

there at Megiddo, they decided that the fourth city from the top was from about 1000 B. C., from about the time of Solomon. That decision is agreed with by those ~~xxx~~ who have done excavation more recently. It was a sound decision on the basis of the material available.

Now in that fourth city from the top in one of the trenches they found a column, a square column standing fairly high and square, about a foot and a half on a side square. And these excavators were men who followed the higher critical viewpoint of Israelite history and thought that monotheism had come in the 7th century B. C. or in the late 8th or early 7th through Amos and other prophets who had hit upon this wonderful idea and that at the time of Solomon the people had been polytheistic and they thought that this column here was some sort of a symbol of an ancient polytheistic type of worship. That was customary until about twelve years ago. Whenever you found a more or less isolated column or a series of columns they think it represented some ancient form of worship. ~~They~~ ^{was} ~~were~~ proved by Professor of Andre of the University of Berlin about fifteen years ago that he told that in many cases these rows of columns which archeology existed twenty years ago showed as old ¹²⁻¹⁴ as they called them were actually the lower story of houses which held up the upper story. That is the case of a great many of these such columns. But in this case the excavators in ~~xxxx~~ 1906 rather naturally thought that this column which stood there alone might be a symbol of some sort of ancient worship. But one thing ~~xxxxxx~~ about the column was difficult to interpret. That is, that on the column about three feet from the ground there was a long hole which runs across obliquely from one side of the column to the other. This long hole they felt was something which must be related to the purpose of it for worship, but just what it could be ~~they~~ was hard to explain. This could hardly be an ancient altar. It was too high for that. If it was an altar you often found a hole to carry out the blood. But this hole wouldn't fill that purpose. It didn't come to the top of the column and it was obviously very long. The purpose of the hole in the religious column would remain