

OMRI AND AHAB LEAD ISRAEL INTO GREATER SIN

January 22, 1911

1 Kings 16 : 23-33. Study 1 Kings 16 : 15-33—Memory Verses, 25, 30.

Golden Text—Righteousness exalteth a nation : but sin is a reproach to any people.—
Proverbs 14 : 34.



23 In the thirty and first year of A'sa king of Ju'dah began Om'ri to reign over Is'rael, twelve years : six years reigned he in Tir'zah. 24 And he bought the hill Samar'ia of She'mer for two talents of silver, and built on the hill, and called the name of the city which he built, after the name of She'mer, owner of the hill, Samar'ia.

25 But Om'ri 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 Jero-bo'am the son of Ne'bat, and in his sin wherewith he made Is'rael to sin, to provoke the Lord God of Is'rael to anger with their vanities.

27 Now the rest of the acts of Om'ri which he did, and his might that he shewed, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Is'rael ?

28 So Om'ri slept with his fathers, and was buried in Samar'ia : and A'hab, his son reigned in his stead.

29 And in the thirty and eighth year of A'sa king of Ju'dah began A'hab the son of Om'ri to reign over Is'rael : and A'hab the

son of Om'ri reigned over Is'rael in Samar'ia twenty and two years.

30 And A'hab the son of Om'ri 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 Jero-bo'am the son of Ne'bat, that he took to wife Jez'ebel the daughter of Ethba'al king of the Zido'nians, and went and served Ba'al, and worshipped him.

32 And he reared up an altar for Ba'al in the house of Ba'al, which he had built in Samar'ia.

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

THE LESSON RETOLD

While good King Asa was reigning over Judah, there was war and fighting going on in the kingdom of Israel ; and, at last, one of the leaders in the army, named Zimri, seized the kingdom and made himself king. When this happened, most of the men of Israel were away fighting against a heathen people called the Philistines. But as soon as they heard what Zimri had done, they said he should not rule over them, and chose instead Omri, another of their leaders, to be their king. Then Omri and the men of Israel came to the city of Tirzah, where Zimri had shut himself up, and besieged it. And when Zimri saw that they were sure to take the city, he went into the king's palace and setting it on fire, burnt it and himself up, after being king

over Israel for only seven days.

But some of the people wanted a man named Tibni to be their king, and so Omri had to fight against him for four years, when Tibni died, and Omri ruled in peace.

Omri, after he was made king, bought, for a great sum of money, the beautiful hill of Samaria, and on it he built a city which he also called Samaria. In this city Omri lived, and also the kings of Israel who came after him, as long as their kingdom lasted, which was nearly two hundred years.

But Omri sinned greatly against God and, among other wicked things, worshiped the golden calves which Jeroboam had made, and encouraged his people to worship them too. He was king for twelve years, and at