

that the things that Omri did from a viewpoint of human strategy were extremely
statemanlike. In the first place Omri established a new capital. We don't know
where Tirzah was even. The site of it has not been located. But Omri found
a place which was ideal for a city.--over ^{29-10th} the hill--Samaria. A hill there on
which as far as we know there was no previous city. If there was anything there
it was only a very few houses, perhaps not even that. Samaria has been ~~xxxx~~
excavated and unlike the other great cities of ancient times which will have
perhaps fifteen cities before the time of Omri, this one seems to start right
there. It is on the top of a great hill, a wonderful location ~~xxxxx~~ to defend.
In 721 it took the Assyrians three years of seige before they could conquer the
city. The situation was a wonderful situation for protection. It is a ~~xxxx~~
beautiful place with an outlook all over that half of the northern kingdom,
a place which has only a small spring on it and consequently was not suitable
for a city in earlier times. A new principle had now been discovered which
makes it possible to have a city there. It was a place which had ~~xxx~~ flat rocks
on ~~xxxxxsides~~ several sides and consequently with a good wall at the top of that
it would stay easy to defend and a very commanding position. Later Samaria was
several times as large as Jerusalem, a much finer city, a much richer city, a
city which had control of a much larger area. This was selected by Omri when
he built this capital city upon it. Now the reason that Samaria was now
possible for a city when before in earlier days no city had been built there was
that where there was only a small spring there, by this time they had discovered
the principle ~~of using~~ using cisterns. Cisterns may have been used before but
they were not common. In order to have a city you have to have a water supply.
If you have a city which can be defended you have to have a water supply inside
the city. Now in Samaria a great number of cisterns were built. Jerusalem
today depends ~~on~~ ^{for} for a large part ~~on~~ ~~the~~ its water supply on cisterns. Most
of the houses of any importance in Jerusalem have a good cistern under the house,
where they catch the rain water and hold it. Then they use it for drinking and
washing later on through the year. ~~The~~ Samaria now had to depend to a very large