

This ch. begins in both of them with a statement something like this. I'll read it from the NIV. "See the Lord is going to lay waste the earth and devastate it; he will ruin its face and scatter its inhabitants." Now that seems quite plain doesn't it? Yet the term "scatter its inhabitants" is a bit strange when a picture of the earth! It can be, but it seems a little better if you're describing a country from which the people are scattered.

As a matter of fact the word used in the first line of this in both translations render "earth" the Heb. word *erets*. The Heb. word *erets* has two meanings. It is used to mean this ~~xx~~ globe. "In the beginning God created heaven and *erets*." It means this globe, the earth. Planet earth. But the word also can be used very frequently to mean a particular country. In fact probably four times as often in that sense as in the sense of the whole earth. Like it is used over and over for the land of Israel. The land of Canaan. The land of Egypt. The land of Assyria.

You say what a crazy language this Heb. language is. *Ersets* means this whole globe and then it can be used just of one country. Isn't that a crazy language? Yes, but not quite as crazy as English. Because in English the word "earth" means this whole planet. Yet I can take a pail and go out back here and fill it up with earth, and I can come up here and I can come in here and pour out the earth on the floor! So in English earth can be the whole planet, or a little bit of gravel. And that's crazy I submit to you!

This Heb. word *erets* here is it speaking as both these translations take it of this globe, the earth, or is it speaking of one country. That is a question which should be decided by looking at the whole 12 vv. In KJV it sometimes is rendered in these 12 vv. earth, and sometimes land. It's inconsistent that way. It would be better to unify it in these vv. and translate it one way or the other. But in NIV they usually translate it one way, usually as earth. I think it is better to translate it one way, but I think they picked the wrong way. That may have been influenced by the RSV, which did the same thing at a somewhat earlier period.

If you read the passage, what's going to happen particularly its speaking about individuals. It speaks of the people being scattered. It speaks about the priests and the people, the master and servants, the mistress and maid. It speaks about how the people had broken God's laws, etc. It speaks of the end of the noise of the merry making. It exactly fits a particular country. It could apply to the whole earth, but the general impression you get is of one country. In v. 10 it speaks of the city. "The ruined city lies desolate." If it was taking of the desolation of the whole earth, what would be the city? There would be many cities. You'd want to say the cities. If you are speaking about Israel the city would be Jerusalem..

There is no doubt in my mind that these 12 vv. are a prediction by Isa. of the destruction by the Babylonians of the land of Israel. So you have this picture in these 12 vv. I will not take time now to look at the details of the picture, but if you have that in mind