

shouldst have smitten five or six times; then hadst thou smitten Syria till thou hadst consumed it; whereas now thou shalt smite Syria but thrice." And it is unfortunate that the numbers correspond this way because it is so easy to say, Well if only the king of Israel had hit six times instead of three times he'd have really defeated Syria, but he only hit three times. Well, that's purely accidental. That is not the thing at all. The thing is that he was lackadasical about it. He ~~wasn't~~ wasn't interested, and Elisha was bringing out the fact that the king of Israel was merely trying to hold the people's interest by showing honor to the prophet; he wasn't really interested in knowing what God's will was and doing ~~it~~ with a vim and vigor what God wanted him to do, and putting his heart into it. And so the fact that he struck three times and ??? three times, was a symbolic thing, but the important thing is what is back of it. And of course that is true all through the Scripture. Scripture is ~~not~~ verbally inspired. These are the words which God has given us, words that are free from error; that is to say, we cannot reasonably and properly infer from them/<sup>something</sup> that is wrong. They are verbally inspired. But the important thing is the ideas; it is the principles that we find there. And the words are such that we can draw the principles from them and we can check in the words to be sure that we are ~~not~~ not getting into error on the principles. But it's not the words, per se it is the principles. The modernists talk about Bibliolatry, how we are Bible worshippers. And I think it's wrong. I never knew anybody who was a Bible worshipper. I read about one. Some of you may have read this book, God's Smuggler -- a very fascinating book about a man who has smuggled Bibles behind the Iron Curtain and has gotten many Bibles into the lands where the communists ordinarily do not allow them to be used. But he tells how he went into Albania, and he got a Bible in the Albanian language. And he found what was left of one of the Christians' groups in Albania. and he brought them this Bible, and Oh they were so happy to hve it and so grateful to him. And they put it in their church in a certain place, and nobody could get within 6 ft. of that wonderful sacred book. ~~They~~ They said it would not do for someone who is not ordained to even touch the thing, and the man who is ordained can only stand a ~~little~~ little distance away from it, and honor and glorify that wonderful Bible, they are so happy to have. Well there is nothing magical in the Bible. There is nothing magical in the words. But