

1 Kings 16

Verses 1 - 4

Now the word of the Lord came to Jehu the son of Hanani against Baasha, saying, ² “Inasmuch as I exalted you from the dust and made you leader over My people Israel, and you have walked in the way of Jeroboam and have made My people Israel sin, provoking Me to anger with their sins, ³ behold, I will consume Baasha and his house, and I will make your house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat. ⁴ Anyone of Baasha who dies in the city the dogs will eat, and anyone of his who dies in the field the birds of the heavens will eat.”

Now the word of the Lord came to Jehu the son of Hanani against Baasha, saying...

Hanani, the father of Jehu, was also a prophet

See 2 Chronicles 16:7-10

⁷ At that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah and said to him, “Because you have relied on the king of Aram and have not relied on the Lord your God, for that reason the army of the king of Aram has escaped from your hand.

³ behold, I will consume Baasha and his house, and I will make your house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat. ⁴ Anyone of Baasha who dies in the city the dogs will eat, and anyone of his who dies in the field the birds of the heavens will eat.”

Baasha chose to share in the sins of Jeroboam therefore he would share in the same penalty that Jeroboam suffered.

See 1 Kings 15:28 - 29

²⁸ So Baasha killed him in the third year of Asa king of Judah, and reigned in his place. ²⁹ And as soon as he was king, he struck and killed all the household of Jeroboam. He did not leave Jeroboam any persons alive, *but kept killing* until he had eliminated them, in accordance with the word of the Lord which He spoke by His servant Ahijah the Shilonite,

Verses 5-7

Now the rest of the acts of Baasha and what he did and his might, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel? ⁶ And Baasha slept with his fathers and was buried in Tirzah, and Elah his son became king in his place. ⁷ Moreover, the word of the Lord through the prophet Jehu the son of Hanani also came against Baasha and his household, both because of all the evil which he did in the sight of the Lord, provoking Him to anger with the work of his hands, in being like the house of Jeroboam, and because he struck it.

When Baasha exterminated the family of Jeroboam it was a fulfillment of God's word but he did it for his own selfish reasons not because it was the will of God.

Verses 8-10

In the twenty-sixth year of Asa king of Judah, Elah the son of Baasha became king over Israel at Tirzah, *and reigned* two years. ⁹ His servant Zimri, commander of half his chariots, conspired against him. Now he *was* at Tirzah drinking himself drunk in the house of Arza, who *was* over the household at Tirzah. ¹⁰ Then Zimri went in and struck him and put him to death in the twenty-seventh year of Asa king of Judah, and became king in his place.

In the twenty-sixth year of Asa king of Judah, Elah the son of Baasha became king over Israel at Tirzah, *and reigned* two years.

See chart 1605 4th king of the North

North					
	King	Began	Ended	Years	Co-reign
1	Jeroboam I	930	909	22	
2	Nadab	909	908	2	
3	Baasha	908	886	24	
4	Elah	886	885	2	
5	Zimri	885	885	7 days	
6	Omri	885	874	12	
7	Ahab	874	853	22	
8	Ahaziah	853	852	2	
9	Jehoram (aka Joram)	852	841	12	
10	Jehu	841	814	28	

Tirzah became the capital under Jeroboam and it would retain that status thru the reign of Zimri the fifth king of Israel.

See map 1610



⁹ His servant Zimri, commander of half his chariots, conspired against him. Now he was at Tirzah drinking himself drunk in the house of Arza, who was over the household at Tirzah.

Zimri was a professional soldier but he may not have been an Israelite since he is not identified with any tribe

Arza had charge of the palace at Tirzah and was likely a co-conspirator with Zimri.

The fact that Elah was not with his troops at Gibbethon but was instead at his house getting drunk may have contributed to Zimri rebelling against the king.

Verses 11 - 14

¹¹ It came about when he became king, as soon as he sat on his throne, that he killed all the household of Baasha; he did not leave a single male, neither of his relatives nor of his friends. ¹² Thus Zimri destroyed all the household of Baasha, according to the word of the Lord, which He spoke against Baasha through Jehu the prophet, ¹³ for all the sins of Baasha and the sins of Elah his son, which they sinned and which they made Israel sin, provoking the Lord God of Israel to anger with their idols. ¹⁴ Now the rest of the acts of Elah and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?

