plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere, before the Lord
destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the Lord, like the land
of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar. As you read this story, you say it
doesn't fit at all; and it didn't fit in the time of the later Israelite
kingdom. But Dr. Edward Meyers, the great German authority on ancient his-
tory, made a statement shortly before his death, "The attempt was never
made to take the Jordan River and harness it and irrigate the soil as was
done in Egypt in the Nile Valley under almost identical circumstances. It
never was made,- no evidence of it. But this sounds as if it was made.
And then in 1924 an expedition of the American School of Oriental Research
went down into that Jordan Valley and studied little hills there in the
Jordan Valley. Digging into them a little, they found pottery remains and
evidence of ancient towns. And you wouldn't have towns without irrigation
and means of livelihood for the people. Forty or fifty towns were found
from ancient times in that Jordan Valley, and all but one abandoned before
the time of Joshua. All except the one city of Jericho. I walked along the
southern edge of the Sea of Galilee by _____, *the city of*
_____, a city which runs for half a mile along the southern
end of the Sea of Galilee, and the remains rise up quite high there, remains
of that ancient civilization beginning about 3000 B.S., and stopping long
before the time of Joshua,- nothing later on except a little ruined fortifi-
cation on the top of it. All these cities except Jericho abandoned before
the time of Joshua. And you read the verse which says it was well watered
everywhere "before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the
garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt as thou comest unto Zoar". How
would anybody know that in the time of the later Israelite kingdom? How
would anybody then, as the critics say he did, make up a story like this?
It is utterly impossible. But at the time of Abraham that was what the
situation was, and would simply be written down as describing the fact as