

the words are kept from error so that we can get the principles by careful study. And then God wants us to get these principles and to utilize them; to study them and to apply them in our lives. And then to use the symbols, to use the means you can find to get them to others. And always be thinking of new means, new ways.

I've probably told you before about Dr. Robt. Dick Wilson; how he was talking once about the accuracy of the Scriptures, and he referred to one of the Psalms. He quoted a verse. And a man came up afterwards, and said, Oh but that vs. couldn't mean that. Look at that colon in there. And he explained ^{to him} /how the colon was put in by the translators. It wasn't in the original. And the man said, I guess you are right, but that's been a very dear colon to me!" And it is very easy for us to put our affection upon a quotation of specific words, or ~~specific~~ specific symbols, instead of on the principles and ideas that God wants us to get from the Scripture and to apply and to follow and to make real in the lives of others.

So Moses smote the rock, and showed his impatience by striking it twice, and by what he said still more. But it is not a matter of his -- the number of times and of fitting the symbol. We can change symbols. We should change ~~the symbols~~ /symbols, because when people get accustomed to symbols they lose their meaning and become a mere form. Oh, it's -- people get so excited about minor things and external things. And we can't help it. There is no use getting angry at people for getting so excited. about them. But let's patiently lead them to see the meaning underneath, and let us when we can substitute new fresh symbols for the old symbols that have lost their effectiveness.

C. Edom's Rebuff. This continues here in this 20th chapter through vs. 21. It tells how Moses sent messengers to the king of Edom, to let the Israelites go through. And the King of Edom refused to let them go through and even put an army near the border. And probably that was the wise thing for him to do if he didn't know anything about the real situation and didn't know God was really leading these people. But it was a great rebuff to the Israelites who look upon the Edomites as ^{being} /their brothers being descended from Esau. However they didn't force their way through. They made a long journey around in order to avoid going there and Moses in Deut. told the people, The Edomites and the Moabites are related to you. You've got enough enemies without having squabbles