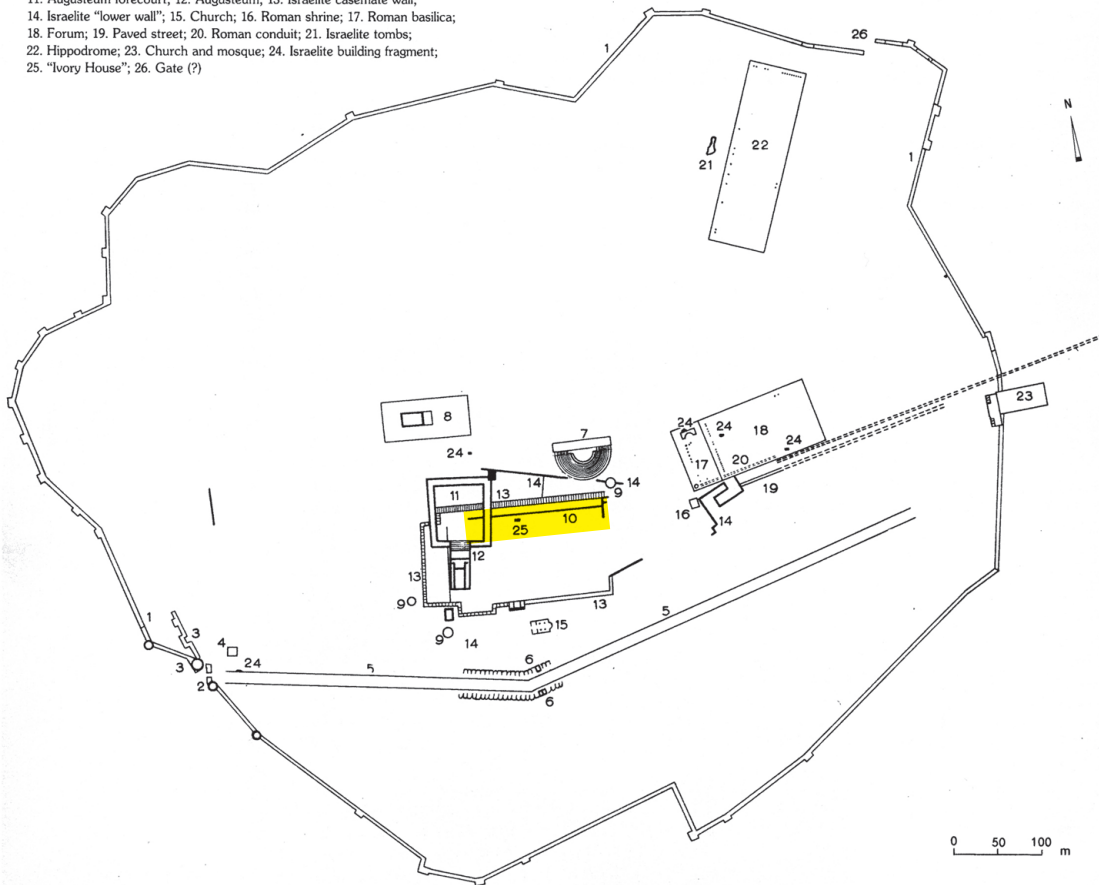


HOSEA LESSON 26

The Royal Palace of Samaria

“In the thirty-first year of Asa king of Judah, Omri began to reign over Israel, and he reigned for twelve years; six years he reigned in Tirzah. He bought the hill of Samaria from Shemer for two talents of silver, and he fortified the hill and called the name of the city that he built Samaria, after the name of Shemer, the owner of the hill.” (1 Kings 16:23-24)

1. Roman city wall; 2. West gate; 3. Hellenistic wall and tower;
4. Roman shrine; 5. Colonnaded street; 6. Shops; 7. Theater;
8. Temple of Kore; 9. Hellenistic round towers; 10. **Israelite "inner wall";**
11. Augusteum forecourt; 12. Augusteum; 13. Israelite casemate wall;
14. Israelite "lower wall"; 15. Church; 16. Roman shrine; 17. Roman basilica;
18. Forum; 19. Paved street; 20. Roman conduit; 21. Israelite tombs;
22. Hippodrome; 23. Church and mosque; 24. Israelite building fragment;
25. "Ivory House"; 26. Gate (?)



The General Plan of Samaria and its Principal Remains



The royal quarter of Samaria was enclosed by walls, and two main systems of fortifications were distinguished. The first wall, which the excavators called the inner wall, encompassed an area on the summit of the hill measuring 178 m east to west and about 89 m north to south. The wall was 1.6 m thick and built of fine ashlar masonry laid in carefully fitted headers and stretchers. Inside the walled area were remains of various buildings, one of which, built against the south wall to the west, consisted of a central courtyard surrounded by rooms (27 by 24 m). This building is considered to be part of the palace of the Israelite kings.