

12/4/62 cont'd

coming to be humiliated and suffer. A very strange, unexpected event.

And so now, "Who has believed our report? " Who has believed what we've heard and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?" How would you average fact that the force of the Lord, the strength of the Lord, the power of the Lord would be made visible in such a way as this, through One Who is humiliated, through One Who suffers, through One Who is not coming as a great conqueror to accomplish a tremendous, visible task but who is doing something that you would think would be done by one who fails rather than one who succeeds. One who is suffering and yet who is going by means of that suffering to give cleansing and redemption.

"He will grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dryground." (Isa. 53:2a) Not a strong thing shooting up so that you say, "watch out for this tremendous strength here". It's a little shoot coming up way in the background where nobody could expect it. "A root out of a dry ground." We read that they said, "Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?" (John 1:46) Actually of course his source, his background, is very great, the very finest. But it is not apparently so. It does not appear to be such. He comes up before them, he seems to them to be simply a root out of a dry ground.

Question from the floor: *it is possible* Answer: <sup>1</sup>Certainly to interpret the phrase as having some allusions to the virgin birth....but I don't think if one didn't know about the virgin birth the thought would ever suggest itself and the context <sup>does</sup> ~~is~~ not seem to be so much a miracle as an unexpected fact. It is parallel to "...he has no form nor comeliness." You wouldn't say, "He's virgin born, he has