

find that war is definitely ordered under certain circumstances in Scripture. You find that God killed Ananias and Saphira. You find that the command, "Thou shalt not kill" even if it was "kill" instead of "murder" must be determined as to its meaning in relation to the evidence you find in the Scripture as a whole. That is true of all the statements of Scripture. It is much easier--somebody has said the hardest thing in the world for people to do is to think. I ~~know~~ think people hate to think. They would rather memorize two days than ~~concentrate~~ think for ten minutes. They would rather do any kind of routine work ^{that you} ~~than~~ just go ahead and put out energy than to sit down to the hard work of comparing and analyzing things and thinking them through. It is much easier for us to just build up a general system of words and concepts and here it is and it all has to be right on this line. Then it is to go and think it out and see what the Scripture says on the matter and how the teaching of the Scripture fits together on the particular point. When we do, we will find certain great systematic principles which run all the way through it and we will find other points on which the decision depends on the situation of these great principles. We must not drive principles and then force Scripture into conformity with it. We must draw a principle and then explain it as we find other passages in Scripture fitting in and enlarging it. If we find it necessary ~~to make~~ we must be ready to give up any principle and to take another and to see how they do fit with the Scripture ^{and what} ~~that~~ is the conclusion of the Scripture. There are too many people who ~~want~~ have one or two points that have a few verses of Scripture on them and they just fight over them and forget the great mass of the Scripture.

(Question) In the first part of Isaiah in chapters 1 to 35 in general he is talking to the people of the nation as a whole. He is saying, "God is going to punish you for your sin. God is first going to give great evidence of His own authority and power by defending Jerusalem against seemingly insuperable objects. For quite a time. But it seems hopeless that He is going to defend it. But He is going to punish Israel. He is going to send them into exile. The righteous