

with whom He was killed is followed by the singular of the word for "a rich man."

In the complete copy of Isaiah that was found among the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Hebrew word for "a rich man" was first written in the plural, and then the plural ending was erased. In the Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research (February 1949), Professor Millar Burrows, of Yale University, pointed out how easily this could happen: the scribe evidently first wrote the word in the plural, under the influence of the preceding plural word for "wicked men," and then noticed that the manuscript from which it was copied had "rich man" in the singular, and therefore he erased the plural ending. Thus the Dead Sea Scrolls provide additional evidence of the accuracy of the reading "a rich man" rather than "evildoers."

This may be called an inorganic prophecy. An organic prophecy is one that predicts how God will accomplish His great purposes. An inorganic prophecy is the prediction of an incidental feature that does not seem directly to further the divine objective but merely serves as a proof that what occurs is actually the event that has been predicted. Burial in a rich man's tomb would not increase the accomplishment of the Servant in bearing the guilt of sinful humanity. It is an incidental point, mentioned seven hundred years in advance, pointing to this particular execution as the one predicted in Isaiah 53.

In the providence of God, the fact that Jesus was buried in a fine new tomb on the side of a hill was the divine means for making available convincing evidence of His resurrection. If His body had simply been cast into a felon's grave, the situation might have been quite different. The fact of the empty tomb is one of the great proofs of the resurrection.

The remainder of the verse points out how reasonable it is that One who had lived a pure life and was unjustly executed should not be buried as a criminal but should be placed in a rich man's tomb. ^47 God providentially brought this about because of the Servant's spotless life and the fact that He did not