

indeed a good man. It is strange that such a wicked man as Ahaz should have a son who would be just as good a man as King Hezekiah was. He was a man who in general sought the Lord with His whole heart. He is a man who tried to tear down the high places where the people were ~~worshiping~~ ~~worshiping~~ ~~worshiping~~ worshiping God without paying attention to the specific regulations that God had given for His worship. ~~for~~ They were worshiping God on all the high hills and different places when God had commanded ~~them~~ that worship should be centralized at Jerusalem. This, of ~~course~~ course, does not mean that God is not near to be approached anywhere. There is a ~~true~~ true worship and a true approach ~~to~~ ~~to~~ God ~~that~~ which can take place anywhere, but God was interested not mostly in His relation to the individual people but also in keeping alive the testimony, in keeping the testimony pure and preparing the way for the coming of His Son. For this purpose He had prescribed in the book of Deuteronomy a unity of worship in order that the worship should be kept pure and that the ^{all} ~~old~~ sacrifices were to be at Jerusalem. People desiring ^{and} of serving the Lord ~~were~~ ~~Lord~~ were offering sacrifices on high places and occasionally the Lord blessed people who offered sacrifices on high places because the sacrifice was given out of a heart of desire to serve the Lord. But this was His specific command and it was His desire to restrict it to Jerusalem and Hezekiah was the first of whom we have the statement given that he deliberately set himself to destroy the high places, and to unite the worship in Jerusalem. Also of Hezekiah we read that the great passover which he had observed was the greatest passover in the history of Judah up to that time. We read that since the time of Solomon, the son of David, there was no ~~king-like~~ ~~xxkinglike~~ passover like this one, no service like this one that Hezekiah puts on. This we read in II Chronicles 30:26. Now the higher critics ignore these statements by Hezekiah. They consider them as late statements, statements which are unreliable and absolutely false. They do that because they do not fit into their theory of the development of the religion of Israel. For that reason it is all the more important that we are familiar with this fact that this is taught in the Scripture. That