

Week Thirty-Three (33)
1 Kings 12 – 16:28
A Kingdom Divided



— PASTOR'S —
BIBLE STUDY

Rehoboam ascends to the Throne

The tribes will all gather to make him King
It will all fall apart because of the decision he will make!

Israel will descend into a Civil War
that will last for almost 100 years

1 Kings NIV

¹³ King Solomon conscripted laborers from all Israel—thirty thousand men. ¹⁴ He sent them off to Lebanon in shifts of ten thousand a month, so that they spent one month in Lebanon and two months at home. **Adoniram was in charge of the forced labor.**

¹⁵ Solomon had

- **seventy thousand carriers and**
- **eighty thousand stonecutters in the hills,** ¹⁶ **as well as**
- **thirty-three hundred foremen who supervised the project and directed the workers.**

Conscripted/Forced Labor

1 Kings 10 NIV

Solomon's Splendor

¹⁴ The weight of the gold that Solomon received yearly was 666 talents, (25 tons or 881,849 ounces), ¹⁵ not including the revenues from merchants and traders and from all the Arabian kings and the governors of the territories.

Taxes

Ecclesiastes 1 NIV

Everything Is Meaningless

1 The words of the Teacher, [a] son of David, king in Jerusalem:

2 “Meaningless! Meaningless!”
says the Teacher.

“Utterly meaningless!
Everything is meaningless.”

3 What do people gain from all their labors
at which they toil under the sun?

4 Generations come and generations go,
but the earth remains forever.

5 The sun rises and the sun sets,
and hurries back to where it rises.

6 The wind blows to the south
and turns to the north;
round and round it goes,

Ecclesiastes 2 NIV

Toil Is Meaningless

17 So I hated life, because the work that is done under the sun was grievous to me. All of it is meaningless, a chasing after the wind. **18** I

hated all the things I had toiled for under the sun, **because I must leave them to the one who comes after me.** **19** And who knows

whether that person will be wise or foolish? Yet they will have control over all the fruit of my toil into which I have poured my effort and skill under the sun. This too is meaningless. **20** So my heart

began to despair over all my toilsome labor under the sun. **21** For a person may labor with wisdom, knowledge and skill, and then they must leave all they own to another who has not toiled for it. This too is meaningless and a great misfortune. **22** What do people get for all the toil and anxious striving with which they labor under the sun? **23** All their days their work is grief and pain; even at night their minds do not rest. This too is meaningless.

Rehoboam

1 Kings 12 NIV

Jeroboam led one of the first insurrections against Solomon

Israel Rebels Against Rehoboam

12 Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had gone there to make him king. **2** When Jeroboam son of Nebat heard this (**he was still in Egypt, where he had fled from King Solomon**), he returned from ^[a] Egypt. **3** So they sent for Jeroboam, and he and the whole assembly of Israel went to Rehoboam and said to him: **4** **“Your father put a heavy yoke on us, but now lighten the harsh labor and the heavy yoke he put on us, and we will serve you.”**

Question:
Why would the Pharaoh grant asylum to an enemy of King Solomon?

Solomon married his daughter!

5 Rehoboam answered, “Go away for three days and then come back to me.” So the people went away.

6 Then King Rehoboam consulted the elders who had served his father Solomon during his lifetime. “How would you advise me to answer these people?” he asked.

7 They replied, **“If today you will be a servant to these people and serve them and give them a favorable answer, they will always be your servants.”**

8 **But Rehoboam rejected the advice the elders gave him and consulted the young men who had grown up with him and were serving him.** **9** He asked them, **“What is your advice? How should we answer these people who say to me, ‘Lighten the yoke your father put on us’?”**

10 **The young men who had grown up with him replied,** “These people have said to you, **‘Your father put a heavy yoke on us, but make our yoke lighter.’** Now tell them, **‘My little finger is thicker than my father’s waist. 11 My father laid on you a heavy yoke; I will make it even heavier. My father scourged you with whips; I will scourge you with scorpions.’**”

¹² Three days later Jeroboam and all the people returned to Rehoboam, as the king had said, "Come back to me in three days." ¹³ The king answered the people harshly. Rejecting the advice given him by the elders, ¹⁴ he followed the advice of the young men and said, "**My father made your yoke heavy; I will make it even heavier. My father scourged you with whips; I will scourge you with scorpions.**" ¹⁵ **So the king did not listen to the people, for this turn of events was from the LORD, to fulfill the word the LORD had spoken to Jeroboam son of Nebat through Ahijah the Shilonite.**

¹⁶ When all Israel saw that the king refused to listen to them, they answered the king:

**"What share do we have in David,
what part in Jesse's son?
To your tents, Israel!
Look after your own house, David!"**

So the Israelites went home. ¹⁷ But as for the Israelites who were living in the towns of Judah, Rehoboam still ruled over them.

