

1 Kings 16:23-25

In the thirty-first year of Asa king of Judah, Omri became king over Israel, and reigned twelve years. Six years he reigned in Tirzah. And he bought the hill of Samaria from Shemer for two talents of silver; then he built on the hill, and called the name of the city which he built, Samaria, after the name of Shemer, owner of the hill. But Omri wrought evil in the eyes of the LORD, and did worse than all that were before him.

When you read about different places in the bible. Have you ever wondered where they came from or how they got their names? You may have heard of the parable of the Good Samaritan. Well if you read back here in the book of I Kings, you see where Samaria started, which is where the Good Samaritan was from. The interesting thing is in verse 25 of today's devotional.

† ***But Omri wrought evil in the eyes of the LORD, and did worse than all that were before him.***

The Good Samaritan came from an evil town which worshiped other gods, and we know this by reading back in I Kings, because the king was an evil king who did not worship the Lord, but false gods.

So what does this all mean to us today? It means that the bible is very exciting, with so much to discover. You see, I have read through the bible more than once and I don't remember reading these verses about Samaria. But every time you read the bible, you should learn something new or something that you have forgotten about that comes back to your memory.

So don't think of the bible as just another book. But think of it as an exciting book where you can discover new things every day. Sometimes you will laugh, or other days you may cry. Some days you may hear the Lord speaking to you, and other times you may read of something to help someone else.

There are so many possibilities that the Lord can do for you every day. But first you have to be in His word to receive from Him.

Have you ever thought about or tried writing down what you learn or hear the Lord saying to you, or what different things God has shown you or how He has spoken to you as you read the Bible? You will find God speaking to you in different ways everyday through His word.

I wonder how God wants to speak to you today? You'll never know unless you pick up His word and read it for yourself.

- † **Acts 17:11** *These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.*

- † **Hebrews 1:1-2** *God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;*