

Lesson V.

OMRI AND AHAB

July 31, 1904

1 Kings 16 : 23-33. Commit to memory vs. 30-33. Read 1 Kings 15 : 25 to 16 : 34.

GOLDEN TEXT—Righteousness exalteth a nation ; but sin is a reproach to any people.—Prov. 14 : 34.

23 In the thirty and first year of A'sa king of Ju'dah began Om'ri to reign over Is'ra'el, twelve years : six years reigned he in Tirzah.

24 And he bought the hill Sama'ria 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, Sama'ria.

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 Jer'obo'am the son of Ne'bat, and in his sin wherewith he made Is'ra'el to sin, to provoke the Lord God of Is'ra'el 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'ra'el ?

28 So Om'ri slept with his fathers, and was buried

Revised Version—1 and reigned ; 2 And Omri did all that were ; 3 sins ; 4 the ; 5 that which was evil : 6 the Asherah ; 7 yet.

DAILY READINGS

M.—Omri and Ahab, 1 Kgs. 16 : 23-33. T.—A prediction, Deut. 31 : 14-21. W.—The wicked heart, Jer. 17 : 1-10. Th.—Stubborn wickedness, Jer. 44 : 1-10. F.—Evil friendships forbidden, 2 Cor. 6 : 11-18. S.—A prophet's rebuke, Micah 6 : 8-16. S.—Sin known by God, Amos 9 : 1-10.

Shorter Catechism—*Ques. 33.*—What is justification ? A. Justification is an act of God's free grace,

in Sama'ria : 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'ra'el : and A'hab the son of Om'ri reigned over Is'ra'el in Sama'ria 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 Jer'obo'am the son of Ne'bat, that he took to wife Jez'ebel the daughter of Ethba'al king of the Zid'onians, 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 Sama'ria.

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

that which was evil ; 3 sight ; 4 dealt wickedly above that which was evil ; 5 the Asherah ; 6 yet.

wherein he pardoneth all our sins, and accepteth us as righteous in his sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone.

LESSON PLAN

I. A Wicked Father, 23-28
II. A Worse Son, 29-33.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, 90 : 62 ; 63 (Ps. Sel.) ; 330 ; 306 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY), 508.

EXPOSITION

Time and Place—Omri's reign, 929 to 918 B.C., beginning of Ahab's reign, 918 to 898 B.C.; Tirzah, about four miles north, and Samaria, about six miles north-west of Shechem.

Connecting Links—As given in the HOME STUDY QUARTERLY, Omri was the founder of the third line of kings in Israel, the first, that of Jeroboam, having been ended by the slaying of his son Nadab (ch. 15 : 27), and the second, that of Baasha, by the slaying of Elah, his son, ch. 16 : 10. Zimri, the slayer of Elah, reigned only seven days. Then for four years Omri, the choice of the army (ch. 16 : 16), and Tibni, the choice of the people (ch. 16 : 21) contended for the throne, ch. 16 : 22. Finally the defeat and death of Tibni left Omri in undisputed possession of the throne.

I. A Wicked Father, 23-28.

V. 23 *In the thirty and first year of Asa ;* perhaps the year 925 B.C. or later. For some account of Asa and his reign see Lesson III. *Began Omri to reign.* Omri had been one of King Elah's chosen generals, and proved throughout his later life that he was a man of considerable military ability. *Twelve years ;* that is, including the four years of civil war

between his party and that of Tibni. According to the inscription on the famous Moabite Stone (discovered at Diban in 1868), which was erected by Chemosh, King of Moab, and which mentions the exploits of Omri in Moab, we must lengthen Omri's reign somewhat, for while his reign and that of his son, according to the Book of Kings, total only thirty-four years, according to the Moabite Stone, Moab was occupied by Omri and his son for forty years ; in all probability then this number twelve should be multiplied by two. *Six years reigned he in Tirzah ;* that is, six years since declared king of all Israel, ten since proclaimed by one section of the army. Beautiful Tirzah (Sol. Song, 6 : 4) seems to have displaced Shechem, which was Jeroboam's royal seat.

V. 24. *The hill Samaria ;* a commanding site and much better suited for the capital of the kingdom than Tirzah. Samaria is the Greek form of the name, the Hebrew being Shomeron, derived, as the writer tells us, from *Shemer*, the owner of the hill. *Two talents of silver ;* about \$4,000 of our money.

V. 25. *But Omri wrought evil ;* literally, "wrought the evil." Perhaps the writer is thinking of some special sin, though he does