

certain task. But then as we go on we find that these people were blaspheming against the Lord. They said the Lord is the God of the hills, so they said if we fight in the valleys, why we can beat them. And God said in verse 28, thus saith the Lord, because the Syrians have said the Lord is God of the hills, but he is not God of the valleys, therefore will I deliver all this great multitude into thine hand, Khrushchev says that he has sent ⁶ Bagarin up in the sky, to see if there was any God there, and he didn't find any. Then he said he sent Kesov up to go around for a whole day, not just ^{one} ~~for a~~ trip around the world, and he didn't find any either, so we don't have to worry about any God, according to Khrushchev. They didn't find any, by flying up there into the sky. Many people, when they see the wickedness of our western world, when they see the way that our people have turned away from God and forgotten ^{Him,} ~~away,~~ and blasphemed the word, feel that we are in for terrible punishment and suffering, even as the Israelites in the exile, and it may very well be true, we certainly deserve it, but ~~in~~ the other hand, I can't help thinking that it might be that even as God brought to nought the blaspheming of the Assyrians, he might bring to nought the blaspheming of Khrushchev against Himself. In some unexpected way, we can't tell what He may choose to do. You can't blaspheme God and get away with it. God is sovereign, God is in control, and He ^{works} ~~is working~~ in ways that we perhaps might never dream of. Now we read this passage recently in our devotions at home, and when we got to this story about the prophet, my little boy was quite shocked. He says that wasn't fair. Well, I says, what's the matter? Why, he said, the prophet said to this man, smite me, and ^{he didn't smite} when the prophet, the prophet said because you disobeyed the word of ~~the~~ the Lord, a lion will slay you. My little boy said that wasn't fair, ~~that prophet,~~ at all. Well, if it wasn't fair the Lord wouldn't have done it. Our ideas of ethics can't determine what the Lord ought to do. We must get our ideas of ethics from ~~what~~ what the Lord has done. I would warn you, though, if I tell you to smite me, don't feel it is a command of the Lord. No one of us is in a position to give irrational commands. We have to think things through.