

Jews are now looking for help. It is indeed a nation that is terrible from its beginning. It is a nation that is greatly feared even though it is far away on the other side of Egypt. Thus this one word, whose meaning is absolutely certain, proves that the nation here spoken of is Ethiopia rather than Judah, and that the latter part of verse 2 is the answer which the prophet gives the ambassadors to take back to the people who have sent them.

How can this point be evaded? The only possible way to do so is to interpret the word as meaning that the nation here described will suffer such a terrible fate that its history will cause all who hear about it to be filled with fear. This interpretation is, in fact, advanced by some commentators. But the word modifies "people," and is never used in the sense that such an interpretation would require. Further more the context speaks of a marvelous interposition of God to rescue Jerusalem. There is nothing in this context about a terrible fate ahead for the Jews.

A great part of verse 7 is almost identical in wording with verse 2 and the nation described in this verse will also relate to it.

In reply to the ambassadors who come with a message asking that Judah join with Ethiopia against the Assyrian attack, Isaiah directs them to carry back a message to the mighty nation that has sent them. That nation may be mighty, but God is mightier, and He is sending word as to what He is going to do in this situation.

Verse 3 calls upon all the Ethiopians, and in fact all the dwellers of the world, to watch for the lifting up of the ensign and the blowing of a trumpet in the mountains. It should be noted that the pronoun "he" does not occur in the Hebrew in this verse. The American Standard Version is quite a bit more literal when it says, "when an ensign is lifted up on the mountains, and the trumpet is blown." The verse does not state who is to make these signals. It proves to be the act of the Assyrian army, as it comes in mighty power, marching across the mountains of Judah, threatening complete overthrow to Jerusalem, and even, perhaps, eventual conquest of Egypt and Ethiopia.

Verses 4 and 5 give a very interesting picture. They depict something growing up quite naturally, and seemingly headed