

of the house of the Lord. The account here in both Kings and Chronicles is specifically interested in what happened to the treasurers of the house of the Lord. He took away the gold, the shields of gold, that Solomon had made and Rehoboam made in their stead brazen shields. There is a great spiritual lesson there which I trust you all brought in in your papers. There have been many fine sermons preached on the sham of Rehoboam trying to replace the golden shields ~~with~~ which had been lost through his sin with these brazen shields. Yet we must remember on the other hand that the brazen hands were better than not to have had any. It was at least that he desired to carry on the service and that he put something up that would do in the meantime because there certainly was not gold available to replace the gold that was taken. ~~But~~ I saw a letter from a skeptic once who took this statement in verse 26. He took away all, all the ~~treasures~~ treasures of the king's house! He took away all; he took away all the shields of gold which Solomon had made and then went on and showed another invasion that took away everything that Solomon had made, and then another one, and another one, and you go on until you finally get to the conquest some hundreds of years later taking it into Babylon where they took all the things that Solomon had made up to Babylon and he claimed that there were a series of utter contradictions in the Bible. Everyone of these men took away everything that Solomon had made and still there was some left for the next person. Now only, of course, a very wooden idea of history will find contradictions in such business as that. He took away all here is not a mathematical statement. ~~But~~ It means that he took away a great amount of it or a great bulk of it, or seemed to be all of it, but the people did their place to replace it. It was Solomon's treasure. It was the things that Solomon had made even <sup>if</sup> a large part of it came at a ~~large~~ later time and was a replacement rather than the original material that Solomon had made. These statements all are not statements which we can take and measure precisely how much was taken in each particular incident until we get to the last one. Even there we can't be ~~sure~~ sure that ~~they~~ they took everything to Babylon.