¹² Thus Zimri destroyed all the household of Baasha, according to the word of the Lord, which He spoke against Baasha through Jehu the prophet,

See chart 1615

North					
	King	Began	Ended	Years	Co-reign
1	Jeroboam I	930	909	22	
2	Nadab	909	908	2	
3	Baasha	908	886	24	
4	Elah	886	885	2	
5	Zimri	885	885	7 days	
6	Omri	885	874	12	
7	Ahab	874	853	22	
8	Ahaziah	853	852	2	
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The bible talks a lot about people reaping what they sow. Baasha killed all of Jeroboam's family and now all of his family was killed by Zimri.

See Genesis 9:6

⁶ Whoever sheds human blood,
By man his blood shall be shed,
For in the image of God
He made mankind.

Verses 15-20

In the twenty-seventh year of Asa king of Judah, Zimri reigned seven days at Tirzah. Now the people were camped against Gibbethon, which belonged to the Philistines. ¹⁶ The people who were camped heard it said, “Zimri has conspired and has also struck down the king.” Therefore all Israel made Omri, the commander of the army, king over Israel that day in the camp. ¹⁷ Then Omri and all Israel with him went up from Gibbethon and besieged Tirzah. ¹⁸ When Zimri saw that the city was taken, he went into the citadel of the king’s house and burned the king’s house over him with fire, and died, ¹⁹ because of his sins which he sinned, doing evil in the sight of the Lord, walking in the way of Jeroboam, and in his sin which he did, making Israel sin. ²⁰ Now the rest of the acts of Zimri and his conspiracy which he carried out, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?

In the twenty-seventh year of Asa king of Judah, Zimri reigned seven days at Tirzah. Now the people were camped against Gibbethon, which belonged to the Philistines.

Judgment for some people comes quickly and for others it is delayed to late in their lives. If that seems unfair, we should remember that God makes that decision based on his perfect knowledge and understanding.

The town of Gibbethon is where Baasha killed Nadab.

See 1 Kings 15:27-28

²⁷ Then Baasha the son of Ahijah of the house of Issachar conspired against him, and Baasha struck and killed him at Gibbethon, which belonged to the Philistines, while Nadab and all Israel were laying siege to Gibbethon. ²⁸ So Baasha killed him in the third year of Asa king of Judah, and reigned in his place.

In 1st Kings 15 Israel was laying siege against this Philistine town in the 3rd year of Asa.

In this chapter Israel is once again laying siege to the same town but it is in the 27th year of Asa. This is now 24 years after their initial attempt to overtake the town of Gibbethon.

It seems this Philistine town was quite fortunate because every time they were attacked by Israel the battle ended when the Israelite king was killed by a fellow Israelite that wanted to take over the throne.

¹⁶ The people who were camped heard it said, “Zimri has conspired and has also struck down the king.” Therefore all Israel made Omri, the commander of the army, king over Israel that day in the camp.

The people most likely did not accept Zimri as their new king because Omri was the commander of the army while Zimri was only a commander of half the chariots. So Omri became the sixth king of Israel.

See chart 1620

North					
	King	Began	Ended	Years	Co-reign
1	Jeroboam I	930	909	22	
2	Nadab	909	908	2	
3	Baasha	908	886	24	
4	Elah	886	885	2	
5	Zimri	885	885	7 days	
6	Omri	885	874	12	
7	Ahab	874	853	22	
8	Ahaziah	853	852	2	
9	Jehoram (aka Joram)	852	841	12	
10	Jehu	841	814	28	

¹⁷ Then Omri and all Israel with him went up from Gibbethon and besieged Tirzah.

The people had chosen Omri to be their king but he could not rule until Zimri was dead.

¹⁸ When Zimri saw that the city was taken, he went into the citadel of the king's house and burned the king's house over him with fire, and died,

Like Saul, it's better to kill yourself than be taken by the enemy.

See 1 Samuel 31:4

⁴ Then Saul said to his armor bearer, “Draw your sword and pierce me through with it, otherwise these uncircumcised *Philistines* will come and pierce me through, and abuse me.” But his armor bearer was unwilling, because he was very fearful. So Saul took his sword and fell on it.

¹⁹ because of his sins which he sinned, doing evil in the sight of the Lord, walking in the way of Jeroboam, and in his sin which he did, making Israel sin.

This statement may appear somewhat odd when one considers that he was only the king of Israel for 7 days. Nevertheless, he killed Baasha and all his household during that time.

