

it. They copied the MSS as they found them. And we are much better off then if they had started to juggle them around to fit their idea of what was what. And so I feel that we have to recognize that there is a possibility and I would guess a great possibility that this 25 yrs. old is wrong here, and of course it is entirely probable that in the early copies of ^{the}Scripture the figures were written in some sort of a writing of figures rather than spelling out the words as they are in our present Heb. MSS, and that makes it much easier for a mistake in copying to have come in in figures than in straight full discussion of words. And so I don't think we can rule out the fact that this 25 yrs. old may be an error here, but neither do I think we can say definitely that it is. And the eternal salvation of no one of us depends ~~on~~ upon determining whether the Levites were to begin their service at 30 or ~~at~~ at 25, but whichever it was that the Lord desired at that time was what was in the original. It may even have been changed for reasons of changing conditions at a later time. It is --- I utterly disagree with those who say the spiritual teachings of the Bible are true, we stand upon them, but when it comes to historical and scientific statements, they represent the feelings of the times. I do ~~not~~ not agree with that at all. I think that anything that the Lord has said in His word is absolutely true and dependable whether it be science, history, whatever it be. But I do feel that certain things are far less important than others ^{that} and we must recognize ~~that~~ there is much we do not know, and therefore, unimportant as it is to us today whether the Levites began their service at 30 or at 25, I think it is important to recognize the possibility of error where anything is based upon merely one figure or one number in the scripture, or upon one statement in the Scripture and I would think it likely that the Lord ^{allowed} allows this contradiction to come in and to be perpetuated in order to drive that thought home to us and help us to realize it, because it is very important in various other connections. Even though I say I do not admit that it is necessarily a mistake -- I think there is a definite possibility that there is an explanation of it, but since we have no explanation given anywhere I don't think we can dogmatically say that. I think we must recognize the possibility of an error in it.