[A-9] Supposed Errors In The Bible
{www.TheWordNotes.com}

The meticulous detailed accuracy of the Scriptures requires us to pay attention to exactly how things are worded and that we seek the Holy Spirit's guidance in our understanding. The vast majority of so-called errors in the Bible have nothing to do with Hebrew or Greek, but the fact that people don't pay attention to what they are reading in English! Some of those have already been dealt with in previous sessions. But there are a few statements in the Bible that bear closer examination because people don't know the background and misunderstand what is said. We'll address a few of those in this article.

Proverbs 26:4-5
(4) Do not answer a fool according to his folly, lest you also be like him.
(5) Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit.

Here we are told one thing, and in the very next verse we are told the opposite. The plain truth that most of us understand is that how we respond to a person has to do with the context and who we are talking to at the time.

==========
II Kings 8:26
(26) 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. KJV
(26) Ahaziah was twenty-two years old when he began to reign; and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. And his mother's name *was* Athaliah, the daughter {granddaughter} of Omri king of Israel. KJP
==========
II Chronicles 22:2
(2) 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. KJV

(2) Ahaziah was forty-two years old[b*] when he began to reign, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. His mother's name also *was* Athaliah the daughter {granddaughter} of Omri.[c] KJP

II Ki. 8:26 says that Ahaziah was twenty-two and II Chr. 22:2 says that he was forty-two. So which is it? The correct answer of course is that both scriptures are true! Ahaziah co-reigned with his father Jehoram at age twenty-two during the last year of Jehoram's reign because Jehoram was very sick. [II Chr. 21:19]. This means that Jehoram was 17 when he fathered Ahaziah [39-22=17].

II Chr. 21:16-17 tells us that the Philistines and Arabians came and took everything from the king's house including his sons and wives and everything in it, so for a period of about twenty years there was no reigning king over Judah since the Philistines and Arabians were in control.

II Chr. 22:1-4 tells us that when Ahaziah was forty-two [20 years after his co-reign with his father] the people of Jerusalem made him king once again. Again, because of his wickedness [II Chr. 22:4] he only reigned one year.

Note: II Chron. 22:2c – daughter of Omri – II Chr. 21:6 tells us she {Athaliah} was the
daughter of Ahab and Jezebel so she was actually the granddaughter of Omri.
Grandchildren are often referred to as sons or daughters [descendants]

====================
I Kings 7:23; II Chronicles 4:2 [the value for pi.]
(23) And he made a molten sea {bowl; bath tub},[d] ten cubits {about 15 ft.; 4.6 m.} from the one brim to the other: *it was* all around, and its height *was* five cubits {about 7.5 ft.; 2.3 m.}: and a line of thirty cubits {about 45 ft.; 13.7 m.} encircled it all around.
(24) And under its brim all around *there were* gourds encircling it, ten in a cubit {about 1.5 ft.; 0.46 m.}, encircling the sea {bowl; bath tub} all around: the gourds *were* cast in two rows, when it was cast.
(25) It stood upon twelve oxen, three looking toward the north, and three looking toward the west, and three looking toward the south, and three looking toward the east: and the sea {bowl; bath tub} *was set* above upon them, and all their back ends *were* pointing to the inside.
(26) And it *was* one hand breadth thick {about 4 in.; 10.2 cm.}, and its brim was formed like the brim of a cup, with flowers of lilies: it contained two thousand baths {about 11,600 gal.; 44,000 L.}.[e]

7:23d – molten sea – a huge bowl {bath tub} to be filled with water and used by the
priests for bathing [II Chr. 4:6] - 15 feet; 4.6 meters in diameter; 7 ½ feet;
2.3 meters deep, 45 feet; 13.7 m in circumference. Some argue that this
passage gives an incorrect value for π since the diameter is 10 cubits but the
circumference is 30 cubits. C/D=π. {30/10=3} There are actually three
possibilities here.
(1) the tub isn't perfectly circular; possibly slightly oval
(2) the measurements are approximations
(3) the diameter is measured to the outside of the rim {which may be indicated
in verse 26 and the brim is a hand-breath [4 inches] thick} and the
circumference is measured on the inside. I'm inclined to believe this latter is the
correct explanation. In actuality 3.14 is itself an approximation!
7:26e – bath – about 5.8 gallons or 22 liters – see Appendix J: Bible Weights and
Measures
Note: the tub was one piece of molded brass [I Ki. 7:40-46] about 4 inches; 10.2
centimeters thick