Verses 21-24

Then the people of Israel were divided into two parts: half of the people followed Tibni the son of Ginath, to make him king; the *other* half followed Omri. ²² But the people who followed Omri prevailed over the people who followed Tibni the son of Ginath. And Tibni died and Omri became king. ²³ In the thirty-first year of Asa king of Judah, Omri became king over Israel *and reigned* twelve years; he reigned six years at Tirzah. ²⁴ He bought the hill Samaria from Shemer for two talents of silver; and he built on the hill, and named the city which he built Samaria, after the name of Shemer, the owner of the hill.

Then the people of Israel were divided into two parts: half of the people followed Tibni the son of Ginath, to make him king; the *other* half followed Omri. ²² But the people who followed Omri prevailed over the people who followed Tibni the son of Ginath. And Tibni died and Omri became king.

The army had made Omri king but the people of Israel were divided over who should rule as king of Israel. But in time those who backed Omri prevailed over Tibni and his followers.

²³ In the thirty-first year of Asa king of Judah, Omri became king over Israel *and reigned* twelve years; he reigned six years at Tirzah.

In verses 15 & 16 it says "In the twenty-seventh year of Asa king of Judah, Zimri reigned seven days at Tirzah.....Therefore **all Israel** made Omri, the commander of the army, king over Israel that day in the camp.

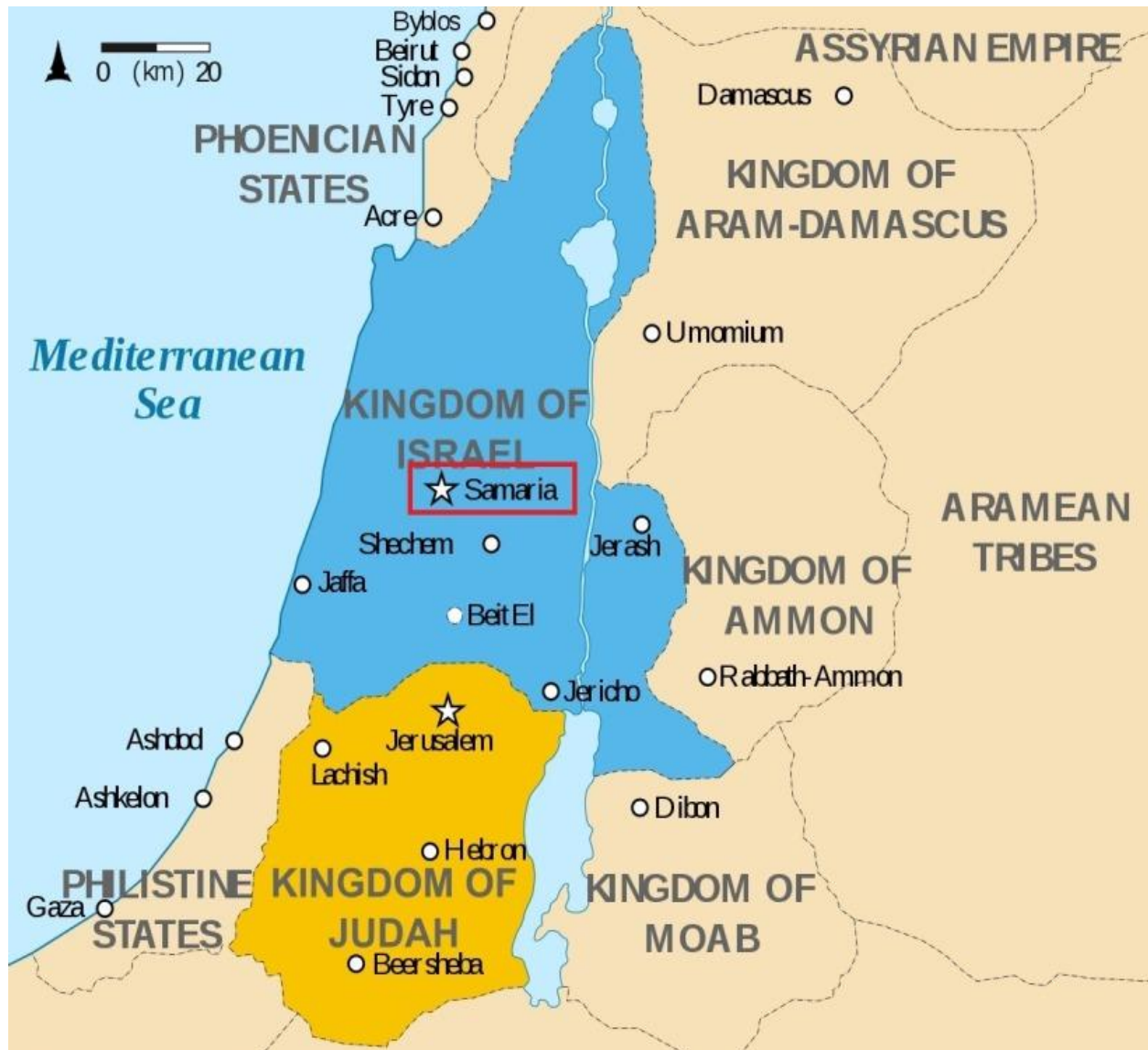
But here in verse 23 it says "In the thirty-first year of Asa king of Judah, Omri became king over Israel."

