

APPENDIX G
Deviation Problems
(An Editorial)

We have presented the preceding Bowen-Russell chronology as being, to the best of our knowledge, the finest Biblical chronology ever detailed. We would never discourage the search for truth and accuracy by any who find the need to make such a pursuit. However, we do know that this chronology has withstood the test of time, of history, and of the numerous challenges made to it. One most disconcerting challenge is the one which states an inaccuracy but has no alternative. It is particularly unbecoming to a Christian to tear down without building up in its place.

So frequently those who challenge this chronology appear to have more faith in secular historians than they do in the Word of God. Seeing this tendency should immediately raise the red flag of danger to the Christian. One common example is found in new chronologies which (because they must do so) make the period of judges less than 450 years in length. How can we challenge the word of the Apostle Paul to the contrary? (Acts 13:20) Even the usually careful translators of the New American Standard (possibly because of chronological prejudice?) have corrupted Acts 13:18-20 into a statement which is so clearly impossible that the most primitive of Biblical chronologers can instantly see its foolishness! Additionally, as shown on the page of the Third Millennium, it is quite possible to document Paul's 450-year assertion with a reasonable degree of certainty directly from the Old Testament account of the judges. The Lord has even inserted at 66% through the process the confirmation by Jephtha that our calculations are correct. Why did he not do so at 100% of the process? He did - - via Paul! How small can our faith become when we reject such testimony?

There are many other elements of faith in the chronological process; but their sum-total overcomes any weakness of faith or understanding we might have experienced in a particular detail. Is it just coincidence that the jubilee points to 1875 as does Daniel's prophecy of 1335 days? Is it just coincidence that the jubilee type-versus-antitype reckoning divides the 7000 years exactly in half? Is it only coincidence that the Jewish Double confirms the 1875 date as well as other dates of the chronology? Is it only coincidence that the venerable tradition - - a Scriptural tradition - - of 6 + 1 also confirms the 1875 date? Beloved saints: how many coincidences can you abide before your faith is confirmed? How many of us have the fortitude to stand before God and say, "All of this coincidence is very nice, but I have a better idea"? Please seek the blessings of the Most High as you consider these matters.