

Back Page Letters

To the Editor:

For weeks I wanted to send you a couple of papers to critique but waited till I could respond to your July publication. (Enclosed are a few notations for your future reference. The non-typical typo errors suggest you were working under pressure.)

Your excellent technical work is greatly enhanced by this even more vital theological treatment of a confusing subject. I trust it will receive wide and careful study and I will do what I can to encourage this.

A. Leroy Moore, Ph.D.
Kamiah, ID

I appreciate your supportive remarks on "The Ten Commandments, Part 3: Christian Perfection" (No. 11/Jul 86) and also the errata list in another part of your letter, both for the above and for my "Historical Overview of Dan 11:2-15." Pressure is no excuse. Instead of discussing each slip separately--and there were some you didn't include--I am simply reissuing a corrected printing (not a revision) of Historicism No. 11/Jul 86. A copy of the corrected No. 11 is being mailed to each subscriber along with the current No. 12.

As long as we're on the subject, there are three earlier papers that contain unacceptable errors. By oversight I included vs. 1 in the numerator of the ratio of explanatory to imperative clauses in, "The Ten Commandments, Part 1: Non-Imperative Clauses" (No. 6/Jul 86, pp. 65-66; quoted subsequently in No. 9/Jan 87, p. 45). Also table 4 ("Dates in Jeremiah") in the paper entitled, "The Context for Ezra's Use of a Fall-to-Fall Calendar" (No. 8/Oct 86, p. 17, see also p. 29) has needed to be redone. A total of five separate replacement sheets are included in the same envelope as No. 12 and the corrected No. 11:

Issue	Pages	Correction
No.6/Apr86	65-66	77 words without counting maqqēp (not 88) = 45% (not 48%); 62 words counting maqqēp (not 68) = 44% (not 48%)
No. 8/Oct 86	17-18, 29-30	Julian equivalents for a number of Semitic dates
No. 9/Jan 87	45-46, 61-62	Numbers quoted from No. 6/Apr 86 (above)

Coming back to the datelines in Jeremiah (second item above), the Julian year number corresponding to a spring-to-spring (SS) date for a given king can be earlier than, the same as, or later than the corresponding Julian year number for the same king fall-to-fall (FF), depending on what time of year he started to reign and what time of year the target date represents. Thus, it is essential to know whether a king assumed power between Nisan 1 and Tishri 1 (in months 1-6) or between Tishri 1 and Nisan 1 (in months 7-12). Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, and Zedekiah all came to the throne between Tishri and Nisan of given years, while Josiah, Jehoahaz, and Nebuchadnezzar came to the throne between Nisan and Tishri. (Jeremiah gives no dates for Jehoahaz.) These facts are summarized in the following table:

Kings Living in Time of Jeremiah:	Earlier When Different:	Julian Years Same During:	Julian Years Different in:	Entire Year, Julian Numbers:
Josiah	FF dates	Mos. 1-6	Mos. 7-12	Different
[Jehoahaz]	FF dates	Mos. 1-6	Mos. 7-12	Different
Jehoiakim	SS dates	Mos. 7-12	Mos. 1-6	Same
Jehoiachin	SS dates	Mos. 7-12	Mos. 1-6	Same
Zedekiah	SS dates	Mos. 7-12	Mos. 1-6	Same
Nebuchadnezzar	FF dates	Mos. 1-6	Mos. 7-12	Different

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to make these overdue comments. – FWH (1987)

Note: The above corrections have all been made now in the papers posted on the web. If in some case you learn that they haven't been, please let me know. – FWH (2010)