All of Israel made Omri king in 885 BC but shortly after that time the challenge to his rule by Tibni nullified his authority as king until 881 BC.

²⁴ He bought the hill Samaria from Shemer for two talents of silver; and he built on the hill, and named the city which he built Samaria, after the name of Shemer, the owner of the hill.

Omri built a city on a hill and called it Samaria.

See Map 1625



The following video provides some additional information concerning this city.

See video 1630 8.48 Samaria

<https://www.levickfamily.com/8.48.html>

After the Assyrians conquered the Northern Kingdom in 722 BC a much larger area that bordered Judea to the south and Galilee to the north became known as (the region of) Samaria.

See map 1635



The city of Samaria was later rebuilt by Herod the Great and he named it Sebaste in honor of the Emperor Augustus. The modern name of the small town of Samaria is Sebastia.

Verses 25-28

²⁵ Now Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord, and acted more wickedly than all who were before him. ²⁶ For he walked entirely in the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat and in his sins into which he misled Israel, provoking the Lord God of Israel to anger with their idols. ²⁷ Now as for the rest of the acts of Omri which he did and his might which he displayed, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel? ²⁸ And Omri lay down with his fathers and was buried in Samaria; and his son Ahab became king in his place.

²⁵ Now Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord, and acted more wickedly than all who were before him. ²⁶ For he walked entirely in the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat and in his sins into which he misled Israel, provoking the Lord God of Israel to anger with their idols.

All of the Northern kings up to this point in time have been evil but Omri set the bar at a whole new level. Throughout the next six chapters the true evil of Ahab will be apparent for all to see.

Verses 29-33

Now Ahab the son of Omri became king over Israel in the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah, and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty-two years. ³⁰ Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord more than all who were before him. ³¹ It came about, as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he married Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and went to serve Baal and worshiped him. ³² So he erected an altar for Baal in the house of Baal which he built in Samaria. ³³ Ahab also made the Asherah. Thus Ahab did more to provoke the Lord God of Israel than all the kings of Israel who were before him.

Now Ahab the son of Omri became king over Israel in the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah, and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty-two years.

See Chart 1640 below

North

	King	Began	Ended	Years	Co-reign
1	Jeroboam I	930	909	22	
2	Nadab	909	908	2	
3	Baasha	908	886	24	
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³⁰ **Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord more than all who were before him.**

It didn't take long for a worse king than Omri to come along and the fact that it was his son is not at all surprising.

³¹ **It came about, as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he married Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and went to serve Baal and worshiped him.**

Through an alliance with Phoenicia, Omri arranged the marriage of his son Ahab with Jezebel, and she was more evil than Ahab. She imported 450 priests of Baal from her native country and had many of Yahweh's prophets murdered.

³² **So he erected an altar for Baal in the house of Baal which he built in Samaria.**

³³ **Ahab also made the Asherah. Thus Ahab did more to provoke the Lord God of Israel than all the kings of Israel who were before him.**

Baal was installed as an official religion of Israel. The god of Jezebel was Melkarth the Baal of Tyre who was believed to be the lord of the land. In order to induce him to send rain on the earth sacrifices were offered in his name and children were often burned on his altar.

Verse 34

³⁴ **In his days Hiel the Bethelite rebuilt Jericho; he laid its foundations with *the loss of Abiram* his firstborn, and set up its gates with *the loss of* his youngest son Segub, in accordance with the word of the Lord, which He spoke by Joshua the son of Nun.**

This prophecy was spoken by the Lord through Joshua:

See Joshua 6:26

²⁶ **Then Joshua made them take an oath at that time, saying, “Cursed before the Lord is the man who rises up and builds this city Jericho; with *the loss of* his firstborn he will lay its foundation, and with *the loss of* his youngest son he will set up its gates.”**

This prophesy was spoken 532 years before its fulfillment.