south*, not the *north*, see below. Athaliah and her cronies in the house of Ahab, 2 Chronicles 22:3, 4, clearly aim for Ahaziah to take over the southern kingdom on Jehoram of Judah’s death, because Ahaziah then duly becomes king after Jehoram of Judah expires, according to 2 Kings 9:29 **“And in the eleventh year of Joram the son of Ahab began Ahaziah to reign over Judah”** with 2 Chronicles 22:1, 3, 4. Though still a ‘spare’ king of Israel, see ***Ahaziah a ‘Spare’ King in Israel***, Ahaziah has been in the south before and during Jehoram of Judah’s fatal illness.

“And they came up into Judah, and brake into it, and carried away all the substance that was found in the king’s house, and his sons also, and his wives; so that there was never a son left him, save Jehoahaz, the youngest of his sons. And after all this the LORD smote him in his bowels with an incurable disease. And it came to pass, that in process of time, after the end of two years, his bowels fell out by reason of his sickness: so he died of sore diseases. And his people made no burning for him, like the burning of his fathers” 2 Chronicles 21:17-19.

Jehu then catches and kills Ahaziah’s surviving brethren in the north, i.e. Samaria, 2 Kings 10:12-14, after killing Ahaziah and Joram of Israel, 2 Kings 8:29, 9:23, 24, 27, 28. It is only at that time that Ahaziah ventures north again, at the end of his two-year reign, the first year **“over Judah”** 2 Kings 9:29 and the second and final year **“in Jerusalem”** 2 Kings 8:25, 26, 2 Chronicles 22:2. Note that **“*Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah went down to see Joram the son of Ahab in Jezreel, because he was sick*”** 2 Kings 8:29 with 2 Chronicles 22:6. See ***Ahaziah Jehoram’s ‘Son’*** and ***Ahaziah Jehoram’s Youngest ‘Son’***.

As indicated, Jehoshaphat and Athaliah could have had children from about the time they were old enough to conceive them and more children after the birth of Ahaziah, to become Ahaziah’s brethren and by virtue of their mother’s lineage, 2 Kings 8:26 and their father’s position, 2 Chronicles 21:2 these brethren, some of **“*the brethren of Ahaziah king of Judah*”** 2 Kings 10:13 could become **“*princes of Israel*”** 2 Chronicles 21:4, just as Ahaziah is also effectively a prince of Israel being son-in-law to Ahab, 2 Kings 8:27. See again ***Ahaziah a ‘Spare’ King in Israel*** and ***Ahaziah Jehoram’s Youngest ‘Son’***.

These offspring became either the **“*divers*”** victims of Jehoram’s massacre or of Jehu’s purge 4-6 years later. However, before their deaths, they have fathered offspring, whom Jehu slays, according to 2 Chronicles 22:8 **“*that, when Jehu was executing judgment upon the house of Ahab, and found the princes of Judah, and the sons of the brethren of Ahaziah, that ministered to Ahaziah, he slew them.*”**

As indicated, Ahaziah’s brethren, their sons and their servants could therefore easily account for the 42 slain by Jehu, 2 Kings 10:14. Ahaziah’s sons survive but not for long, being **“*the seed royal*”** 2 Kings 11:1, 2 Chronicles 22:10 murdered by their own grandmother. It is possible that their mother or at least mother of Joash and his brothers, Queen Zibiah, 2 Kings 12:1, 2 Chronicles 24:1, escapes to her home, Beersheba, in the remote south insofar as Zibiah is never mentioned except as Joash’s mother, 2 Kings 12:1, 2 Chronicles 24:1. Note again the use of the word **“also”** in 2 Chronicles 24:1. Its use in 2 Chronicles 24:1 eliminates the possibility of two different Ahaziahs in 2 Kings 8:26, 2 Chronicles 22:2. See remarks above under ***Ahaziah, Jehoshaphat and Athaliah*** and ***Ahaziah Jehoram’s ‘Son’***.

The above analysis, therefore, appears to be consistent with scripture, with respect to solving the apparent anomaly of Ahaziah as Jehoram’s only surviving son, 2 Chronicles 21:17. Even though Ahaziah has **“brethren”** 2 Kings 10:13, 2 Chronicles 22:8, who would also have qualified as Jehoram of Judah’s sons (step-sons) via his marriage to Athaliah, these are ensconced in Samaria in

the north at the time of Jehoram of Judah's death and are not counted as being "*left him*" 2 Chronicles 21:17 in Judah. As indicated, they survive Jehoram's massacre but not Jehu's purge. After Ahaziah's death, Athaliah reigns alone for 6 years, 2 Kings 11:3, 2 Chronicles 22:12.

