

A CHRONOLOGICAL ERROR.

IN the April 15th issue of the "Herald" of Brooklyn U.S.A., there is a very interesting article pointing out a discrepancy in the chronological table which we had hitherto thought to be correct. The point of difference occurs in connection with the ending of the period of the kings of Judah and the beginning of the "Times of the Gentiles." The last king of Judah was Zedekiah, and it appears to have been taken for granted that he was dethroned and taken captive seventy years prior to the return of the Jews, as permitted by Cyrus in 536 B.C.; that would have been in 606 B.C., which date is the beginning of the Times of the Gentiles. It would now appear to be satisfactorily demonstrated that Zedekiah was not taken prisoner until the 19th year of Nebuchadnezzar, which was 587 B.C. It will thus be seen that the period of the kings (513 years) overlapped into the Gentile Times for nineteen years, during which time the Jews were under the power of Babylon, and their kings were but vassals. This means that we counted nineteen years more than we should have done, so that the world, is nineteen years younger than we had thought. While we had reckoned that 6000 years had elapsed from the creation of man down to 1872, we see that would not be the case until 1891. While this correction would not affect the period of the Gentile Times, which is understood to have run out in 1914, it does explain why certain events have not more rapidly followed. It will, however; affect other lines of time prophecies, such as the Jewish age parallels, unless some other error can be discovered. The "Herald" article would seem to be well thought out so that it will be with great interest that many will await the further articles promised along these lines.

We are sure that all earnest Bible students will feel grateful to those who by divine guidance and diligent study have been used to bring these matters to our attention, and while it is not necessary that we fix our minds upon any particular hour or day or year for the culmination of our hopes, or the fulfilment of prophecy regarding the present systems, social or religious, there will be a blessing in having our minds stirred anew along these lines, and in seeing that we had been expecting matters to culminate a little too soon. The Lord will not hurry His great plan to fit our mistakes, but His stately stepplings will continue as divinely designed.

"Deep in unfathomable mines
Of never failing skill,
He treasures up His bright designs,
And works His sovereign will"

(People's Paper, July 1st, 1921)