

he didn't have confidence in me enough that when I said , step...

2. (3/4)

...whether they sound reasonable to us or not. He knows all sorts of facts that we don't know at all. He knows all sorts of situations that we know nothing about, and when He gives a command, we ^{can} step forward, knowing that He has prepared the way and that He will accomplish His purpose. So there is nothing unjust about the Lord giving us an illustration of killing a man who failed to obey God's prophet. We all deserve death for our misdeeds, but in this particular case we are given an illustration to lead us to follow (1 1/2)

But now this was done in order that the prophet might get a message to the king. And the way that he did it here is worth our observing, to show us what a peculiar way it was that he got the attention of the king, an unusual way. Suppose the prophet had just come up to the king and said Ahab I have a message for you from the Lord. Ahab would have said I'm busy, I've got to get along with these ^{great} affairs of state, you come around to my office some time, when I get time, maybe about ten years from now. He would have thrust him aside, he wasn't interested. The prophet wouldn't have gotten his message across, but he used an unusual way to get the king's attention and to get the message across. There is many a Christian worker who hits his head against a stone wall, trying, trying, trying to reach people in a way that does not get their attention. Ezekiel was in that situation. Ezekiel was absolutely stymied. He had been speaking to everyone about the Lord and they had gotten to the point where they wouldn't listen to him, and God said to Ezekiel, you are to be dumb. Didn't mean that Ezekiel ^{wouldn't} ~~couldn't~~ talk about Him, but that he was to desist from his efforts to reach people in the way he had been doing before. And then God said to Ezekiel you come out into the main square of Jerusalem, and you lie down on the ground there and put before you a little representation of Jerusalem, and he had him go through certain things , forms there,