

# Royal Lessons for Life

## Omri and Ahab

(Israel)

### Omri's Biography

- Omri is the general of the army that stopped Zimri's coup – I Kings 16:17-18
- He and Tibni strive against each other for control of the kingdom for 4 years until Omri finally takes full control – I Kings 16:21-22
- After this he reigns for 8 years as sole ruler – I Kings 16:23
- He moves the capital from Shechem and Tirzah to Samaria – I Kings 16:23-24
- He codified and enforced laws regarding Jeroboam's religion – Micah 6:16
- He is the worst king to this point – I Kings 16:25
- His influence is so great that the Assyrians would call the Northern Kingdom the "House of Omri".

### Ahab's Biography

- Ahab inherits the throne and is worse than his father – I Kings 16:30,33
- He enters a treaty with Ethbaal of Zidon and takes his daughter Jezebel as wife – I Kings 16:31
  - Through this alliance, the pagan religion of Baal worship is promoted – I Kings 16:31-32
- He enters a treaty with Judah by marrying his daughter Athaliah to Jehoshaphat's son Jehoram – II Kings 8:26, II Chronicles 18:1
  - There is a great depth to this alliance that you must pay careful attention to the Scripture to notice, such as the closeness of the relationship between Joram of Israel and Ahaziah of Judah in II Kings 9:16.
- He does have continued problems with the Syrians of Damascus – I Kings 20, 22
- The wickedness of Ahab is countered by the ministry of Elijah, including:
  - the great showdown between God and Baal at Mt. Carmel – I Kings 18
  - the taking of Naboth's vineyard – I Kings 21
- He is killed in battle by a "nameless, aimless bowman" – I Kings 22:34
- His son Ahaziah inherits the throne – I Kings 22:40

### Lessons from the Lives of Omri and Ahab

- In times of great spiritual darkness, God makes sure there are those that stand strong for right – Ephesians 5:11
- Ahab's alliances (including his marriage!) and their corruptive influence are a warning to guard our own – Proverbs 13:20