¹⁸ King Rehoboam sent out Adoniram,^[b] who was **in charge of forced labor, but all Israel stoned him to death. King Rehoboam, however, managed to get into his chariot and escape to Jerusalem.** ¹⁹ **So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day.**

A CIVIL WAR BEGINS

²⁰ When all the Israelites heard that Jeroboam had returned, they sent and called him to the assembly and made him king over all Israel. Only the tribe of Judah remained loyal to the house of David.

Forced
Labor is
not friendly
labor –
some
translation
say Slave
Labor

21 When Rehoboam arrived in Jerusalem, he mustered all Judah and the tribe of Benjamin—a hundred and eighty thousand able young men—to go to war against Israel and to regain the kingdom for Rehoboam son of Solomon.

22 **But this word of God came to Shemaiah the man of God:** 23 “Say to Rehoboam son of Solomon king of Judah, to all Judah and Benjamin, and to the rest of the people, 24 ‘This is what the LORD says: Do not go up to fight against your brothers, the Israelites. Go home, every one of you, for this is my doing.’” So they obeyed the word of the LORD and went home again, as the LORD had ordered.

The United Kingdom of Israel: Kings Saul, David, and Solomon

- Saul's Kingdom
- David's Expansion of the Kingdom
- Solomon's Expansion of the Kingdom



Golden Calves at Bethel and Dan

The Civil War has begun

²⁵ Then Jeroboam **fortified Shechem** in the hill country of Ephraim and lived there. From there he went out and **built up Peniel.** ²⁶ **Jeroboam thought to himself,** "The kingdom will now likely revert to the house of David. ²⁷ **If these people go up to offer sacrifices at the temple of the LORD in Jerusalem, they will again give their allegiance to their lord, Rehoboam king of Judah.** They will kill me and return to King Rehoboam."

All of the people of Israel went to the Temple 3 times a year
Passover
Pentecost
Feast of Tabernacles/
Booths

²⁸ After seeking advice, the king made two golden calves. He said to the people, "**It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.**" ²⁹ One he **set up in Bethel,** and **the other in Dan.** ³⁰ And this thing became a sin; the people came to worship the one at Bethel and went as far as Dan to worship the other. ³¹

The one in Bethel will be destroyed later but the ruins of the one in Dan are present today

³¹ **Jeroboam built shrines on high places and appointed priests from all sorts of people, even though they were not Levites.** ³² He instituted a festival on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, like the festival held in Judah, and offered sacrifices on the altar. This he did in Bethel, sacrificing to the calves he had made. And at Bethel he also installed priests at the high places he had made. ³³ On the fifteenth day of the eighth month, a month of his own choosing, he offered sacrifices on the altar he had built at Bethel. So he instituted the festival for the Israelites and went up to the altar to make offerings.

Why a Golden Calf?

He created Festivals to replace Passover Pentecost, and Tabernacle to give the an alternative