Joash's Age as King of Judah

Finally, the age of Joash, son of Ahaziah, 2 Kings 11:2, 21, 2 Chronicles 22:11, 24:1, would not be 7 when he ascends the throne of Judah after Athaliah is slain, 2 Kings 11:20, 21, 12:1, 2 Chronicles 22:12, 23:1, 24:1, if, as must be the case, he is "*Joash the king's son*" 1 Kings 22:26, 2 Chronicles 18:25. However, he is said to be 7 "*when he began to reign*" 2 Kings 11:21, 2 Chronicles 24:1. The explanation is as follows.

If he is, say, a one year-old infant in the 19th year of Jehoshaphat or after the 22nd year of Ahab, he would be 8 when Jehoshaphat dies at the end of his 25-year reign i.e. 7 in the last year of Jehoshaphat's reign. See *Ahaziah a 'Spare' King in Israel* and remarks on 1 Kings 22:26, 2 Chronicles 18:25.

According to the above chronology, therefore, Joash would be 12 at the end of Jehoram's reign and 14 at the time of the death of his father Ahaziah, at the end of his one-year reign "*in Jerusalem*" 2 Kings 8:26, 2 Chronicles 22:2. Could a 14-year-old still have a nurse, 2 Kings 11:2, 2 Chronicles 22:11? It is possible, given that Deborah, designated as Rebekah's nurse, still accompanies Jacob's family at least 20 years after Rebekah's son Jacob has wives, sons and a daughter, Genesis 31:38, 32:22, 34:1, 35:8. (Note that this analysis therefore shows one reason why apparently minor, inconsequential details, such as Genesis 35:8, are sometimes recorded in scripture. Nothing is wasted in the Lord's words. See remarks under *Ahab and Jehoshaphat* on 1 Kings 22:47.)

This would make Joash about 20 years old, not 7, when he actually ascends the throne, after Athaliah's 6-year reign, 2 Kings 11:3, 12:1, 2 Chronicles 22:12, 24:1. The only explanation is that, from age 7, in the last year of Jehoshaphat's reign, Joash is also a 'spare' or deputy king, 1 Kings 22:47, for Judah, just as his father Ahaziah has been a 'spare' or deputy king for Israel, from the age of 22. See again remarks under *Ahaziah a 'Spare' King in Israel*. Given the high mortality rate amongst the royal houses of Israel and Judah as the above study shows, the designation of 'spare' kings is understandable for those times. See again *Ahaziah of Israel, Jehoram of Israel* and 2 Chronicles 15:5.

Note further that although the time interval between 2 Kings 12:3 and 4 is unspecified and the verses are separated by a paragraph mark, the command that Joash issues to the priests in 2 Kings 12:4, 5 is unlikely to have come from a pre-adolescent child. Therefore, if repair of the temple is high on Joash's priorities as king, which is a distinct possibility, 2 Kings 12:4, 5 support the conclusion that Joash comes to the throne of Judah aged 20, although he begins to reign as a 'spare' king aged 7.

Note also that although Joash's siblings are of "*the seed royal*" 2 Kings 11:1, 2 Chronicles 22:10, Ahaziah may have given Joash the kingdom and his brothers gifts, if Joash is the eldest, as 1 Kings 22:26, 2 Chronicles 18:25 imply, just as his father Jehoshaphat before him gives his eldest son Jehoram the kingdom and Jehoram's brothers gifts, 2 Chronicles 21:3. Thus, Joash would have been a 'spare' king aged 7, 2 Kings 11:21, 2 Chronicles 24:1 but not necessarily his brothers.

Again, this analysis appears to satisfy all the relevant scriptures.

Conclusion on Additional Questions

In sum, the two passages, 2 Kings 8:26, 2 Chronicles 22:2, do admit of an explanation in the 1611 Holy Bible as it stands, as indeed do all the associated passages where additional questions have arisen. The 1611 Holy Bible cannot therefore be charged with error in any of those passages.

The wording of the 1611 Holy Bible in 2 Kings 8:26, 2 Chronicles 22:2 is in fact the only realistic wording for the respective contexts of those passages according to "*the words...which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual*" 1 Corinthians 2:13.

