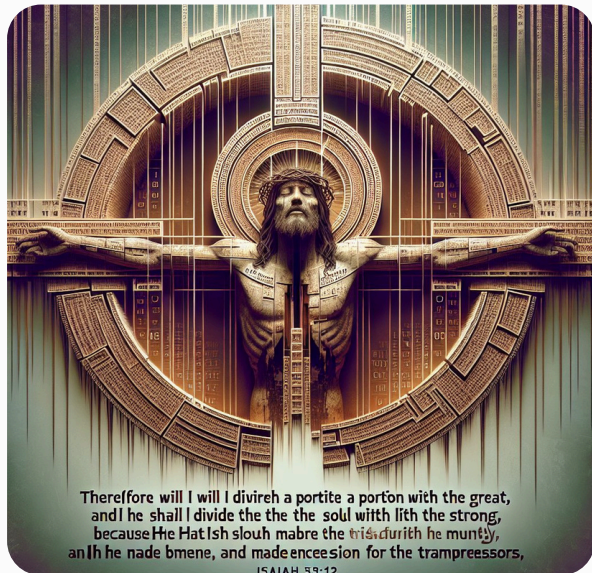


NUMBERED AMONG US



ISAIAH 53:12

ISAIAH 53:12

Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

The phrase ***numbered with the transgressors*** points to Jesus' voluntary association with the guilty, His assumption of human sin, and His humiliation in death.

In Luke 22:37, Jesus Himself cites Isaiah, saying, ***For I tell you that this Scripture must be fulfilled in me: 'And he was numbered with the transgressors.'*** At the crucifixion, the fulfillment becomes visually and dramatically evident: Jesus is crucified between two criminals (Luke 23:32-33). The Gospel of Mark notes that those crucified alongside Him were thieves, emphasizing His solidarity with the guilty (Mark 15:27). Matthew 27:38 similarly records, ***Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left***, reinforcing the theme of identification with transgressors and the scope of His substitutionary suffering.

This act is central to the concept of substitutionary atonement. Jesus, innocent and sinless (2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:22), bears the punishment due to the guilty, fulfilling the role of the suffering servant who ***bore the sin of many*** (Isaiah 53:12). Romans 5:6-8 highlights that Christ died for the ungodly at the precise moment of human weakness, and 2 Corinthians 5:21 states, ***He made him who knew no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*** 1 Peter 3:18 emphasizes Christ's righteous suffering ***for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.*** Jesus assumed the guilt of humanity to reconcile sinners to God.

In His crucifixion, Jesus Christ prays for His persecutors, saying, ***Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do*** (Luke 23:34), demonstrating His role as mediator for transgressors. This intercessory theme is extended in Hebrews 7:25, where Christ is described as always living to make intercession for those who approach God through Him.

By being numbered with transgressors, Jesus bridges the gap between God's holiness and our sinfulness, reconciling us to God (2 Corinthians 5:18-19). His death inaugurates the new covenant (Luke 22:20), whereby transgressors are invited into fellowship with God through repentance and faith. By being fully human and sharing in humanity's suffering and temptation, Jesus was able to deliver those held in bondage by sin, illustrating the depth of His numbering with the transgressors (Hebrews 2:14-18).

Jesus' being **numbered with the transgressors** is thus simultaneously an act of humility, a vehicle of divine justice, and the foundation of eternal redemption. The suffering servant of Isaiah 53 is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ, the mediator, redeemer, and intercessor for all humanity.



ISAIAH 53

Prayer Points:

1. thank God that Christ stood in the place of the guilty and bore the punishment we deserved.
2. ask that the church would live daily in the confidence, freedom, and holiness of this reconciliation.
3. ask for grace to rest in Christ's continual priestly ministry.



Soli Deo Gloria – to God alone be the glory!
Rev. Luke Haisa