

Prophets -25-

Why did Christ undergo these things? He did it in order that redemption might be brought to the nations, in order that cleansing and purification and freedom from sin might be brought to the nations through what He has done. "So shall He sprinkle many nations." Now the, I think another difficulty with the suggestion that it is judgment, I don't think judgment particularly fits in the context, because all our context is of redemption and blessing in the next chapter, but I think another is that this idea of sprinkling of blood in the sense of , to sprinkle the nation, meaning the destruction of the nation, is an idea worthy of consideration without much parallel in the Scripture, while the idea of sprinkling for purification for cleansing is very common in the Old Testament. So I feel that it would have the preeminence over the other as the explanation of this word. So it is His redemptive work to be accomplished, brought in already here in the passage. So shall He sprinkle many nations. How? As a result of His humiliation, as a result of His being so marred that He hardly seems like a man as He goes through the terrible suffering of crucifixion. And as a result kings shall shut their mouths at Him. The world is left without excuse. They are left with nothing that they can say in answer when they are presented with what Christ has done on the cross and with the opportunity of receiving cleansing and purification and redemption through what He has done. Kings shall shut their mouths at him. They will be speechless, without being able to give an answer in the face of what He has done. Now some people think that "the kings shall shut their mouths" fits in with the idea that/^{as}many were astonished at Him, He will startle the nations and the kings will shut their mouths. Well, if you are startled, if you are astonished, you don't shut your mouth. You open your mouth. It doesn't quite fit the idea. They were so astonished they shut their mouths. You open your mouth when you are astonished. Here they shut their mouths, they are left without excuse and these who are thus left without excuse are not merely the poor and the ignorant of the world but that which the Servant does is going to reach out to the ends of the earth so that the outstanding figures of the