Table 1 Summary Notes

1. **Ahab king of Israel** begins to reign in the 38th year of Asa king of Judah and reigns 22 years, 1 Kings 16:29.
2. **Jehoshaphat king of Judah** begins to reign co-regent or deputy king, 1 Kings 22:47, aged 35 with his father Asa in the 4th year of Ahab's reign and reigns a further 25 years in Jerusalem, 1 Kings 22:42, 2 Chronicles 20:31.
3. **Ahaziah king of Israel**, Ahab's son, begins to reign co-regent with his father Ahab in the 17th year of Jehoshaphat's reign in Jerusalem and then reigns a further 2 years over Israel. Ahaziah of Israel in the first of those years succeeds Ahab in the last year of Ahab's reign and reigns for a further one year, 1 Kings 22:51.
4. **Jehoram king of Judah**, Jehoshaphat's son, begins his 8-year reign in Jerusalem in the 5th year of Jehoram (Joram) king of Israel counted from the 18th year of Jehoshaphat's 25-year reign in Jerusalem, 2 Kings 3:1, 8:16, 17, 2 Chronicles 21:5. Jehoram of Judah has been co-regent with his father Jehoshaphat but deputy to him for the previous 3 years and is co-regent but senior to him for the first 4 years of his 8-year reign. Jehoram succeeds Jehoshaphat on his death for the remaining 4 years of Jehoram of Judah's reign, 2 Kings 1:17, 3:1, 8:16, 17.
5. **Jehoram king of Israel**, another son of Ahab, reigns co-regent for one year with his father Ahab and with Ahaziah of Israel for 2 years from the 18th year of Jehoshaphat's reign and reigns a further 12 years after the death of Ahaziah of Israel, 2 Kings 1:17, 3:1.
6. **Ahaziah king of Judah**, son of Jehoshaphat by Athaliah daughter of Ahab and Jehoram of Judah's half brother, 2 Kings 8:26, 2 Chronicles 22:2, 3, 4, 9, **is aged 22** when he begins to reign as a 'spare' or deputy king, 1 Kings 22:47, in Israel, because he is a son in law to the house of Ahab and his father Jehoshaphat is said to be king of *Israel*, as well as the king of *Judah*, 1 Kings 22:2, 10, 26, 29, 2 Kings 3:7, 14, 8:27, 2 Chronicles 18:25, 28, 19:1, 21:2. He reigns 7 years co-regent with Ahab, one year co-regent as deputy king of Judah with Jehoshaphat while Jehoshaphat is on campaign with Ahab and then another 11 years as co-regent or 'spare' king in Israel first with Ahaziah and then with Jehoram (Joram), sons of Ahab successively on the throne of Israel. Ahaziah of Judah reigns one year *over Judah* after the death of his half brother Jehoram, in the 11th year of Jehoram of Israel's reign, 2 Kings 9:29, 2 Chronicles 21:1, 18, 19, 20 and then reigns as king *in Jerusalem* for the second and final year his reign, which is the 12th year of Jehoram of Israel's reign, 2 Kings 8:25, 26, 2 Chronicles 22:1, 2. Ahaziah of Judah **is aged 42** at the time of his one-year reign in Jerusalem. **This analysis resolves the apparent discrepancy with respect to Ahaziah's age as 22 and 42 in 2 Kings 8:26, 2 Chronicles 22:2 respectively.** See *Additional Questions* for the resolution of related questions such as how is Ahaziah of Judah Jehoram of Judah's youngest and only son when Jehoram is a year younger than Ahaziah and Ahaziah still has brethren, 2 Kings 9:29, 10:13, 2 Chronicles 21:20, 22:1, 2, 8.
7. **Athaliah queen of Judah** reigns 6 years over Judah, 2 Kings 11:3, 2 Chronicles 22:12.
8. **Joash king of Judah** is the son of Ahaziah of Judah and is a one year-old infant at the death of Ahab, 1 Kings 22:26, 2 Chronicles 18:25. He becomes a spare king in Judah from the age of 7 in the last year of his grandfather Jehoshaphat's reign, 2 Kings 11:21, 2 Chronicles 24:1 and ascends the throne in Jerusalem 13 years later at the age of 20 upon Athaliah's death. Joash king of Judah reigns another 27 years in Jerusalem, making a total of 40 years as a king of Judah **"in the sight of God and man"** Proverbs 3:4.