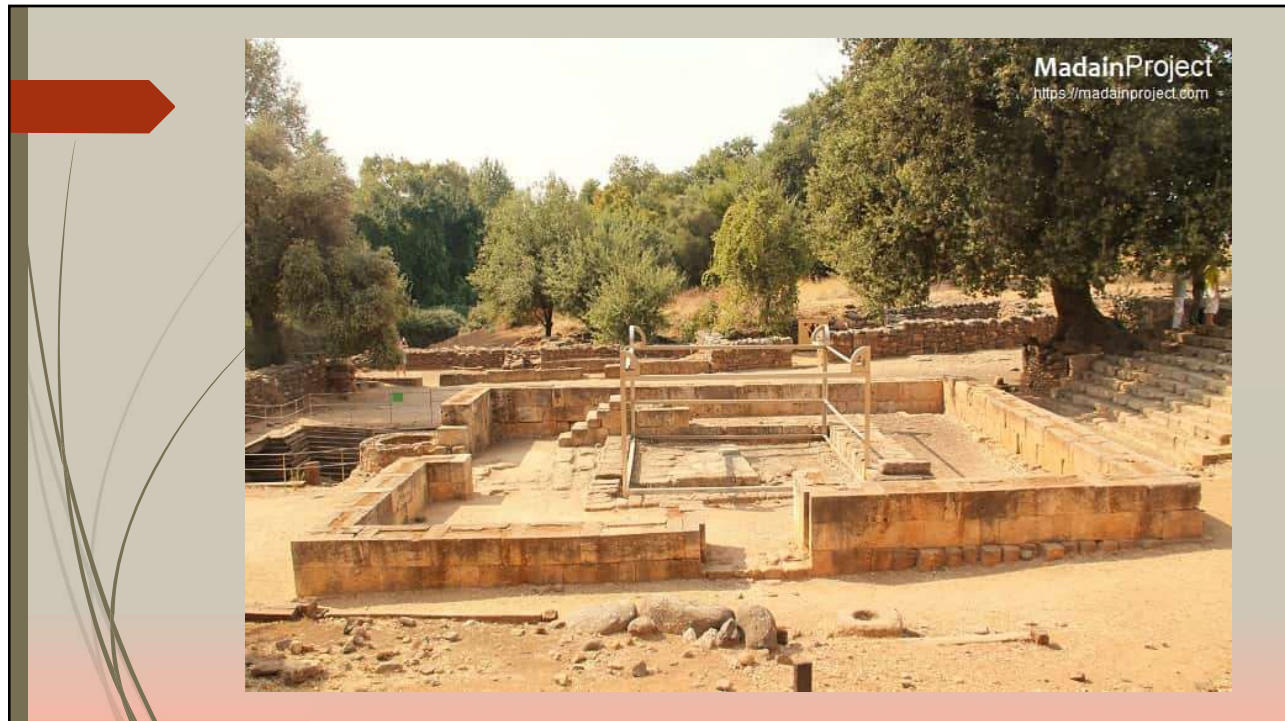
The Divided Kingdom

After King Solomon's death, a civil war divided the kingdom of Israel into:

- Northern Kingdom of Israel
- Southern Kingdom of Judah







There will be 39 Kings between
Israel and Judah

Only 7 will be Good

1 Kings 13 NIV

The Man of God From Judah

13 By the word of the LORD a man of God came from Judah to Bethel, as Jeroboam was standing by the altar to make an offering. **2** **By the word of the LORD he cried out against the altar: “Altar, altar! This is what the LORD says: ‘A son named Josiah will be born to the house of David. On you he will sacrifice the priests of the high places who make offerings here, and human bones will be burned on you.’”** **3** That same day the man of God gave a sign: **“This is the sign the LORD has declared: The altar will be split apart and the ashes on it will be poured out.”**

Josiah will become King 300 years later and he will burn human bones on the altar to desecrate it and then destroy it.

4 When King Jeroboam heard what the man of God cried out against the altar at Bethel, he stretched out his hand from the altar and said, “Seize him!” But the hand he stretched out toward the

man shriveled up, so that he could not pull it back. **5** Also, the altar was split apart and its ashes poured out according to the sign given by the man of God by the word of the LORD.

6 Then the king said to the man of God, “Intercede with the LORD your God and pray for me that my hand may be restored.” So the man of God interceded with the LORD, and the king’s hand was restored and became as it was before.

7 The king said to the man of God, “Come home with me for a meal, and I will give you a gift.”

8 But the man of God answered the king, “Even if you were to give me half your possessions, I would not go with you, nor would I eat bread or drink water here. **9** For I was commanded by the word of the LORD: ‘You must not eat bread or drink water or return by the way you came.’” **10** **So he took another road and did not return by the way he had come to Bethel.**

Chapter 14

1 Kings 14 NIV

Ahijah's Prophecy Against Jeroboam

14 At that time **Abijah son of Jeroboam became ill,** ² and Jeroboam said to his wife, **“Go, disguise yourself, so you won’t be recognized as the wife of Jeroboam. Then go to Shiloh. Ahijah the prophet** (foretold he would become King back in Chapter 11) **is there—the one who told me I would be king over this people.** ³ **Take ten loaves of bread with you, some cakes and a jar of honey, and go to him. He will tell you what will happen to the boy.”** ⁴ So Jeroboam’s wife did what he said and went to Ahijah’s house in Shiloh.

