How did such an error get in? I think it's very easy to see.
It says Saul was the son of years, and then on the next line it says
he regined years two and so many., in Jerusalem. The page got torn.
That must have happened very very early, and nobody knows how old
Saul was when he became king. Nobody knows how long he reigned. I
believe that all the recent translations, at least all I have looked
up on this subject render it "and Saul was _____ years old, when he
became king and he reigned two(ans some insert 20 and some insert 40)
years in Jerusalem. It's easy to see how the mistake came. I think all
translators today agree. The point is that this is an obvious error
which we find in all of our MSS.

Another which is not quite so obvious is the case of Hannah.
We read in KJV that Hannah brought Samuel to Eli and it says she
brought 3 bulls and then it says in the next verse that she
sacrificed the bull. You wonder which of the three she sacrificed!
It does not tell us. It says she sacrificed the bull. This is one
of the terribly(?)(comparatively?) few cases where the LXX I believe
preserves the correct tense(?). The LXX says and she brought a three-
year-old-bull, and she sacrificed the bull. With the rendering as
it is in our Hebrew MSS, you would wonder what she did with the other
bulls she brought. In the Hebrew the final mem indicating the plural
got shifted over from the beginning of the word "three-year'old_"
to the end of the previous word which means a bull. Then a scribe
inserted a yodh before it so instead of saying per it says parim.
(bulls) and taking it away from the word that means three-year-old
bull it changes the wordto three. It is a very early mistake.

This very ea ly mistake must have been recognized by most
of the readers of the Hebrew Bible. When they translated it into
Greek they translated it correctly but they did not change the text.
I believe that that is a very good thing. I believe that God meant
that when the scribes came to an obvious error as in the case of
Saul and as in the case of the three-year-old-bull, they copied what
they found. If the scribes were free to correct what they found,
where they thought there was an error, we could get all kinds of
new errors inserted! But the fact that such obvious errors in a very
few places were preserved shows that the scribe did not venture to
correct even where they were certain it was a mistake. How much more
we can be sure that they did not correct at places where they might
have erroneous thought there was a mistake!

I think I will take time for one other instance in the OT
where there was such an error. It is in 1 Chron. in the list of
the sons of Levi. 1 Chron. 6:18 says "and the sons of Samuel, the
firstborn Vashni and Abiah. Vashni is a queer word because there's
no Hebrew word that starts with a V. I fact no Hebrew word at all
starts with a V. We do have a queen Vashti in Esther. Esther's
predecessor was Queen Vashti, but that's a Persian. Here it is
Vashti. When youlook a vew vv. away from that down in v. 33 you
read about Joel the son of Samuel. So Samuel had a son named Joel.
Elsewhere we are told that his firstborn was called Joel. Joel has
simply dropped out and the word "and a second" (vashiney) has in
KJV been made into a noun, Vashney. Then "and Abiah" or it should
say,"Joel and the second Abiah." These are 3 obvious errors in the OT.