

**Question: How old was Jehoiachin when he began to reign and how long did he reign?**

2 Kings 24:8 says he was 18, and reigned for 3 months.

But.. .

2 Chronicles 36:9 says he was 8, and ruled for 3 months 10 days.

**Answer:**

In the Bible's History Books of Kings and Chronicles, a king can be said to "begin to reign" at a few different ages in his life, especially when there are complications involved with his reign.

There are more than a few examples of this.

1. For example, **King David** was anointed king in 1 Samuel 16:13 but fled from the already reigning king Saul (there were now two kings at this stage) for many years until he became the undisputed king when Saul died.  
When David did become undisputed king, he was anointed again in 2 Samuel 2:4 (at a different age) and anointed yet again in 2 Samuel 5:3. All this goes to show that David became king long before he started to "REIGN". In other words, David "began to reign" at THREE different times in his life.
2. See also 1 Kings 16:15-23 where **King Omri** "began to reign" at two different times in his life, because of complications.

**Jehoiachin** (the son) is said to have begun to reign at two different times: first as co-ruler and rightful heir when a child aged 8, and then as undisputed king as an adult aged 18. This is made clear when you examine the context of both 2 Kings 24 and 2 Chronicles 36.

2 Chronicles 36:5-9 describes how Jehoiakim (Jehoiachin's father) was bound in fetters to be taken to Babylon and then records that his son Jehoiachin was "8" when he began to reign (Jehoiakim didn't die yet). So, Jehoiachin becomes officially king at the age of 8 because his father was carried to Babylon, and this is obviously the situation the author of Chronicles (without mentioning the death of Jehoiakim) is speaking of. There were two living kings therefore at this stage (both the father, Jehoiakim, and Jehoiachin, the 8 year old son) but one was in Babylon and one (the 8 year old) was in Israel.

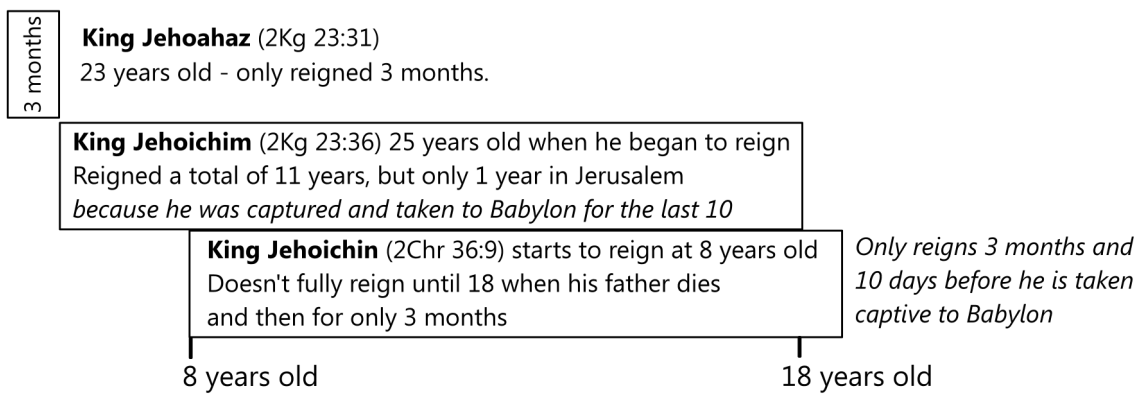
There is a difference in the way 2 Kings 24 tells the story. It specifically mentions that Jehoiakim slept with his fathers (died) and THEN Jehoiachin his son reigned in his stead starting at age "18".

So, It seems that 2 Chronicles focuses on when Jehoiachin became replacement king at age 8, while 2 Kings is to mention when Jehoiakim became undisputed king (after the death of his father king Jehoiakim).

Jehoiachin (like Omri and Jotham) therefore began to reign at two different times: 2 Chronicles recording when he took his father's place as ruler after his father was carried away to Babylon alive, and 2 Kings is speaking about when Jehoiachin became undisputed king after his father's death ten years later.

It is probable that Jehoiachin's mother (Jehoiakim's wife) ruled for him for the ten years before Jehoiachin reached the age of adulthood (18 years old). Notice 2 Kings 24:15 where she is taken away along with the rulers of the kingdom and Jeremiah 13:18-19 where she is called "queen".

A Chart showing the overlap of the reigns...



Regarding the 3 months versus 3 months and 10 days contradiction, 2Kings is being less specific than 2Chronicles. In other words, 3 months and 10 days is still only 3 MONTHS (it's not 4 months or 5 months), just like 3 minutes and 10 seconds is still only 3 MINUTES.

Below is a list of the kings of Judah after king **Saul**, **David** and **Solomon**, and the years that they reigned...

<b>KING</b>	<b>YEARS</b>	<b>LENGTH OF REIGN</b>
<b>Rehoboam</b>	928-911 B.C.	17 years
<b>Abijah/Abijam</b>	911-908	3
<b>Asa</b>	908-867	41
<b>Jehoshaphat</b>	867-851	25
<b>Jehoram/Joram</b>	851-843	8
<b>Ahaziah/Jehoahaz</b>	843-842	1
<b>Athaliah (Queen)</b>	842-836	7
<b>Joash/Jehoash</b>	836-799	40
<b>Amaziah</b>	799-786	29
<b>Uzziah</b>	786-758	52
<b>Jotham</b>	758-742	16
<b>Ahaz</b>	742-726	16
<b>Hezekiah</b>	726-697	29
<b>Manasseh</b>	697-642	55
<b>Amon</b>	642-640	2
<b>Josiah</b>	640-609	31
<b>Jehoahaz</b>	609-608	3 months
<b>Jehoiakim/Eliakim</b>	608-597	11
<b>Jehoiachin</b>	597	3 months
<b>Zedekiah</b>	597-587	11
<i>Nebuchadnezzar destroys Jerusalem and the Temple in 586 B.C.</i>		