

ONERY OMRI. 1 KN. 16:21-28. 01/29/23. #24.

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²¹ Then the people of Israel were divided into two parts: half of the people followed Tibni the son of Ginath, to make him king, and half followed Omri. ²² But the people who followed Omri prevailed over the people who followed Tibni the son of Ginath. So Tibni died and Omri reigned. ²³ In the thirty-first year of Asa king of Judah, Omri became king over Israel, and reigned twelve years. Six years he reigned in Tirzah. ²⁴ And he bought the hill of Samaria from Shemer for two talents of silver; then he built on the hill, and called the name of the city which he built, Samaria, after the name of Shemer, owner of the hill. ²⁵ Omri did evil in the eyes of the LORD, and did worse than all who were before him. ²⁶ For he walked in all the ways of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and in his sin by which he had made Israel sin, provoking the LORD God of Israel to anger with their idols. ²⁷ Now the rest of the acts of Omri which he did, and the might that he showed, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel? ²⁸ So Omri rested with his fathers and was buried in Samaria. Then Ahab his son reigned in his place.

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1. Civil War

- a. After the assassination of Elah by Zimri, Israel made General Omri king
 - a1. After only a week on the throne, Israel surrounded Zimri & he committed suicide by burning the palace down over him
 - a2. Half of Israel then followed Tibni
- b. Apparently, much of Israel was not happy with Omri being king (sin always produces division)
- c. The forces of Omri eventually defeated Tibni's army
 - a1. Thousands die in a struggle over power
 - a2. Whereas God offered Israel peace if they followed him, thousands needlessly die by following sin
- d. Omri reigns for 12 years (Assyrians called Israel "The land of Omri")

2. A change of venue

- a. Omri reigned 6 years in Tirzah in the north, but then he moves his capital to a more central place
 - a1. Zimri had burned down the main palace
 - a2. Omri buys a hill from a farmer, Shemer
 - a3. He names his new capital, Samaria, in honor of the farmer

- b. The simple move gave name not only to the capital, which remained so until 722 BC, but also to the entire region (Samaria) & to the mixed-ethnic people, the Samaritans

3. Greater sin

- a. As if previous kings did not do enough, Omri did more evil than the rest had done
- b. Omri made more idols for Israel to worship
 - a1. Omri provoked God to wrath
 - a2. Omri followed in the ways of Jeroboam
- c. Omri causes Israel to sin
 - a1. Makes them stumble (trips them up)
 - a2. Omri, being the leader, heaps upon himself greater judgment (Jam. 3)
- d. God's anger increased with the increase of sin
 - a1. God's patience is amazing in the face of the rebellion of man
 - a2. Even though Omri continued to sin, God allowed him to rule 12 years before Omri finally died
- e. A long life or being materially blessed is not a sign of God's blessing
 - a1. The sinner builds up judgment for self
 - a2. An early death does not necessarily mean God is against them (Acts 12)
 - a3. 1 Cor. 4 we are not to judge anything before its time
- f. We are not to jump to conclusions (Demus left for the world, the wicked king Manasseh came to the Lord at the end, the world was not worthy of Samson, Jacob was father of the tribes, ...)
 - a1. Ps. 2 the heathen rage and mock God, but in the end, they will be judged
 - a2. We are not to despair that judgment does not come immediately
- g. God has his reason for what he allows (2 Pt. 3)