

far as the Scripture goes; beyond that we don't get very far in letting our minds run. The fact is that the character of Israel being what it was the exile was inevitable. God was interested in showing how inevitable it is, the character being ~~as it is~~ as it is. He is grieved over the character of the nation and He is bringing out the fact that ~~something~~ something must be done about this; the sin question must be dealt with, and little by little He is bringing that to the fore in order that when he gives us the answer to the sin question we will be thoroughly aware of the question. And that, do you know, is ~~the~~ a big matter in any study of the Bible of ~~anything~~ else - is to get the questions in mind get in mind the things for which we are looking for answers. I ~~heard~~ once of a man who took a group of people and said we're going to have a lesson now on the story of the prodigal son. He said let's just ask questions about it - anything that occurs - he said ~~everybody~~ everybody here write out all the questions you can think of - sensible or foolish - anything; and they got dozens of questions about the parable of the prodigal son. Then they arranged the questions from all the different people so that there was no repetition, but they had every question anybody had given. And he said it was amazing how it opened up the story, and how many things came out that you just don't notice because you just slide over it. I always feel that in going through the Bible and studying it we get answers, we learn from the Bible, but just as important as getting answers is getting questions. We get problems in our mind, we see things that we don't know the answer to, and when we get these questions in our mind, then, suddenly when we're reading some other passage of Scripture we see the answer, which we never would have seen if we hadn't had the question in mind. And so it is tremendously important to get our eyes opened ~~to~~ for questions. And God's great ~~purpose~~ purpose here is to get their eyes opened to the importance of the sin question, and the fact that no human means can bring an answer to it. ~~Something~~ Something must be done about it. But then after these three verses on this, then in verse 20 we return to our big theme of the first part of ~~this~~ whole section of Isaiah. "Go ye forth of Babylon; flee ye from the Chaldeans." These are not figurative expressions here; these are literal; he is referring to the Babylonian captivity. He is talking about the immediate problem with which the whole