

beginning hitherto," or "terrible from their beginning onward." Delitzsch reads "to the terrible people far away on the other side." The phrase can refer either to place or to time. While time is a bit more common, it is sometimes used in the Scripture of place, just as our English word *further* may mean further away in time or further away in space. This however, does not particularly affect the sense. You may say the people have been terrible from their beginning onward and the time phrase could apply to either of the two countries. Of course if you take it in the sense of space, "far away on the other side" could only refer to the Ethiopians, not to the Jews. But there is nothing in the phrase to make certain whether time or space is meant.

At first sight, one might wonder how the King James Version could say "a nation meted out and trodden down" and the Revised could translate the same Hebrew words as "a nation that meteth out and treadeth down." Delitzsch's rendering is somewhat more literal: "the nation of command on command and treading down." This gives an understanding of how the King James Version and the American Standard Version can differ so radically. The word "treading down," in the phrase, "a land of treading down," can be taken actively or passively. Either this land does the treading down, or it is the one that receives the treading down. Consequently both the King James Version and the American Standard Version are possible here. The first part of the phrase, "meted out" or "that meteth out" is a very free rendering in either case. Delitzsch renders it "of command on command." While this is more literal, it is still somewhat free. A much more literal rendering would be "line on line." The same phrase is translated "line upon line" in Isaiah 28:10 and 28:13. It indicates a measuring line. A line may be an evidence of command and Delitzsch's suggestion "command upon command" is not at all impossible. Is it however, a command that is given by the nation -- in which case it is measuring things out to others, or is it a command given to it -- in which case it is itself measures out? This cannot be decided from the words used.

The last phrase of the verse also differs strikingly. The King James Version reads, "whose land the rivers have spoiled;" the American Standard Version reads, "whose land