



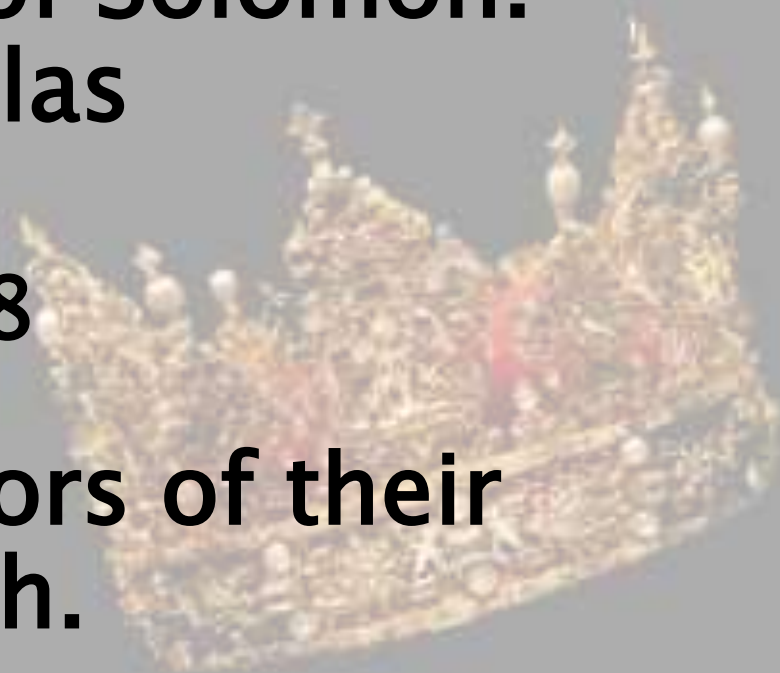
# Israel's Best Kings

## Omri and Ahab



# Good for Israel's Economy

- ▶ “The archeological evidence suggests that the building program sponsored by Omri and Ahab surpassed that of Solomon.”  
Holman Bible Atlas
- ▶ 1 Kings 22:39
  - Cf. 1 Kings 10:18
- ▶ Both are indicators of their enormous wealth.





# Good for Israel's Military

- ▶ Moabite Stone suggests that “Omri humbled Moabites for many years.”
- ▶ Assyrian records of battle of Qarqar.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> known conflict between Israel and Assyria.
  - Israel banded with 11 countries to stop Assyria's push West.
  - Ahab supplied more than half of the chariots.
  - Ahab supplied 1 / 6 of the total infantry.

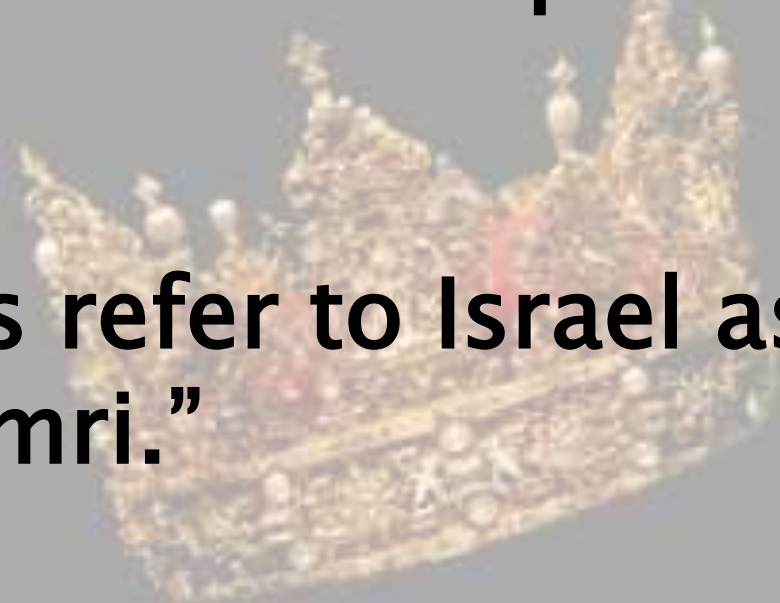
# Made Peace w/ Important Allies

- ▶ **Omri and Ahab put a stop to the conflict between Judah and Israel.**
  - 2 Chronicles 18:1
- ▶ **Made peace with the Phoenicians.**
  - 1 Kings 16:31
  - In a smart political move, Ahab marries Jezebel.



# Brought Political Stability to Israel

- ▶ In the 45 years prior to Omri's reign there had been 4 dynasties.
  - Omri and Ahab ruled for 34 years.
- ▶ Omri makes Samaria the capital of Israel.
  - 1 Kings 16:24
- ▶ Assyrian records refer to Israel as the "house of Omri."



# Have You Noticed?

- ▶ Omri and Ahab could be considered great kings.
- ▶ Mentioned a lot of secular facts, but not many Scriptures.
- ▶ Biblical writers aren't interested in earthly accomplishments.
- ▶ Biblical assessment?
  - Of Omri: 1 Kings 16:25, 26
  - Of Ahab 1 Kings 16:30–33; 21:25, 26

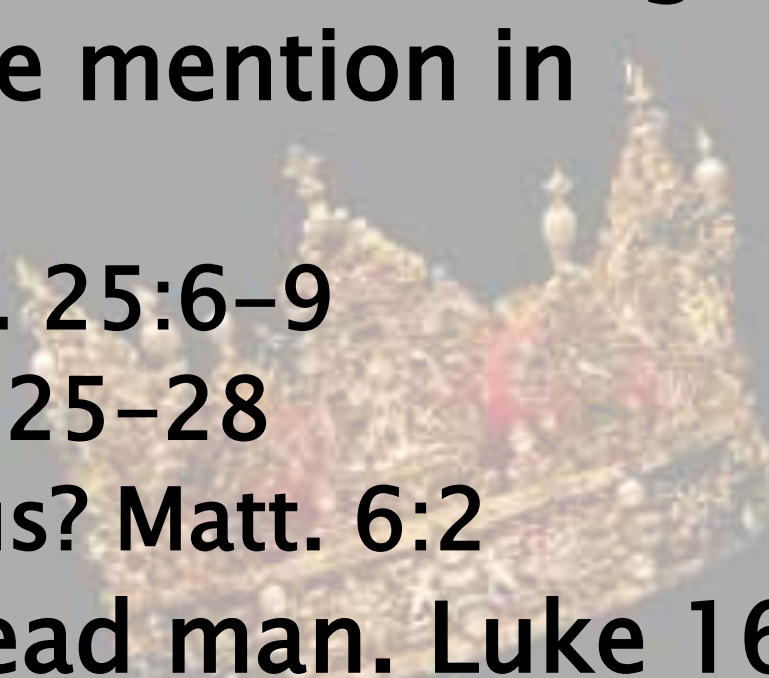


# Application to Our Leaders

- ▶ Proverbs 14:34
- ▶ Leaders should be evaluated based on God's principles.
- ▶ This lesson isn't concerned with leaders as much as it is concerned with us.



# Application to Us

- ▶ 1 Samuel 16:6, 7. God defines success differently than we do.
  - ▶ Are we seeking the same things that receive little mention in Scripture?
    - Money? 2 Chron. 25:6–9
    - Power? Matt. 20:25–28
    - Popularity? Status? Matt. 6:2
  - ▶ See life like a dead man. Luke 16
- 
- A crown of thorns, a symbol of suffering and sacrifice, is visible in the background of the slide, partially obscured by the text.