

Peninsula and attacked Singapore from the North where the British had not made defenses and repeated against them exactly what they had done against the ~~the~~ Chinese a century before, and they made exactly the same mistake that the Chinese had made before. WE must protect our weak points, we must watch for them, we must be careful, but in doing it how easy it is occasionally to overlook our strong points. That in which we are perfectly sure we are alright in this direction, and we watch and watch and watch that and then Satan sneaks in behind in, in the place where we think we're strongest and that's where we fall. And so people sometimes fail at their strongest points instead of their weakest points. That's what happened to Moses. Moses' meekness, Moses' patience, these were his great strong points, and exactly here Moses failed. Now from a human viewpoint we must certainly have every consideration of Moses. From a ^{viewpoint certainly} human viewpoint we can understand how he would become tired, and he would lose his patience in this situation and speak out the way he did. But God does not look at things from a human viewpoint. God has great compassion and great personal sympathy with us and is anxious to help us as individuals, but God ultimately requires perfection. And the only one who has achieved perfection of course is the Lord Jesus Christ. And God wants us not to put any human being on a pedestal where he does not belong, and so he shows us even in Moses how he fails at his strongest point. It is Moses and Aaron who did this, but of course Aaron had already been implicated in the opposition to Moses in ch. 12. They are standing together here, and it really ~~is~~ Moses we are most concerned with. But the people had been told, You cannot go into the promised land because of your failure in connection with the spies ~~the~~ at Kadesh Barnea. They had been told that, but that would not apply to Moses and Aaron surely! Caleb and Joshua were exempted from it. They the faithful spies could go into the land, but surely Moses and Aaron thought, We are not at fault in that. We did not enter into that situation at all. We certainly stood for what the Lord wanted. And now the Lord showed them that they also are not fit to go into the promised land. So they are punished for their pride, for their weakness, for they human frailty ^{by} ~~for~~ not being able to go into the promised land, as they so desired to do. Again we have a situation somewhat like we noticed in connection