

that is far more important: deliverance from the guilt and power of sin. Such deliverance is a necessary prerequisite to bringing the promised light. By His death on the cross, Jesus suffered as a sacrifice to deliver all who would believe on Him.

The next paragraph shows that the influence of the Servant will even extend to kings of distant nations and will lead them to new and unexpected conclusions.

## **2. THE DISTANT OUTREACH OF THE SERVANT'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

*(15b-d)* Kings will shut their mouths because of him, for what had not been told them they will see, and what they had not heard they will understand. (53:1) Who would have believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? (2) For he grew up before him like a tender plant and like a root out of parched ground; he had no stately form or majesty that we should look upon him, and no beauty that we should desire him.

The first clause of this paragraph shows that in the many nations to which the work of the Servant would extend, prominent leaders will have no answer to the explanation of the mystery of life that He provides. They will therefore shut their mouths on account of Him. They will see truth that is entirely new to them and completely different from anything they expected. In the remainder of the paragraph they discuss their previous incredulity.

This paragraph has been misunderstood as a result of misinterpreting the verb at the beginning of verse 14 as if it meant "astonished," and of failing to grasp the significance of the statement, "He will sprinkle many nations." As a result, the first sentence of this paragraph has been wrongly taken to mean simply that the kings were surprised. When one is surprised, however, the tendency is not to shut the mouth but to open it.

The first part of the next sentence (53:1) uses a rhetorical question to express two ideas ^37: (1) the number of those who have believed what they have heard is limited; and (2) they themselves have found it to be quite different from what they