

But in those days God spoke directly through prophets, before we had His word for our leading, and this man knew that this was God's prophet, and God's prophet gave him the orders to do something that would have a part in God's giving a lesson to the king, and the man disobeyed. If you know a command is from God it doesn't matter whether it sounds reasonable to you or not, if it's God's command, it's your duty to obey it. And God certainly did not kill every man who disobeyed the command of a prophet, <sup>in ancient times,</sup> but He killed one for a lesson to many others, and for a lesson to us of the importance of obeying His commands. <sup>If</sup> God were to kill every one of us who deserve it, we would all die for we are all sinners. But God spares us and gives us opportunity to come to know Him and to come to know His Word. But He does many things for examples, and for illustrations, and for guiding His children. And He gave as an illustration here, that God had a purpose, it sounded utterly irrational to man. Here's a good man, a good prophet, why should I hit him? Hit him so the blood would flow, what a silly thing to do. Yes, it is silly if you don't know what the end of it is, if you don't know the purpose. One time I was with one of the leaders of our Board of Directors down in Wilmington, just before the evening service, I think it was the second or third year of the Seminary, and as we came out from town where we had gone to have supper, we got into a new kind of bus that they'd just gotten in Wilmington a week before, and they were new in this area, now they (13 1/4)

but then they were new, and we got in this bus, I had ridden in one like it before so I knew that when you stepped down onto the pedal, you stepped down there, then the man in front presses a button, so the door opens. But if you don't step down it won't open. Well, we were on our way to the opening, and we got to the corner and my friend was just ahead of me, and we rang the bell, the bus stopped. I said, step down, he said the door isn't open. Well, I said, step down. He says the door isn't open. And I almost had to push him to get him to step down. It gave me a wonderful illustration for my greeting at that night at the opening. I pointed to this man on the platform and I said