

Prophets -24-

haven't they?) "Like as many were astonished", they say, , were astonished at thee" then in parentheses "His visage was so marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men" then end of parentheses, v. 15 "So shall He sprinkle many nations." "Like as many were astonished at thee, (his visage was so marred more than any man) so shall He sprinkle many nations." Just as people were astonished at you, similarly He is going to sprinkle many nations. Well, what's the comparison between His sprinkling the nations and the way the nations were astounded at you? What comparison is there, and furthermore the word next " "so" which introduces the/ verse also introduces the last half of this verse, and to put it in a parentheses this way as a parenthetical sentence obscures the idea instead of bringing it out. The reason, of course, is that whoever translated this particular section of the Revised Version didn't study the context, and didn't see. He may be one, such as many, who say the poems are interpolation, beautiful poems inserted in Isaiah, or he may be one, as many are, who take each verse as spoken by itself, a heading for a sermon without paying much attention to what precedes or follows. Whatever the reason is, he has tried to bring sense into it recognizing that it's like as, by connecting it up with the next verse where you have it so and then putting all this into a parenthesis, which is utterly unnecessary, puts two things into comparison which do not compare, are not similar; leaves out of comparison two things which are similar, and if you are going to say, "As many were astounded at thee, so shall He sprinkle many nations," and that way have an explanation of the reason for the change of pronouns, it certainly is just as sensible to say, "Just as many were astounded at thee, so will He be marred." They were astounded at the terrible condition of Israel. I don't know why the Revised Version should have said "astonished" here. They certainly missed the point of altogether at making it "astonished", although you could be astonished if your house was burned and all these terrible things happened. Hitler probably was astonished when he saw the Russian troops marching in to Berlin and firing their artillery at him and he saw that death or capture was imminent, he probably was astonished, but I think astounded fits much better