

not what the imperfect is. The imperfect in Hebrew ^{simply} ~~should~~ expresses an action as occurring. The perfect in Hebrew expresses a condition as existing after the result of something that has occurred. Consequently when certainty is desired to be expressed in Hebrew it is more apt to be the perfect than the imperfect even though it is something in the future. This simply shows an action as occurring. It answers this specific question. Is this a mortal disease? It answers, no, this is a disease which will not cause death. As far as this disease is concerned, the king is going to recover. The answer regarding the disease is given and Hazael may take it back to Benhadad. If you ask a doctor how about this sickness that I have? Am I going to die of this sickness? And the doctor says, no, that is just a passing --it is very disagreeable while you have it, but it is just a passing ailment. A week from now you will be just as well as ever. Six months from now you will be running and jumping ~~and~~ as if you had never had this trouble. Then on your way from the doctor an auto runs over you and kills you. The doctor did not give you erroneous information about the disease. There is an entirely different thing that has happened.

A different subject is involved. In this case Elisha gave the information regarding the true aspect of it. First regarding the disease. The question Benhadad has asked the answer is given. ~~and~~ , Thou mayest certainly, I think is about as good as we can give in English if we want to in just a very brief statement literally as possible give the sense of the Hebrew. I think what it really means is that it is not a mortal disease. It is not a disease that is going to kill you. Will I recover from this disease? This disease will not kill you. Thou mayest certainly recover.

But then Elisha as the man of God knowing not only what the doctor might say about the nature of the disease but also knowing other information, gives information to Hazael dealing with another thing which may happen in the life of Benhadad. He says, "Go and tell him as far as the disease is concerned you may