

stanza of a poem and the first clause of its next stanza are illogically combined into one verse. This is doubtless true in many cases in the Bible. Certainly here verse 15 should be divided differently.

The kings are filled with awe at what they see, for it is something which they never would have believed possible. "That which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they consider." This verse is quoted by Paul in Romans 15:21, where it is rendered: "To whom he was not spoken of, they shall see: and they that have not heard shall understand." The Hebrew can equally well be rendered this way, and it is translated approximately so by the Douay Version, following the Vulgate. However, it does not make a great deal of difference to the sense which of the two ways we take it. Chapter 53:1 follows immediately after that. Many kings and various nations are filled with awe at what they have seen and say, "Who would ever have believed what we have heard?"

As we have noticed, this important section of the book of Isaiah begins with verse 13 of chapter 52. We saw that the first verse of chapter 53 expresses the attitude of many kings of the earth and leaders of various nations. They declare their wonderment at the remarkable way in which the Lord has brought salvation, saying: "Who would have believed what we have heard?" In English the word "report" may mean something that we hear or something that we tell, but the Hebrew word used here is unambiguous; it means something that is heard.

The reason for this attitude is shown in the second verse, which contains two thoughts. First, his origin is not what might have been expected; second, he does not have that attractiveness about him which might have been looked for in the coming deliverer. He is like a root out of a dry ground. He came from Israel, which in the time of Christ seemed to most nations to be parched and barren, desolate of hope for the future. Who would have thought that it would be from this nation -- and in fact from one of the less prominent sections of the nation -- that One would come who would bring deliverance to the whole world. Even one of His own countrymen said, when told of Him: "Can there any good