

related to the story of Jacob at Bethel putting up a pillar after his vision of God. It was said that the Canaanites put up these columns as centers of their worship and, for evidence of it, the great number of massabas found in many parts of Palestine was pointed out. At Megiddo, excavators dug a trial trench. In this trench they found the remains of eighteen cities, one on top of the other. In the fourth city from the top, that from the time of Solomon, they found one of these columns. Strangely, it was a square column and about three feet from the ground it had a hole running obliquely from one side to the other. The purpose of this horizontal hole in this religious column, no one could guess. Twenty years later, in 1926, the University of Chicago began excavations at Megiddo on a far more extensive scale. When I was there they had gone down as far as the city at the time of Solomon. To their surprise they found hundreds of columns exactly like this one. All were arranged in rows with a well a few feet in back of each row, and a stone manger at many points near the column. From many points of evidence, which I will not enumerate, it was clear to the excavators that what they found was not religious objects at all. These actually were stalls for horses. There were enough stalls to house many hundreds of horses. The hole was for the rope to tie the horses. They turned to I Kings 4.26 and found there the statement that Solomon rebuilt Megiddo and also the statement that Solomon built cities for his chariots and stalls for his horses (I Kings 4.26). Critics used to scoff at the descriptions of the greatness of the empire of Solomon. They said that he was a petty king and that the stories were exaggerated. All this must now be revised, since here has actually been found what all investi-