Now Ahijah could not see; his sight was gone because of his age. ⁵ But the LORD had told Ahijah, **“Jeroboam’s wife is coming to ask you about her son, for he is ill, and you are to give her such and such an answer. When she arrives, she will pretend to be someone else.”**

⁶ So when Ahijah heard the sound of her footsteps at the door, he said, **“Come in, wife of Jeroboam. Why this pretense?** I have been sent to you with bad news. ⁷ Go, tell Jeroboam that this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘I raised you up from among the people and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. ⁸ I tore the kingdom away from the house of David and gave it to you, but you have not been like my servant David, who kept my commands and followed me with all his heart, doing only what was right in my eyes. ⁹ **You have done more evil than all who lived before you.** You have made for yourself other gods, idols made of metal; you have aroused my anger and turned your back on me.

¹⁰ “‘Because of this, I am going to bring disaster on the house of Jeroboam. I will cut off from Jeroboam every last male in Israel—slave or free. ¹¹ I will burn up the house of Jeroboam as one burns dung, until it is all gone. ¹¹ Dogs will eat those belonging to Jeroboam who die in the city, and the birds will feed on those who die in the country. The LORD has spoken!’

¹² “As for you, go back home. When you set foot in your city, the boy will die. ¹³ All Israel will mourn for him and bury him. He is the only one belonging to Jeroboam who will be buried, because he is the only one in the house of Jeroboam in whom the LORD, the God of Israel, has found anything good.

¹⁴ “The LORD will raise up for himself a king over Israel who will cut off the family of Jeroboam. Even now this is beginning to happen.^[b] ¹⁵ And the LORD will strike Israel, so that it will be like a reed swaying in the water. He will uproot Israel from this good land that he gave to their ancestors and scatter them beyond the Euphrates River, because they aroused the LORD’s anger by making Asherah poles.^[c] ¹⁶ And he will give Israel up because of the sins Jeroboam has committed and has caused Israel to commit.”

¹⁷ Then Jeroboam’s wife got up and left and went to Tirzah. **As soon as she stepped over the threshold of the house, the boy died.** ¹⁸ They buried him, and all Israel mourned for him, as the LORD had said through his servant the prophet Ahijah. ¹⁹ The other events of Jeroboam’s reign, his wars and how he ruled, are written in the book of the annals of the kings of Israel. ²⁰ **He reigned for twenty-two years and then rested with his ancestors. And Nadab his son succeeded him as king.**

We cut back to Rehoboam who reigns in Judah at the same time

Rehoboam King of Judah

²¹ Rehoboam son of Solomon was king in Judah. He was forty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city the LORD had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel in which to put his Name. His mother's name was Naamah; she was an Ammonite.

²² **Judah did evil in the eyes of the LORD.** By the sins they committed they stirred up his jealous anger more than those who were before them had done. ²³ They also set up for themselves high places, sacred stones and Asherah poles (Phallic Symbol) on every high hill and under every spreading tree.

**Baal (God of the life force) and
Asterath (The goddess of motherhood and fertility)**

**How does one worship these Gods?
By having ritual sex underneath the Asherah pole**

²⁴ **There were even male shrine prostitutes in the land; the people engaged in all the detestable practices of the nations the LORD had driven out before the Israelites.**

²⁵ **In the fifth year of King Rehoboam, Shishak king of Egypt attacked Jerusalem.** ²⁶ He carried off the treasures of the temple of the LORD and the treasures of the royal palace. **He took everything, including all the gold shields Solomon had made.** ²⁷ So King Rehoboam made bronze shields to replace them and assigned these to the commanders of the guard on duty at the entrance to the royal palace. ²⁸ **Whenever the king went to the LORD's temple, the guards bore the shields, and afterward they returned them to the guardroom.**

Why would he do this?

