

protect Israel. God was a God to use Haziël for His purposes and to bless them if they remained true to Him but to send into their lives not only that which was from a physical sense helpful but also that which was from a physical sense very disagreeable with them but which was a part of His purposes whether for chastisement or whether for instruction or for forcing people to a greater dependence on Himself. ~~Mr~~

Mr. Noe.--(Question) Thou shouldst have smitten five for six times then hadst thou smitten Syria until thou hadst consumed them. He ties it up with what the king has done. I think it is definitely tied with that. Whether Elisha knew it before or not we are not told. He may not have but at least he bases it on what the king has done.

(Question) I think that Elisha is rather clearly here acting as God's messengers and carrying out God's will. If Joash was acting in accordance with his ability Elisha couldn't have been angry at him. The man of God was wroth. Of course, a man of God might be wroth because of his own sinful, wrong attitudes but in this particular situation I don't think you can interpret in that way. I think that it means a Godly man, not merely *one word 85-9 1/2*

(Question) Mr. Sinclair, I think, has a very good point there. If somebody comes up to you and says, "I am a prophet of God. Hit me in the face." Well, you would of course laugh at him. You would be perfectly silly to pay any attention to some sort of a silly request that someone makes to you and tells you that God has told him to do it. I remember a case of a man in a church and the minister went up to the man and he said, "God has told me to tell you to give a thousand dollars to the church." And the man very sensibly answered, "That is strange. The Lord didn't tell me anything about it." I think that it is ~~xxxx~~ true that each of us has to decide for himself what is the Word of God, and ~~xxxxxxx~~ the Word of God is almost entirely for us that which is in the Scripture.