

establishment of something a good deal stronger than what preceded. So when the people heard that Zimri had killed the king, Omri, the captain of the army came up and besieged Tirza where Zimri was, but then you read in verse 21 that K_____, the son of Dinab, wanted to become king and half the people followed him and half followed Omri. So you have civil war. But K_____ was killed and Omri succeeded in establishing himself as king and this meant that Omri was one of unusual ability, unusual knowledge, and unusual skill. Consequently Omri for a time breaks the tradition that had been established of frequent changes in the family that was reigning. We read in I Kings 16:23 that Omri began to reign and reigned twelve years; six years he reigned in Tirzah. You remember that Jeroboam had founded Tirzah after he had left Shechem. The kings in between had founded Tirzah. Six years Omri was in Tirzah and then he moved ~~to~~ his ^{capital} ~~capital~~ so you have the third capital of the northern kingdom. First, Shechem; next, Tirzah; and now he established an entirely new city. The whole reign of Omri is described here in verses 23 to 28; six verses describe the twelve-year reign of Omri. From the viewpoint of the purpose of the Bible, Omri is not particularly important. The clash between him and the prophets. There is no record given here of any change either for the good or for the bad in the religious life of the people. There is no record given here of God's making any promise to Omri or making any curse upon Omri. There is only six verses dealing with Omri and very little said about him. It does say that he wrought evil in the sight of the Lord, and did worse than all that were before him, but it gives us no detail about him. Six verses with practically nothing very little said in them about this king Omri. From the Biblical viewpoint he is not a very important king. But it has been suspected for some time that ~~because~~ from a political and from a historical viewpoint Omri is one of the most important kings who ever reigned in the land of Israel. That is something that brings into strong relief, I think, that the Bible is not a book of history. The Bible is a Book which is a Book of religion. It is a Book of the relation of God to His people and the preparation of the coming of His Son. The history