

That is to say, almost entirely. The Scripture is the Word of God. Rarely indeed do we have a clear indication of the Word of God from some other source. The Lord has given us His word and wants us to study it and to take it and to apply it. I say rarely because I think we must realize that if God chooses to, he can intervene today in a particular way, to a particular heart or in some particular way but that is unusual and rare and should be tested very thoroughly before you pay too much attention to it. But in those days before they had the Word the Scripture teaches us that God did give direct commands through His prophets and, of course, there was false prophets and there true prophets. So it was a man's duty to try the prophets and to test the prophets. In the case of the ^{soldiers} ~~Saviour~~ where one says to the other in the word of the Lord, "smite the man." I think we are right in inferring that the other man had abundant evidence that he was indeed a man of God and that this was indeed the prophet speaking as God's prophet and one who was entitled to debate. Now in this particular case we don't have that difficulty nearly so much from the context because we have the king actually coming to Elisha, recognizing him as God's prophet, expressing his great sorrow over the death of God's prophet and ^{receiving} ~~we see t~~ ~~at~~ the last words from the prophet from his lips. Under those circumstances if the king is fully sincere in what he says, he certainly recognizes that the prophet does speak for God. Then if he really desires to do God's will, he certainly will try to do to the utmost what the prophet says. I think that that is a very important element in both stories--that both stories would be absolutely pointless if the man, the soldier there and the king here, do not recognize beyond the ~~shadow~~ shadow of a doubt that this man speaks for God. Otherwise it would be absurd to punish them for the disobedience.

(Question) That is a very good point too--that if we were given the entire account of all that happened we would have to have a ~~xxxx~~ series of books that would fill all the shelves all around the walls of this room. The Holy