

R 1

as a deportation from Palestine or as an overwhelming of the whole world? Behold the Lord maketh the earth empty. (Student) You think that to be quite definite, as Mr.--- has mentioned, that if the translators thought this meant that there was a depopulation in the land of Palestine they would hardly call the land of Palestine the earth, would you think? The Lord makes the earth empty and makes it waste and turns it upside down. Now, of course, you can say, "I am going out and shovel some earth." That is one sense in which we use the term earth, but ordinarily when we speak of the earth we are thinking of the whole earth, speaking of the world as a totality, but it hardly seems likely to me that the translators would have translated it "the earth"empty" if they thought it meant Palestine. It seems to me that we have here in this verse the translators' interpretation of it. Now taking the verse alone like this, is the translator's interpretation necessarily the correct interpretation? What is the Hebrew word that is here translated "earth"? (Student) Yes, , and the "earth"-- does that word " ", does that word have to mean the whole globe? It is used frequently, as you know, for the land of Egypt, the land of Israel. It is used of an area large or small. It may mean the whole globe or it may mean just one particular region, and therefore, for modern English I would say that you could translate this "Lo, Jehovah makes the earth empty," or "Lo, Jehovah makes the land empty," and the word "land" while it also in modern English can mean the whole continent or all the lands in the world, yet we use it of a particular area--makes the land empty, the land of Israel, the land of Palestine, the land of Judah, the land of Egypt. I should think that would be quite a possible translation. And so it makes a big difference with our interpretation of the chapter as a whole. Which do we have here? / ^{Do} we have here a description of an emptying of the habitable globe or do we have here an emptying of one particular country, and that country the country of Israel? Now as far as this particular verse is concerned,