

was possible at all. And all sorts of ideas were being presented, and they were turning aside ~~wa~~ from every type of religion. A man stood up in the Chamber there and said, "If there's a God in the Heavens, I challenge him to strike me dead. He said, 'I challenge him to strike me dead in the next 2 minutes, if there's a God.'" And he stood there and pulled out his watch. People stood in shock. They did not believe in God, most of them ~~there~~ ^{there} They thought it was a lot of junk. Yet in the back of their minds, they thought "Maybe there is a God. Maybe He will strike this man dead. They waited a few minutes and nothing happened. Then there was a laugh of derision, and he said, 'See, there is no God.' He did not strike me dead in two minutes. Well, somebody to whom this story was told said, 'Do you think you can end the patience of the Lord in two minutes? Do you think you can give a challenge to God that he will have to answer in that way? You can't force God with your challenges. God ~~is+the+one~~ will do what He chooses. He controls all things. But according to the story as it was told me, the next day this man was coming to the meeting of the Chamber of Deputies, a little insect flew into his eye and poisoned him. Within a few hours he was dead. God didn't need to waste a thunderbolt on him. (Laughter) A little insect was quite sufficient."

God works in ways we do not expect. We do not know what He is going to do. The wrath of men, He uses to praise Him, and sometimes He is patient with the most wicked because He has purposes to work out through them.

Now we have Ahab as the great miserable fellow in ch. 17, 18, and 19. In ch. 21 we have the terrible rebuke of Elijah against Ahab. But in ch. 20 we have God sending messengers to Ahab telling him what to do, and leading him in order that he may know how God will deliver him. God uses even the wicked for His purposes. And in this situation where the survival of the knowledge of God was vital, where the survival of Israel was vital, God chose to give blessings even to that wicked Ahab. So if you had ch. 20 all by itself, at least without the last part of it, you would not realize