

that is generally translated "give." This verb is also used for establishing a law or appointing a man to a certain position. It is twice translated "assign." In many of the ten instances where the King James Version renders it as "appoint," "assign" would fit equally well.

The second cause of misunderstanding in this phrase is the use of the word "he." In the context the phrase is clearly indefinite or impersonal, as in Genesis 11:9 and 48:1; Amos 6:12 and Micah 2:4. Sometimes such an expression is rendered in modern English by the word "one," but more often by "they" or by use of a passive verb.

Thus the first part of the verse would be better translated "they assigned his grave" or "his grave was assigned."

The following words "with the wicked," do not properly represent the Hebrew, which uses a simple plural adjective without an article and means "wicked ones" or "wicked men." In modern English, "the wicked" might suggest a large group of wicked men. The original Hebrew exactly fits the expectation that he would be buried with two malefactors.

It was common practice among the Romans to leave crucified criminals unburied or to put them together in a common grave.

Thus the statement, if literally translated, exactly describes what was expected to happen to the body of Jesus: "His grave was assigned with wicked men."

In the King James Version the next phrase reads: "And with the rich in his death." This is still further from expressing the precise thought of the original Hebrew. The Hebrew contains no article before "rich," and the word is a singular masculine adjective. Such use of an adjective