

Lesson IV.

OMRI AND AHAB LEAD ISRAEL INTO GREATER SIN January 22, 1911

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—When Jeroboam, the first king of Israel, died, after a reign of twenty two years, he was succeeded by his son Nadab, ch. 15 : 25. Nadab, however, had been king for only two years when he was slain by Baasha, who seized the throne and reigned for twenty-four years, ch. 15 : 28, 33. Baasha was followed by his son Elah, who, after reigning for two years, was assassinated by Zimri, one of his generals, who made himself king, ch. 16 : 8-14.

GOLDEN TEXT—Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.—Proverbs 14: 34. Memorize vs. 25, 30. **THE LESSON PASSAGE**—1 Kings 16 : 23-33. Study 1 Kings 16: 15-33. Read chs. 21, 22.

23 In the thirty and first year of A'sa king of Judah began Omri to reign over Israel, twelve years: six years reigned he in Tirzah.

24 And he bought the hill Samaria of Shemer for two talents of silver, and built on the hill, and called the name of the city which he built, after the name of Shemer, owner of the hill, Samaria.

25 But Omri wrought evil in the eyes of the Lord, and did worse than all that were before him.

26 For he walked in all the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and in his sin wherewith he made Israel to sin, to provoke the Lord God of Israel to anger with their vanities.

27 Now the rest of the acts of Omri which he did, and his might that he shewed, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

28 So Omri slept with his fathers, and was buried

Revised Version—¹and reigned; ²he; ³the; ⁴And Omri did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord, and dealt wickedly above all; ⁵sins; ⁶did that which was evil; ⁷the Asherah; ⁸yet more.

Daily Readings—(Courtesy, I.B.R.A.)—M.—Omri and Ahab lead Israel into greater sin, 1 Kgs. 16 : 15-22. T.—Omri and Ahab lead Israel into greater sin, 1 Kgs. 16 : 23-33. W.—The wicked heart, Jer. 17 : 1-10. Th.—A sinful nation, Isa. 1 : 1-9. F.—The sinful mind, Rom. 8 : 1-13. S.—Evil friendships forbidden, 2 Cor. 6 : 11-18. S.—Consequences of sin, Micah 6 : 6-16.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED



A FIGURE OF BAAL

The army of Israel, which was warring against the Philistines, when they heard that Zimri had usurped the throne, elected their general Omri as king, and marched against Tirzah, a city near Shechem, which had become the capital of Israel's kings. Zimri, in despair, set fire to his palace and perished in the flame. Omri then ascended the throne, but for four years had to contend for its possession with Tibni. *vs. 15-22.*

I. KING OMRI.—23, 24. Thirty and first year of A'sa; sixteen years after last Lesson (see 2 Chron. 15 : 10). Began Omri to reign. He was elected king in A'sa's twenty-seventh year, v. 15. The four years of his conflict with Tibni, however, would make it A'sa's thirty-first year when he was confirmed on the throne. Twelve years. This includes the four years of disputed authority. Six years... in Tirzah; whither Jeroboam had removed his court from Shechem, (see ch. 14 : 17). Bought the hill Samaria. See Geography Lesson. Two talents of silver; \$2,000 or \$4,000 of our money, according as the so-called "light" or "heavy" talent is meant. Shemer; a name resembling the Hebrew "shamar" meaning

in Samaria: and A'hah his son reigned in his stead.

29 And in the thirty and eighth year of A'sa king of Judah began A'hah the son of Omri to reign over Israel: and A'hah the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty and two years.

30 And A'hah the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord above all that were before him.

31 And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him.

32 And he reared up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he had built in Samaria.

33 And A'hah made a grove; and A'hah did more to provoke the Lord God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him.

"to guard" or "watch". Samaria; Hebrew. "Shomerôn", which means "Watch Tower".

25, 26. Omri wrought evil. He gave Israel a new start on the downward road. In the eyes of the Lord. Outwardly he was successful and prosperous, but the Lord searched his heart and saw its wickedness. Worse than all... before him. It is thought that Omri organized the calf worship introduced by Jeroboam into a regular system. In the days of the prophet Micah, nearly two hundred years later, "the statutes (or laws) of Omri" were still "kept", Mic. 6 : 16. The way of Jeroboam. Compare chs. 15 : 26, 34 ; 16 : 19. King after king followed Jeroboam's evil example. To provoke the Lord... to anger; not passion, but indignation against sin, while there was love to the sinner. Vanities; a title often given in the Old Testament to false gods and the worship paid to them (see Deut. 32 : 21, and compare 1 Cor. 8 : 4).

27, 28. The rest of the acts. Omri made himself so powerful and famous that his kingdom was known to the Assyrians as the "House of Omri". His might; shown, for example, in subduing Moab, and compelling it to pay an enormous tribute, 2 Kgs. 3 : 4. Book of the chronicles; not the Books of Chronicles in our Bibles, but other records, probably written by the prophets, relating the history of the kings of Israel. Slept with his fathers; a common description of the death of the kings of Israel, chs. 2 : 10 ; 11 : 43 ; 14 : 20 ; 15 : 8, etc.

II. KING AHAB.—29-31. Ahab; the name meaning "father's brother", and pointing to Ahab's likeness of character to Omri. Evil... above all... before