

may seem strange to us, but it is common in Hebrew as well as in many other ancient and modern languages. Thus if two German women were discussing a friend of one of them, and two men entered the room, one woman might say, "Here comes the man I told you about," and the other might ask, "Do you mean the tall or the short?" In English we would have to say, "Do you mean the tall man or the short man?" The singular Hebrew word, if translated into today's English, would be, "a rich man," rather than "the rich."

In modern English we occasionally use an article with an adjective to refer to a large number of persons, as when we speak of "the living and the dead," but the widespread custom of using an adjective alone to refer to an individual disappeared from English soon after it stopped using endings on adjectives to indicate number, gender or case. To the modern English reader the phrase "with the rich" implies association with a group of rich men, but the Hebrew word used here simply means "a rich man."

Another important linguistic point needs to be mentioned. The word that is translated "and" is a much broader conjunction than our English "and." In English "and" generally means coordination, but sometimes it is used to indicate an adversative. Thus we might say, "I looked for him and he was not there." It could be more precise to say, "I looked for him but he was not there." The Hebrew conjunction used here, though generally translated "and," often carries this adversative idea, and is frequently translated in the King James Version as "but" or "yet." Though the King James Version uses "and" at several places in this