

Prophets 18

rules and you've got it." It takes spiritual study and analysis of the different passages and examination of the truth which is involved until you learn more and more to distinguish in each situation what are the figurative speeches and what is the great mass of it which is definitely literal.

Prophets 19

Now, another illustration of this matter is Isaiah 8:7 where we have a figure of speech given and explained. "Now therefore, behold, the Lord bringeth up upon them the waters of the river, strong and many." All right, here's going to be a tidal wave. There's going to be a tidal wave, there's going to be a flood, the river is going to overflow its banks. But what does he go on to say? "Now therefore, behold, the Lord bringeth up upon them the waters of the river, strong and many, even the king of Assyria, and all his glory: and he shall come up over all his channels, and go over all his banks: and he shall pass through Judah; he shall overflow and go over, he shall reach even to the neck." You see how the figure of speech is continued through these two verses but it is definitely explained that by the river he means the king of Assyria and the power of the Assyrian empire. (Student). Yes. But he says the king of Assyria and whether you are to take it—in the Hebrew there's no difference between the "he" and the "it". It's a matter of interpretation you have to go by. If you take it "it" the figure is still continued. If you take it "he", you're speaking of the King of Assyria, but in either case, it is indicated that the river here is a figure for the king of Assyria, and anybody who takes the whole Bible literally will have an awful job taking this verse literally, because what does the king of Assyria have to do in the verse, if you take the whole verse literally and say, "Here's just a description of the flood, not an account of the coming of an army. The Scripture has figures of speech in it, but they are sprinkled here and there like salt on a dish. They are not the warp and woof of the material. But as to determining exactly which they are, that we