

has often been the case as the Lord's will. And then again if the Lord chose to protect him he could protect him in any one of many ways. But in this case it was given as a sign for the people ~~therein~~ as a fact that God was speaking. So when the king had had his arm restored now and the people standing around were beginning to wonder if they were wrong in following Jeroboam. and if they should go back to their allegiance to the house of David, the king followed a very good maxim, which you sometimes hear today, "If you can't destroy them, join them." His idea was probably that, "Here is this man of God who is giving these terrible declarations against me. I will make a friend of him. I will win him, and having won him as a friend, then his interest will be for me instead of against me." It's exactly what Alexander VI when he offered to make ²¹⁻⁷ Cardinal if only he would stop preaching ~~for~~. He ~~wanted~~ wanted to win him to his side, and it is something that so long as the other one is standing in general for what is right rather than what is wrong then it is certainly the right policy to procede--to win their help and support rather than to drive them away. So the king here when it ~~was~~ done by a wicked man if, of course, is a wicked policy. The king here of whom we have abundant evidence continued to be a wicked man and was not one to follow the Lord did not here make any declaration to do away with this worship of going to Jerusalem to worship as we should. Instead ~~of~~ this he said, "Come with me and refresh thyself and I will give thee a reward," ~~a~~ very plan to win the man of God away from his allegiance to God to ~~his~~ allegiance to the king; take him home, he will stand for him; give him a reward; but no statement of any repentance or any turning away from the sin of disobeying God. So the man of God here had an ~~answer~~ answer. The man didn't say, "Now it doesn't seem to me that would be wise. If I went with you and ate in your house, that would increase my influence with the people. It would look as if I were compromising. I couldn't possibly do it unless you first turn away from your sin and destroy this altar." That was not the man of God's function to think ~~on~~ things out and to reason according to what seemed right to him. He was

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