

Its most common translation is "give." It is often used for appointing or assigning. As rendered in the King James Version, it sounds as if the Servant Himself made His grave. Actually the phrase is impersonal. This is a usage common in many languages but not usually expressed this way in English. Our idiom would be, "they assigned his grave" or, "his grave was assigned." The word rendered "the wicked" in the King James Version is in the plural but has no article. It is more accurate to translate it as "wicked men" and to render the whole clause "His grave was assigned with wicked men."

Since Jesus was crucified between two thieves, it would naturally be expected that He would be buried with them. The Roman custom was either to leave malefactors unburied or to disgrace them by burying a group together in an unclean place.

In the King James Version the verse continues, "And with the rich in his death." The conjunction ⁴⁶ translated "and" frequently means "but" or "yet" and is often so translated in the King James Version. The idea could be expressed by "and" but is brought out more clearly when the word is translated "but." The word translated "the rich" in the King James Version is in the singular and has no article. It would be more accurately translated as "a rich man."

It was the normal expectation that the body of Jesus would be buried with the wicked men who were crucified beside Him. Yet His body, instead of being buried with them, was placed in a rich man's tomb, something that could not have occurred except as the result of an appeal by a rich man to Pontius Pilate (Matt 27:57-60). When the verse is precisely translated, it is easy to see that this prediction was exactly fulfilled in connection with the death of Christ.

Interpreters who desire to take Isaiah 53 as referring to some thing other than the sacrifice of Christ find a great stumbling block in the words "rich man." They say they make no sense in the context and suggest the substitution of some other word, such as evildoers. Yet all the manuscripts agree in the reading "a rich man." The reference in the plural to the malefactors