

Now there are many who have interpreted it as a picture of the last days, something that is still future. Now, that could be. God could cause Isaiah to look forward to a distant future, and give us a long picture like this of a time of great gloom and misery, far in the future. But ordinarily in the prophets, a section does not start that way. The prophet usually deals with events before him first. And from that he goes on with it. ~~Then~~ Usually he starts with that which is fairly near. And Isaiah all through this book, we find him frequently starting in with the people before him, starting in ~~with~~ with their sin and their difficulty, and he points out what is wrong with them, and then he very often goes on from there to say God is going to punish this misery, this wickedness of the people, he is going to ~~send~~ send them ~~xx~~ into exile, and so Isaiah is very apt to start with the ~~with~~ sin of the people, or with the exile which may have this inevitable result. And then from that he is apt to go on and look beyond the exile, and see the blessings that God has for him beyond. And then as you ~~look~~ look beyond, you may see times of trouble and difficulty in the more distant future. But the usual way that Isaiah does is to start a section like this, is to start with something that is close at hand, and here as we read these twelve verses, it is easy to see that if it is not a picture of distant times, if it is not a picture of something that is way out in the future, it is a picture of the condition as the people go into exile. Now if that is what it is, then it is in line with what Isaiah usually does. But as you begin to read the chapter, you immediately say that isn't possible.

He starts with the verse, "Behold the Lord maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turns it upside down, and scatters abroad the inhabitants thereof." And you can just see Him taking this globe of ours and turning it over and over, and ~~hurling~~ hurling the people from one country to another, and upsetting the whole of our globe, and you read that verse, and it doesn't fit with the going into exile when it was just the land of Palestine that was taken, and made desolate, and made waste, and the people were scattered