

The Kings of Judah and Israel

LESSON #18 | A Military Coup by Omri and a New Capital, Samaria

Teacher: Pr. Cornelius Koshy

1. In the table below, fill in the blanks

Kings of Israel	Kings of Judah
1. J _____	
2. N _____	5. R _____
3. B _____	6. A _____
4. E _____	7. A ____
5. Z _____	
6. O _____	

2. Read 1 Kings 16:15 and find out:

In which year of King Asa's reign did Zimri (the 5th king of Israel) die?

__th year of Asa (★)

3. Read 1 Kings 16:23 and find out:

In which year of King Asa's reign did Omri (the 6th King of Israel) begin his reign over the whole Israel?

__st year of Asa (⊕)

__ st year of Asa (⊕)
-
__ th year of Asa (★)
__ years

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1 Kings 16:21-24

21 Then were the people of Israel 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 that followed Omri prevailed against the people that followed Tibni the son of Ginath: so Tibni died, and Omri reigned.

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

4. What happened during these four years of gap between the 5th and 6th kings of Israel?

- It was a period of anarchy. The people of Israel were divided into two parts: half wanted Tibni to be king, whereas the other half wanted Omri to be king.
- It was a period of rest. The people of Israel did not want to have a king over them anymore because all the previous kings were wicked.
- It was a period of voting. The people of Israel spent four years to ballot and vote for their new king.

5. What does the word "prevailed" in 1 Kings 16:22 mean?

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6. Scripture does not record much about who Tibni was, other than that he was the son of Ginath. From 1 Kings 16:22 and from conservative historians' observations, such as Flavius Josephus' observation, what can be said of Israel during this time of anarchy?

The following paragraph explains what could have happened during these four years. Fill in the blanks using the helping words in the box.

sovereignly | slain | fighting | seven | decreative | Tirzah | Tibni

_____ was part of the group of people who disagreed with Omri's leadership, especially with how Omri and his army stormed into the palace in Tirzah, where Zimri was living for _____ days, to dethrone him. Supporters of Tibni and supporters of Omri often fought against each other, and it was common that _____ would ensue between the two groups of supporters. Omri's supporters, primarily the army of Israel, would definitely be mightier, having military weaponry with them. The supporters of Omri proved more powerful and stronger than the supporters of Tibni and finally, Tibni was _____ by Omri's supporters. Beyond the military might which Omri's supporters had, they also had God's _____ will favoring them. God _____ arranged the events in Israel's history such that Omri should be king and eventually move the capital away from _____.

1 Kings 16:23-24

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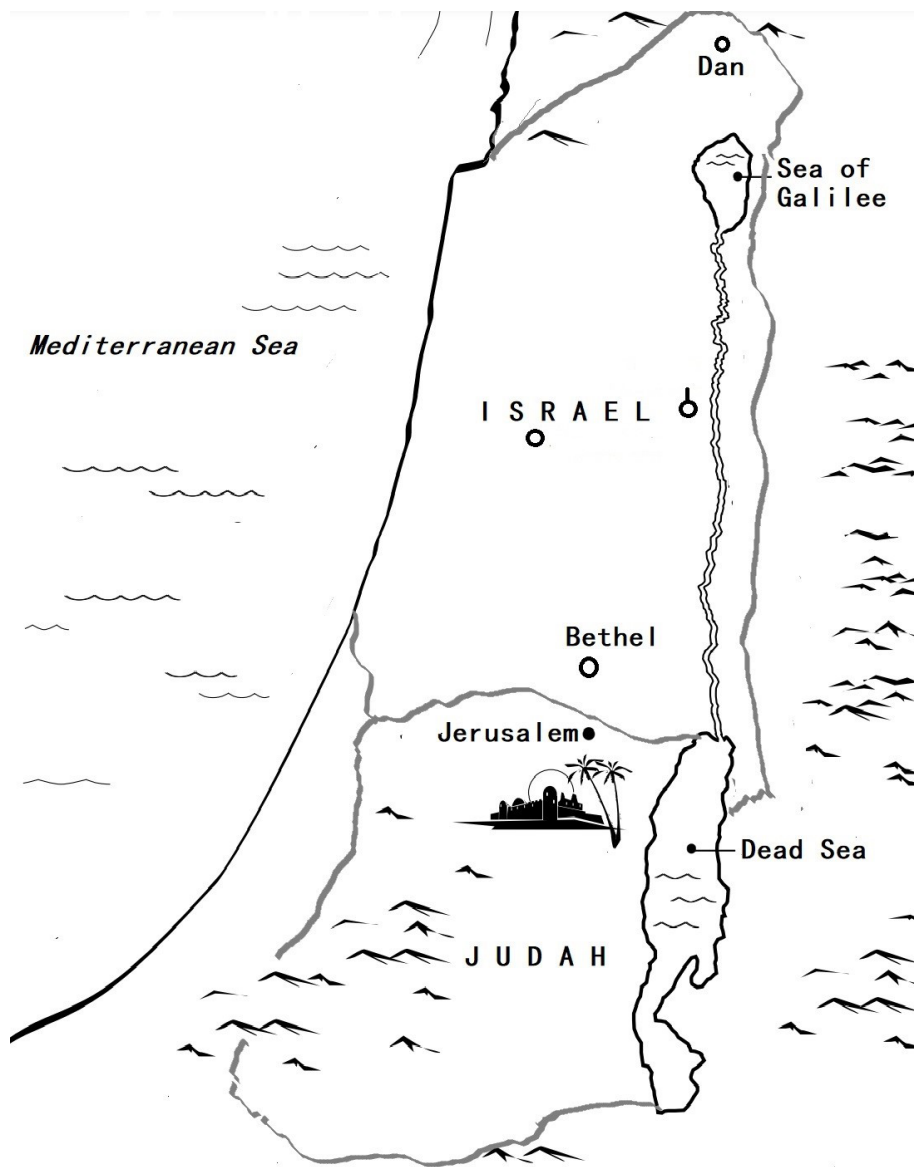
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7. The 5th King of Israel, had burned the king's house over him and committed suicide. Hence the palace of the king in Tirzah must have been razed to the ground. Furthermore, Omri and his army had ruined Tirzah, making it an unsuitable place for Omri to rule over Israel. In the map below, indicate where Tirzah and Samaria were:



