

up to as recently as the time of Napoleon there were important battles near this place of Megiddo. It guards a passage from the plain by the seashore over to inner plain where the seashore plain is pinched out by the mountains coming up to the edge of the shore, and consequently a very crucial thing in Palestine and a natural place for great decisive battles to occur. Now there at Megiddo early in this century German excavators began certain excavations. Professor 12-8 who was then at the University of Venia later of the University of Berlin and an architect named Watsinger excavated there at Megiddo. In excavating there at Megiddo they found it necessary to use a method of excavation which is largely given up and I hope entirely given up as it is not a sound method, a method which is used a good deal in early days. ~~fix~~ It is the so-called "trench" method. It consists of digging a hole a few feet wide clear down into a mound and then carrying the hole across the mound with the idea that you get a little material from each of different levels. You learn a little about each of the different levels that way. You learn a little about each of them but it is often a very little. You have to know a good deal about the different levels to know where to dig a trench that would give you a proper understanding. If the trench was across this room, for instance, it might just cut into the corner of the machine and it might get the pulpit and then perhaps one of the chairs and then a side of the wall and ancient walls very often disintegrate walls of houses to the point where if you were examining very closely you see where they are, but since you dig straight through you can often dig right through and never notice them. They leave a definite mark as you can see with careful excavation. Digging a trench is not the easiest way to preserve the arrangement of walls. So the trench method is very unsatisfactory but it is much cheaper than taking everything off from the top down. So much cheaper that many have liked it but you don't ~~learn~~ learn a fraction as much. It is far better to take an area and dig down through the area, an area large ~~enough~~ enough to get the whole of a building or at least a very sizeable portion of two buildings and the space in