

to think that there is any truth to them at all. So I believe the Lord in his wisdom did not cause such a monument to be found. Well now didn't Solomon put up such monuments? I think he probably did. All kings have done that. But we read in the OT of one of the kings that put plaster over a stone and he wrote on the plaster. The Mesopotamian and Egyptian rulers take stones and they engrave their inscriptions on them and those last. But if a person is not interested simply in his own vain glory but in giving information it is just about as good to put plaster over and make the marks on the plaster. It looks just as good for the present, but it ~~doesn't~~ doesn't last. We have nothing of it for the future.

Now in Egypt we have papyri that were buried with the kings. And This has lasted in the dry air of Egypt. In the moister air of Palestine no papyrus from ancient times ^{of the} ^{ancient} has lasted. So a great amount of writing down there, we don't have any from ancient times. We have some writing on papyrus and such things, but you get near the time of Christ before you get to any actual writing on what was the commonest --- on what were the common things they used to write on. Over in Mesopotamia all their writing was done on clay tablets and thousands of these have lasted. But we have no such remains from Palestine. What of it? Is Sol. just a myth? Was there never ~~such a~~ ~~king~~ ~~in~~ ~~Israel~~ ~~with~~ ~~any~~ ~~such~~ ~~power~~ ~~over~~ ~~such~~ ~~a~~ ~~tremendous~~ ~~area?~~ ~~as~~ ~~Sol.~~ such a king in Israel with any such power over such a tremendous area? as Sol. is described in the Bible as having had? Well we go back to the city of Megiddo. You are all familiar with Armageddon I suppose referred to in the NT as the place where a grt. battle is to take place in fut. time. But well known to historians as the place where grt. battles have taken place as ~~and~~ ~~as~~ recently as W.W. I and also at many times at ancient times. Megiddo is a place that commands an entrance on the grt. caravan route from Egypt up to Mesopotamia. The valley closes in and you ~~have~~ have to cross over from it and right there is that great fortress of Megiddo. In 1905 ~~Orzi~~ or 1906 Prof. Zöllner and Prof. Vatzinger from Germany began an excavation at Megiddo. In excavating there at Megiddo they did not have the techniques that have been developed in more recent years and they ~~did~~ did not have the funds to carry it out thoroughly. So what they did was to follow a technique that is not used in --- anymore today. The technique they used was to dig trenches. I walked about the Mt. of Megiddo in 1929.