

There is some disagreement as to the translation of the phrase "with the rich in his death." Some scholars think that it should be rendered "his tomb" rather than "in his death." Thus the Jewish version of The Holy Scriptures, published since 1917 by the Jewish Publication Society, uses the rendering, "and with the rich his tomb." This makes even clearer than the translation in the King James Version its appropriateness as a prediction, hundreds of years in advance, of the sufferings of Christ and the glory that should follow.

It is hard to see any organic meaning in this phrase. The fact that He was buried in a rich man's tomb did not in any way increase His humiliation and His suffering. Nor would it be any great exaltation for Him to be buried in a rich man's tomb. Nor did it add anything to the effectiveness of His death for our salvation, that He was buried in a rich man's tomb. It is an inorganic prophecy. It is inorganic in two ways. First, it is inorganic in that it is an event which would not often occur, and which, while not of great importance in itself, is vital as an evidence that this is the very One who was predicted in this chapter. It shows that God knew the end from the beginning. Second, it has a further evidential purpose. If His body had been cast into a common grave of criminals there would have been no empty tomb to show clearly to the disciples that He had actually been raised from the dead. It thus made possible the evidential aspects of the resurrection. Our salvation would be just as complete whether there was evidence or not. The wonderful work of Christ in destroying the power of Satan, and redeeming all who believe on His Name, whether Jew or Gentile, would have been just the same, whether evidence of the resurrection was available or not. But in His wonderful love and mercy God provided that the evidence of the empty tomb should be available, so that the resurrection of Christ should be clearly indicated as one of the most definitely proven facts in all history. Thus Isaiah 53:9 is an inorganic prophecy, pointing to the fact