

higher than 853 B.C. Nor can we place it any lower, because a comparison between the years assigned to the predecessors of Ahab, and the corresponding synchronisms with the kingdom of Judah, shows that the reigns of the Israelitish kings were reckoned according to a system which obliges us to deduct one year in every case. Hence the 2 years of Ahaziah, and the 12 years of Joram, the successors of Ahab, are really only $(11+1)$ 12 full years, and added to 841 B.C., bring us to 853 B.C. for the death of Ahab. According to the Bible, Ahab died in the 17th year of Josaphat, king of Judah, whose first year is the 4th of Ahab. Ahab begins in the 38th of Asa, whose 2nd year is the 22nd year of Jeroboam I., the first king of Israel. Hence the era of the beginning of the Israelitish monarchy cannot be placed any higher than $[(16+3+37) 56 - 1 + 21 = 76 + 853 =]$ 929 B.C. Solomon apparently died after Nisan in that year, and Jeroboam probably dated his first official year from Tisri. In agreement with the practice of the Assyrian monarchs, Rehoboam probably did not begin his first official year until Nisan of 928 B.C. Hence his 5th year, in which the invasion of Shishak took place, was 924 B.C.

16. If Solomon reigned 40 years, his first year would seem to be 968 B.C., and his 4th 965 B.C. But we learn from the Bible (1 Chron. xxiii. 1, compare xxix. 22) that he was already associated as king during David's lifetime, and it is probable that, like Josaphat and Jotham, he did not begin to date his regnal years until the death of his father. The Bible does not say how long this joint-reign lasted, but fortunately the contemporary Tyrian annals enable us to determine this point with great exactness. According to Menander¹ the Tyrian annals counted 155 years and 8 months, or in round numbers, 156 years from the accession of Hiram to the building of Tyre, and from the 4th of Solomon (= 12th of Hiram) $156 - 11 = 145$ years. According to the unanimous testimony of Timæus, Dionysius Halicarnassus, Aristotle, Pliny, Cicero, Velleius and Eusebius,² the building of Carthage must be

¹ Josephus, *Contra Apion*, i. 18.

² See Unger, *Chronol. des Manetho*, 214, 215.