

of political and economic events and circumstances is ~~nothing~~^{something} that is brought in incidentally in the Bible as a background to the true purposes of the Bible. Wherever it touches upon this, it ~~does~~ gives a true picture as it does wherever it touches upon ~~science~~ science of any kind. It is not a text book from which we can write a geology or a biology or an astronomy or a history in a political sense. Consequently this man who is perhaps one of the most important kings who ever reigned in the northern kingdom is here passed over in a very ~~brief~~ few verses. From the viewpoint of the relation of God to this people ~~the~~ the results of what Omri did were tremendously important, but what he did itself is not particularly important in the Biblical picture. Why do we think that Omri is one of the most important kings in the history of the kings of Israel? The verse here ~~that~~ led us to that belief was ~~that~~ the fact that ~~there~~ in Assyrian records the people ^{29-8¹/₄} across in Mesopotamia. We find in later years (there is no reference to Omri in his life time) but in later years we find referring to Omri in such a way to show that they considered him as one of the most important of the kings, almost as the founder of the kingdom of Israel, the second founder of the Israelite monarch. We find that they refer to the land of Israel as the land of Omri years after the reign of Omri. We find that they refer to the kings of Israel as the house of Omri. We find that they refer to Jehu as king of Israel about fifty years later as a son of Omri even though he was the man who had killed the descendents of Omri. The Assyrians refer to him as a son of Omri. In other words, they thought of Omri as the ~~the~~ founder of the Israelite monarchy ~~in the sense~~ to the extent that any subsequent king was called the son of Omri. That is a pretty great recognition for a man's name to receive far across the desert in Assyria. It is a pretty good hint that Omri was a man who established things on a very firm foundation. Further proof of this is that his dynasty lasted longer than ~~any~~ that of any previous time. He was succeeded not by one successor as in the case of the previous kings but by three successors of his own dynasty before the dynasty was put to an end. For further evidence we find