

lion had killed them, but I had not ever heard of them attacking the people. They rarely attack the people, human beings. They will attack animals, particularly if it is an animal that they would enjoy eating. And if a person is dead they might eat the carcass, but here the lion did not attack the ass, it did not attack the carcass of the man; it just stood there. So here's the carcass and the donkey stands there wondering why the man doesn't get off and go on farther. The lion stands there. A very strange thing. No wonder the people saw it and told about it.

They said, What a strange thing has happened here. So the word came to the old prophet about this queer situation. And we read (v.26) "And when the prophet that brought him back from the way heard thereof, he said, It is the man of God, who was disobedient unto the word of the L.rd: therefore the Lord hath delivered him unto the lion, which hath torn him, and slain him . . .".

Now if you have an ordinary KJV, it will say in the next verse: "And he spake to his sons, saying, Saddle me the ass. And they saddled him." The him is italicized. We don't italicize words nowadays to show that they don't belong there. We italicize them to make them important. So it gives an utterly false impression. This copy I have has substituted "saddled the ass." The NASB substitutes the word "it," for "Him" which, of course, is more in line with modern English. But I wonder how many people in our churches realize that italics in our KJV and in other of our modern versions, means not something that is important but something that is inserted in order to get the full understanding..

"And he said to his sons, saying, Saddle me the ass. And they saddled the ass. And he went and found his carcass cast in the way, and the ass and the lion standing by the carcass: the lion had not eaten the carcass, nor torn the ass. And the prophet took up the carcass of the man of God, and laid it upon the ass, and brought it back and the old prophet came to the city, to mourn and to bury him. And he laid his carcass in ~~ix~~ his own grave; and they mourned over him, saying, Alas, my brother! It's interesting, I understand that in Masonic funerals they all walk past the grave saying, Alas, my brother. I don't know whether they think that the man has been disobedient like this one, or whether they are just taking a motto out of the Scripture. At any rate that is what he said here, Alas, my brother!

And . . . after he had buried him, . . . he spake to his sons, saying, When I am dead, then bury me in the sepulchre wherein the man of God is buried; lay my bones beside his bones: For the saying which he cried by the word of the Lord against the altar in Bethel, and against all the houses of the high places which are in the cities of Samaria, shall surely come to pass."

So the old prophet who who "white lied" as he considered it, caused a man's death, and gave his word in support of the prediction that the prophet had given and passed the word on to encourage the