

convenient for us. The material didn't last as long. It wasn't true paper it was related to it but it hadn't been preserved like the earlier material.

~~(Question)~~

We'll go on now to number "2", Ahaz of Judah. Now we began this period with Pekah and Pekah ~~was~~ ^{is} a far greater interest to us because of his relation to Ahaz than because of his own situation. Ahaz, the king of Judah, the son of Jotham, was a man who was not interested in old superstitions about God. He was a practical man. He was a man who was interested in getting things done and he was interested in working out ~~xxxx~~ several ways of doing them. He was averse to ~~using~~ using the forms of the old religion if that would help make the people loyal to him and lead the people to be dutiful servants of the crown. He thought religion was good for the people but he doesn't seem to have much interest in it for himself. He was perfectly ready as far as the evidence goes to follow one religion or another according to what would help his own purposes. Now this King Ahaz then being in ~~xxxx~~ power the ordinary practices of the religion would go on unhindered. He was not a man or a scholar considering religion as something that is harmful. He was more like Frederick the Great of Prussia, considering that it was something which was an old superstition and no harm in it for the people but that he didn't worry about it much himself. There are many people like that who think religion is good for the moral of the nation. Even the Bolsheviki during the war were ready to give a certain amount of favor to religion of the Russians because it was ~~xxxxxxx~~ ^{some} some help in winning the war.

Now this king Ahaz found himself in a rather serious situation with the ~~king~~ king of Judah. He was king over a small territory. It was a wealthy territory but rather tiny ~~from~~ compared with the large nations round about. Of course, extremely tiny compared with the great Egyptian empire to the southwest and compared with the great empire of Assyria over across the desert. But just to the ~~xxxxxxx~~ ^{north} north of him was Israel, 50 per cent stronger than his kingdom and two or three times as large as his kingdom and beyond Israel there was Syria.