

And so they dug trenches across. They didn't have time to dig layer by layer --you take a trench and dig it across a hill. Suppose this was all buried and you dig a trench-- it might catch a corner of the desk, maybe little of the room--but it would be very hard to get a good idea of what the place really was like. Well, they dug those trenches. In 1929 when I ~~walked~~ walked across the mound there at Megiddo, it had just rained and one of the sides of those trenches had been washed away and I looked down ~~at~~ and there I could see the foundations of 18 cities one on top of the other all built around Megiddo and here a little had been dug out of each. Well, in the fourth level trench they concluded and rightly so, that this occurred around the time of Solomon around 1000 B.C. --and there in the fourth level from the top they found a column. It was a peculiar column--it was not a round column but a square one like these here, only quite a bit larger than these. And these were excavated and these ~~young~~ ^{German} excavators were men that didn't believe that monotheism had existed way back as far as 1000 B.C. in Palestine and when they saw this column they said that this probably was a symbol of some unknown god--some ^{ANCIENT} type of religion--they put up these columns for worship. So when they found these columns they said that this was some ancient type of religion--that was the attitude of those who found these columns. It has been given up now because Prof. Andre from the Univ. of Berlin in 1934 said that in most cases the columns are there to hold up the second story of the building ~~and~~ and not for some form of worship, but this has not yet been proved although this might be the case in some instances. But in this case here was this square column standing and there was a peculiar thing about that column--About three feet up from the ground there was a hole cut from one side to the other side--three inches through across the corner. And this hole, about an inch in diameter was cut through the column but what did that mean? Some thought that it was an ancient altar and the hole was there to carry away the blood from the sacrifice but the hole was not horizontal. However much they thought about it, no satisfactory answer was found. It remained there for 20 years. Then in 1926 Prof. John D. Rockefeller Jr. had given some 12 million dollars to the University of Chicago--that is to the Oriental Institute of the U. of Chicago to be spent on an ~~excursion~~ expedition in the near East and one of the places they selected was this place at Megiddo. They began work there in