²⁹ As for the other events of Rehoboam's reign, and all he did, **are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Judah?**

³⁰ There was continual warfare between Rehoboam and Jeroboam. ³¹ And Rehoboam rested with his ancestors and was buried with them in the City of David. His mother's name was Naamah; she was an Ammonite. And **Abijah^[a] his son succeeded him as king.**

**Look at your handout
You will find the list of Kings for Judah (Southern) and
Israel (Northern)**

1 Kings 15 NIV

Abijah King of Judah

15 In the eighteenth year of the reign of Jeroboam son of Nebat, Abijah^[a] became king of Judah, ² and he reigned in Jerusalem three years. His mother's name was Maakah daughter of Abishalom.^[b]

³ He committed all the sins his father had done before him; his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his forefather had been. ⁴ **Nevertheless, for David's sake the LORD his God gave him a lamp in Jerusalem by raising up a son to succeed him and by making Jerusalem strong.** ⁵ **For David had done what was right in the eyes of the LORD and had not failed to keep any of the LORD's commands all the days of his life—except in the case of Uriah the Hittite.**

⁶ There was war between Abijah^[c] and Jeroboam throughout Abijah's lifetime. ⁷ As for the other events of Abijah's reign, and all he did, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Judah? There was war between Abijah and Jeroboam. ⁸ And Abijah rested with his ancestors and was buried in the City of David. **And Asa his son succeeded him as king.**

Asa King of Judah - 3rd King (910-869)

⁹ In the twentieth year of Jeroboam king of Israel, Asa became king of Judah, ¹⁰ and he reigned in Jerusalem forty-one years. His grandmother's name was Maakah daughter of Abishalom.

¹¹ **Asa did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, as his father David had done.** ¹² **He expelled the male shrine prostitutes from the land and got rid of all the idols his ancestors had made.** ¹³ **He even deposed his grandmother Maakah from her position as queen mother, because she had made a repulsive image for the worship of Asherah.**

Asa cut it (Asherah Poles) down and burned it in the Kidron Valley. ¹⁴ **Although he did not remove the high places, Asa's heart was fully committed to the LORD all his life.** ¹⁵ He brought into the temple of the LORD the silver and gold and the articles that he and his father had dedicated.

¹⁶ There was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel throughout their reigns. ¹⁷ Baasha king of Israel went up against Judah and fortified Ramah to prevent anyone from leaving or entering the territory of Asa king of Judah. (They are building a Wall)

¹⁸ **Asa then took all the silver and gold that was left in the treasuries of the LORD's temple and of his own palace. He entrusted it to his officials and sent them to Ben-Hadad son of Tabrimmon, the son of Hezion, the king of Aram, who was ruling in Damascus.**

Asa needs
an ally

19 “Let there be a treaty between me and you,” he said, “as there was between my father and your father. See, I am sending you a gift of silver and gold..” Now break your treaty with Baasha king of Israel (North) so he will withdraw from me

20 Ben-Hadad agreed with King Asa **and sent the commanders of his forces against the towns of Israel.** He conquered Ijon, Dan, Abel Beth Maakah and all Kinnereth in addition to Naphtali.

21 When Baasha heard this, he stopped building Ramah and withdrew to Tirzah. **22** Then King Asa issued an order to all Judah—no one was exempt—and they carried away from Ramah the stones and timber Baasha had been using there. With them King Asa built up Geba in Benjamin, and also Mizpah.

23 As for all the other events of Asa's reign, all his achievements, all he did and the cities he built, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Judah? In his old age, however, his feet became diseased. **24** Then **Asa rested** with his ancestors and was buried with them in the city of his father David. **And Jehoshaphat his son succeeded him as king.**

Back to the North

Nadab King of Israel (909-908)

²⁵ **Nadab son of Jeroboam** became king of Israel in the second year of Asa king of Judah, and he reigned over Israel two years. ²⁶ He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, following the ways of his father and committing the same sin his father had caused Israel to commit.

"all your male descendants are going to die." He's eliminating anyone who can claim rights to the throne

²⁷ **Baasha son of Ahijah from the tribe of Issachar plotted against him**, and he struck him down at Gibbethon, a Philistine town, while Nadab and all Israel were besieging it. ²⁸ **Baasha killed Nadab in the third year of Asa king of Judah and succeeded him as king.**

²⁹ **As soon as he began to reign, he killed Jeroboam's whole family.** He did not leave Jeroboam anyone that breathed, but destroyed them all, according to the word of the LORD given through his servant Ahijah the Shilonite. ³⁰ This happened because of the sins Jeroboam had committed and had caused Israel to commit, and because he aroused the anger of the LORD, the God of Israel.

³¹ As for the other events of Nadab's reign, and all he did, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Israel? ³² There was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel throughout their reigns.

