

The verse continues by declaring that the suffering of Israel will be paralleled by the suffering that the Servant must undergo, which will be so terrible as to make him almost seem not to be a man. Many were horrified at the fate of Israel, so mistreated that it hardly seemed to be a nation; similarly many would be appalled at the treatment of the Servant, so disfiguring His appearance that it would hardly seem like that of a man. This thought is brought out by the two uses of the preposition *from* <sup>^34</sup> (meaning "away from"), as well as by the structure of the sentence, and by the parallel between "you" <sup>^35</sup> in the first clause and the reference to "his appearance" and "his form" in the second. It is unfortunate that many translators fail to bring out this comparison, which is so clearly indicated in the Hebrew.

The first verb in this sentence is often misunderstood. Although translated "astonished" several times in the King James Version, this rendering is apt to give a wrong impression in today's English. The Hebrew word <sup>^35a</sup> means that one is astounded, appalled, or horrified. It always implies something disagreeable and is never used merely to show surprise.

Verse 15a concludes the introductory paragraph by summarizing the accomplishments that will result from the Servant's humiliation. The expression "he will sprinkle many nations" <sup>^36</sup> might not mean much to those who know nothing of the religious observance God prescribed for the Israelites. Anyone familiar with these observances would be aware of the great importance of ceremonial cleansing by sprinkling blood, oil, or water. The apostle Peter showed that he understood the meaning of this verse when he wrote to the believers in many nations (1 Pet 1:1) calling them "elect ... unto sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ" (1 Pet 1:2). Thus this clause summarizes the atoning work of Christ that is so clearly presented in Isaiah 53.

In chapters 42 and 49 it was stated that the Servant would bring light to the nations. Attention has gradually been directed to the fact that, important as light is, there is something else