The modern day name for Samaria is Sabastiyah. It is located on a hill northwest of Nablus in the West Bank territory, under Israeli administration.

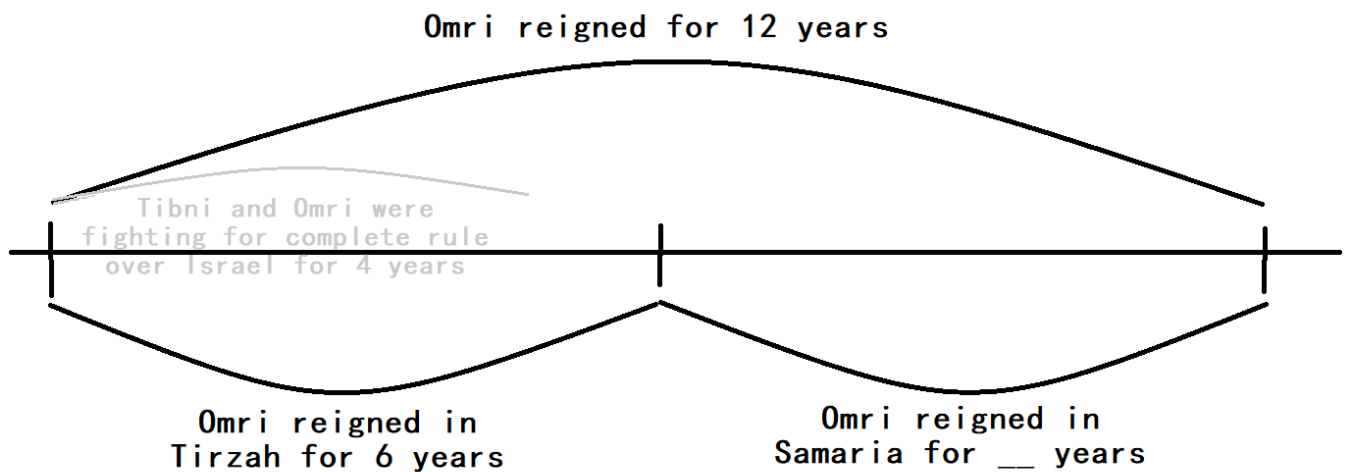
The city of Samaria was built on a hill / valley (circle one).

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8. If 1 Kings 16:23 records that Omri reigned a total of twelve years, of which six years was spent in Tirzah, how many years did Omri reign in Samaria? Indicate the number of years in the timeline below:



1 Kings 16:25-28

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. ...

28 So Omri slept with his fathers, and was buried in Samaria: and Ahab his son reigned in his stead.

Micah 6:16

25 For the statutes of Omri are kept, and all the works of the house of Ahab, and ye walk in their counsels; that I should make thee a desolation, and the inhabitants thereof an hissing: therefore ye shall bear the reproach of my people.

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9. Was Omri a good king? By comparing 1 Kings 16:25-28 and Micah 6:16, explain why or why not.

10. Read the following selected verses from Psalm 2 and fill in the blanks in verses 10-12

1 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?

2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying,

3 Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.

4 He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.

5 Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.

...

10 Be _____ now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth.

11 _____ the LORD with _____, and _____ with _____.

12 _____ the _____, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. _____ are all they that put their _____ in him.