

minor aberration and begin attacking it to the point where eventually he loses out entirely in the church. These minor points should be dealt with patiently when occasion arises and not be made occasions for head on collisions. But here he smote it twice -- it merely shows his irritation, his feeling that was shown in the words that he said. And whether he smote once or twice or six times, it certainly is not the important things. It's the irritation, it's the pride of taking the credit to himself rather than giving it to God. It is not that he made a mistake and so he can't go into the promised land but he has reached the point where new leadership is needed and God is going to make that clear by what he does on this particular occasion. And also of course to make Moses feel more content with not being able to lead the people. It is being made clear to him that he is no longer fit for this leadership.

I would like in this connection to call your attention to another place where there is a somewhat similar situation. This is in 2 Kings 7/13. There we read in vs. 14: Now Elisha was fallen sick of his sickness whereof he died. . . . (continue reading text through vs. 14) Here this king of Israel sees this grand old prophet whose has been in retirement for considerable time, but for whom the people have so much regard for. He sees him dying and he says, Oh I want to show every honor to this prophet. But why, because he wanted to honor the prophet, or because he wanted the people to think he was a good religious man and they ought to obey him. What was his purpose?

Well Elisha said to him, Take bow and arrows. And said to the King of Israel, Put thine hand upon the bow and he put his hand upon it, and Elisha put his hands upon the king's hands. And he said, Open the window eastward. And he opened it . . . (continue reading text through vs. 18) And he said, Smite upon the ground, and the king of Israel by this time was getting kind of tired. He'd gone through this to try to humor the old prophet, and he shot the arrow and all that. How much foldolrah does he want me to go through anyway. I've shown my respects to him. The poor old fellow is dying now. I've shown my respect. Now let's go and get on with our work. But here he says Take the arrow. "Well, all right. What do you want?" He says, Smite on the ground. So he smote ~~it~~ thrice and stayed (stopped). And the man of God was wrote with him and said, Thou