that any of the people were transported either to the north or to the west during the Babylonian Exile. This verse pictures the redeemed coming from far away, some from the north and some from the west and some "from the land of Sinim."

From time to time various interpretations have been suggested for the phrase "the land of Sinim." The Hebrew plural ending (-*im*) is often included in its name for a nation. Many commentators, particularly before the rise of the modern critical theories, were quite convinced that the word referred to the land of China. Even today, experts in the study of Chinese are called "Sinologists."

Scholars differ as to the origin of the term by which China is known in the West. Some suggest that our word *China* may have come originally from the name of one of its western sections, called Ch'in (or Ts'in), which might have been the part first entered by traders going to China. It would have been quite natural for them to designate the whole area after its nearest part, just as Europeans have come to designate the whole continent of Asia by the name of the Roman province they entered first, which we now call Asia Minor.

Archaeological evidence is available to show that products of China were being transported into the Near East well before the time of Isaiah.

In the providence of God, the ruler of the region called Ch'in (or Ts'in) was able to conquer the rest of China in 221 B.C. and to establish a unified control, taking to himself the name "First Emperor." He centralized the administration of the empire, dividing it into thirty-six provinces, and built more than half of the Great Wall of China. This emperor left a great impression on the future development of the country, although his dynasty lasted only a short time. It has been suggested that the name foreigners use for China, different from that by which its own people designate their area, originated as a result of this ruler's achievements. It is most interesting that God led the prophet thus to use the name that would eventually come to