

way beyond what it was by Homer. And we know in addition ~~the~~ to that, that it is not only far smaller than what Homer represents it, we know that there were two events, one a time before, and one about the same time, which were far greater than it. The attack on Crete, the conquest of ~~Crete~~ Crete, a ~~couple~~ couple of centuries earlier, the destruction of that tremendous ~~palace~~ palace of Knosis (sp?) finds no recollection in ~~the~~ the Iliad at all. And in the very generation of the Trojan War there was that great attack on Egypt by the sea peoples, of whom the Achaeans (sp?) were ~~not~~ included. And ~~finds~~ finds no recollection in Homer. And it is only with difficulty that we ~~find~~ find the slightest reference to these in other writings. There are preserved in the Iliad references to one or two customs, or one ~~of~~ or two things which had disappeared before the time of the Trojan War. There were evidently just a few relics of them, and those were noticeable. Ajax has his great body shield; but the ~~body shield~~ body shield had disappeared before the ~~time of~~ time of the Trojan War; they said simply used a ~~paring~~ (?) shield then. But Ajax, a big body shield, everybody ~~knows~~ noticed, and it was passed on with ~~an~~ oral tradition, and so we have the body shield preserved. But very little about the ~~paring~~ (?) shield. ~~Homer~~ Homer speaks of chariots, and we know that before the time of the Trojan War chariots were used with great effect in the ~~Mediterranean~~ Near East. But as you read Homer, about all the chariot is used for is to get you to the place where you fight, and then you get off the chariot(s) and fight. It's quite recognized that he had no real understanding of what the chariots were for. He preserved the memory of a good many things, but often very distorted, and ~~there~~ there are a good many things he ~~didn't~~ didn't preserve. You read Homer and you get the impression the whole period was an utterly illiterate ~~period~~ period. There is only one ~~very slight reference~~ very, very slight reference to writing in ~~the~~ Homer, and that is quite obscure. But now we have over ^{five thousand} 5000 tablets from the Mycenaean age; two thousand of them from Pylos where Nestor was the king; and we see that writing was very well known