

and it is certainly a possible rendering: "Who shall declare his generation?" The verb ⁴⁴ is not exactly rendered by "declare"; it means rather "to muse" or "to meditate" on something. In this context, "declare" expresses the idea fairly well. It is often translated "consider," with the whole phrase rendered somewhat as follows: "Who of his generation considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living?" This rendering is quite inadmissible in view of the meaning of the verb, which occurs about twenty times in the Old Testament and is never used to mean that one interprets something as having a particular meaning.

In view of what follows it is reasonable to consider the words "Who shall declare his generation?" as a rhetorical question, meaning that since He was cut off out of the land of the living, while still a comparatively young man, the observers would expect Him to have no posterity and no continuing influence. The validity of this interpretation is illustrated by the words of the disciples on the road to Emmaus, who obviously felt that His death had ended all possibility of continuing influence or accomplishment (Luke 24:18-21).

The statement "He was cut off from the land of the living" is followed by the explanation that the cutting off was not the result of any guilt of His own; it was "for the transgression of my people." Again the thought of substitutionary atonement is clearly presented.

It should be noted that the LORD's Servant is here distinguished from "my people" - another proof that the one described is an individual, not an entire nation.

The first half of verse 9 is a remarkable prediction of an unusual circumstance that would occur in connection with the crucifixion of Christ. Here the translation in the King James Version is somewhat inaccurate. When the words are precisely translated, their relation to what occurred at the death of Christ becomes much clearer.

This is particularly true of the first clause. Here the King James Version reads, "He made his grave with the wicked." However, the verb ⁴⁵ used is not ordinarily rendered as "make."