

"WITH THE RICH IN HIS DEATH"

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The late Professor James R. Montgomery of the University of Pennsylvania said on several occasions that the translators of the King James Version were so thoroughly trained in Biblical languages that it would be difficult if not impossible to find an equally competent group of translators today. The translation that they made into the language of three hundred years ago was certainly one of the finest translations ever made of any book into any language. Yet, as in the case of any human work, these men occasionally made unfortunate mistakes. One of these relates to a very important prediction of Christ.

The first part of Isaiah 53:9 is one of the verses most quoted by Christians as showing that the circumstances of the death of Christ were predicted in the Old Testament. Yet as translated in the King James Version the verse gives a rather vague impression. It reads: "And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death."

Unfortunately, this is one of the least exact translations to be found anywhere in that excellent version. Its English words introduce ideas that are not in the original and omit ideas that the Hebrew contains.

The phrase "he made his grave" could sound as if He Himself dug a grave. This is not at all the meaning of the Hebrew. There are two reasons why this impression is quite erroneous. The first is the fact that the Hebrew verb used here is not the common word for "make" but one