

there are a number of references to "my servants," using the plural to indicate the followers of the LORD's righteous Servant.

The phrase "will justify many" can be rendered more idiomatically in English as "will cause many to be accounted righteous." God considers all who trust in the LORD's Servant as if they had never sinned. His righteousness is imputed to us. Our iniquities are laid on Him, and it is because He bears them that we are justified.

The use of the word "many" suggests that not all of humanity will be saved, and this idea is further suggested in the statements of verse 12. As a result of the sacrifice performed by the LORD's Servant, God will "divide him a portion with the great," and He "will divide spoil with the strong." During the present age God permits Satan and his forces to control a great part of the activity of the world and to hold many of its people under their control. As a result of Christ's atonement, He will rescue many from the control of Satan and his strong and powerful forces. The three following clauses repeat the reasons the Servant can do this, and recapitulate some of the important ideas already expressed in the chapter.

Most Bible translations render the last clause of the chapter as the fourth in a parallel series. Some insert the word yet between the second and third so as to make two pairs of reasons. All such translations fail to indicate the fact that the fourth clause has a verb form different from the first three. The first three use the perfect tense. The fourth uses the imperfect tense, which is normally translated as a future. This difference of verb form indicates that these are not four parallel clauses. Rather, there are three clauses that belong together, followed by one of a different nature. The final clause shows the Servant's continuing activity. "He will make intercession for the transgressors." The New Testament assures us that Jesus is at the right hand of God, making intercession for us (Rom 8:34; Heb 7:25).

By His atoning death, Christ bore the guilt of all who receive Him as Saviour. Yet the impulse to sin still exerts tremendous power over believers. They should constantly seek to escape