

As I read them think about the question, Just what is the prophet talking about? There is nothing in the context to tell you what he is talking about because ~~he~~ we have a pretty sharp break between the previous chapter and this one. So look at it and think, What is he talking about?

"Behold the Lord makes the earth empty(so on through vs. 12)

Now this, as you can easily see, is a definite unit. There is one situation described. What is the situation that is described? What is he talking about? Well, the word earth occurs repeatedly in this section. A few times the word land occurs. Actually both of them represent the same Hebrew word -- the word erets (and) erets is sometimes translated in this passage this passage translated earth, and sometimes translated land. If you took the first verse just by itself - "Behold the Lord makes the earth empty . ." you immediately think he is talking about the whole globe here, that he is describing great changes in this whole globe in which our whole earth is going through great convulsions. But then when you look down at verse 3 and you read "the land shall be utterly empty and utterly spoiled" you stop and think, Does that mean the whole globe, or is he there ~~at~~ talking about the land of Egypt, the land of the U.S., the land of Palestine - some other particular land. And as you go through you find many indications that would suggest that he is only talking about one country here, not about the whole globe. Well, the Hebrew doesn't give you much help on it because the word erets is used a great many times in the Bible to mean the whole globe. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the erets" - the earth. On the other hand it is very frequently used for the land of Palestine or for some other special country. It is too bad I think that the KJV translated it sometimes earth and sometimes land here, because it is definitely a unified passage. There is no reason to think that some of the verses are talking about something different than other verses. Would not it be better if they had taken one translation or the other? Ersets can mean the whole globe, or it can mean just a little section of it, like the land of Palestine. Well, if this were not a place where so many of you are familiar with Hebrew, I would immediately see the looks of uncertainty on the faces of those who were listening. They would say, How can this Heb. word erets have two such different meanings? -- To mean the whole ~~globe~~ globe, and also to mean one country like the land