Baasha King of Israel

³³ **In the third year of Asa king of Judah, Baasha son of Ahijah became king of all Israel in Tirzah, and he reigned twenty-four years.** ³⁴ He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, following the ways of Jeroboam and committing the same sin Jeroboam had caused Israel to commit.

1 Kings 16 NIV

16 Then the word of the LORD came to Jehu son of

Hanani concerning Baasha: ² "I lifted you up from the dust and appointed you ruler over my people Israel, but you followed the ways of Jeroboam and caused my people Israel to sin and to arouse my anger by their sins. ³ So I am about to wipe out Baasha and his house, and I will make your house like that of Jeroboam son of Nebat. ⁴ Dogs will eat those belonging to Baasha who die in the city, and birds will feed on those who die in the country."

⁵ As for the other events of Baasha's reign, what he did and his achievements, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Israel? ⁶ Baasha rested with his ancestors and was buried in Tirzah. And Elah his son succeeded him as king.

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⁷ Moreover, the word of the LORD came through the prophet Jehu son of Hanani to Baasha and his house, because of all the evil he had done in the eyes of the LORD, arousing his anger by the things he did, becoming like the house of Jeroboam—and also because he destroyed it.

Elah King of Israel

⁸ In the twenty-sixth year of Asa king of Judah, Elah son of Baasha became king of Israel, and he reigned in Tirzah two years.

⁹ Zimri, one of his officials, who had command of half his chariots, plotted against him. Elah was in Tirzah at the time, getting drunk in the home of Arza, the palace administrator at Tirzah. ¹⁰ Zimri came in, struck him down and killed him in the twenty-seventh year of Asa king of Judah. Then he succeeded him as king.

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11 As soon as he began to reign and was seated on the throne, he killed off Baasha's whole family. He did not spare a single male, whether relative or friend. **12** So Zimri destroyed the whole family of Baasha, in accordance with the word of the LORD spoken against Baasha through the prophet Jehu— **13 because of all the sins Baasha and his son Elah had committed and had caused Israel to commit, so that they aroused the anger of the LORD, the God of Israel, by their worthless idols.**

14 As for the other events of Elah's reign, and all he did, **are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Israel?**

Zimri King of Israel

15 In the twenty-seventh year of Asa king of Judah, Zimri reigned in Tirzah seven days. The army was encamped near Gibbethon, a Philistine town. **16** When the Israelites in the camp heard that Zimri had plotted against the king and murdered him, they proclaimed Omri, the commander of the army, king over Israel that very day there in the camp. **17** Then Omri and all the Israelites with him withdrew from Gibbethon and laid siege to Tirzah. **18 When Zimri saw that the city was taken, he went into the citadel of the royal palace and set the palace on fire around him.** So he died, **19** because of the sins he had committed, doing evil in the eyes of the LORD and following the ways of Jeroboam and committing the same sin Jeroboam had caused Israel to commit. **20** As for the other events of Zimri's reign, and the rebellion he carried out, **are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Israel?**

Omri King of Israel #6 (885-874)

²¹ Then the people of Israel were split into two factions; half supported Tibni son of Ginath for king, and the other half supported Omri. ²² But Omri's followers proved stronger than those of Tibni son of Ginath. So Tibni died and Omri became king.

²³ In the thirty-first year of Asa king of Judah, Omri became king of Israel, and he reigned twelve years, six of them in Tirzah. ²⁴ **He bought the hill of Samaria from Shemer for two talents^a of silver and built a city on the hill, calling it Samaria, after Shemer, the name of the former owner of the hill.**

**Samaria will become the capital of the Northern Kingdom of Israel
The surrounding area will become known as the territory of
Samaria**

**Samaritans are from this central mountain range who broke away
from Judah to worship idols – Golden Calves etc.**

“Nothing good comes from Samaria”

Remember Luke 10:29–37 – The Story of the Good Samaritan

²⁵ **But Omri did evil in the eyes of the LORD and sinned more than all those before him.** ²⁶ He followed completely the ways of Jeroboam son of Nebat, committing the same sin Jeroboam had caused Israel to commit, so that they aroused the anger of the LORD, the God of Israel, by their worthless idols.

²⁷ **As for the other events of Omri's reign, what he did and the things he achieved, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Israel?** ²⁸ Omri rested with his ancestors and was buried in Samaria. **And Ahab his son succeeded him as king.**

**Ahab will be a significant King of the North
A particularly bad King**