

The usual attitude of critics today is that this book was written in the northern kingdom and not from the southern kingdom at all! They say that all sorts of things in it reflect the ideas of the northern kingdom. But the northern kingdom had been destroyed sixty years before the time of Josiah. How did it come to get in the temple and be discovered if it was never known before, and palmed off on the people as something written by Moses?

Student [question on the destruction of the altars previously: unclear]. A.A.M: Well, yes, Josiah did it after the book was discovered, but I think Mr. Myers [student] is probably referring to the fact that Hezekiah had done the same thing at an earlier time.

We should point out the fact that, according to the historical statements, Hezekiah destroyed the altars nearly one hundred years before Josiah's time. Of course, they were rebuilt in the time of Manasseh. When believers were persecuted, new altars were built and later some came to be used in connection with all kinds of wickedness. As soon as there would again be a good king, it would be possible once more to have the unity that had existed under Hezekiah. The critics try to say that Hezekiah's reform could not actually have happened, but the Scripture tells how the same thing had happened under Hezekiah a hundred years before when he destroyed the high places. So Josiah's reform was not a new thing, the result of a new book being written. The book of Deuteronomy, and in fact the whole Pentateuch, was well known.

5) *The command to destroy the Amalekites.* Now I will conclude with a very quick summary. There are features in the book of Deuteronomy which are alleged to show its late date but there are also many features which fit the early days and have no relevance at all to the time of Josiah. One instance is the command to destroy the Amalekites. The Amalekites disappeared hundreds of years before the time of Josiah. There are also other commands that have nothing to do with the time of Josiah. We should also note that there is no mention of Jerusalem. There is no specific reference to many things that were well known to everybody at the time of Josiah. The