

Mark 15:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the scripture was fulfilled, which saith, And he was numbered with the transgressors.

Analysis

The scripture was fulfilled, which saith, And he was numbered with the transgressors—This verse directly quotes Isaiah 53:12: 'He was numbered (Greek *elogisthē*, ἔλογισθη, 'reckoned/numbered') with the transgressors (*anomōn*, ἀνόμων, lawless ones).' Mark interprets the crucifixion as prophetic fulfillment: Jesus' placement between criminals wasn't accidental but divinely orchestrated.

The theological depth is profound: Christ was 'numbered' (legally counted, judicially reckoned) with lawbreakers. This is the language of substitutionary atonement—He took the sinner's place, bearing the sinner's guilt. 2 Corinthians 5:21 expands this: 'He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.' The Innocent counted among the guilty, that the guilty might be counted among the righteous. The cross reveals the Great Exchange: our sin for His righteousness, our death for His life.

Historical Context

Isaiah 53, written 700 years before Christ, provided the theological framework for understanding the Suffering Servant's atoning death. First-century Jews debated Isaiah 53's interpretation—most didn't apply it to the Messiah. The early church recognized Jesus as the Servant who bore sins and was counted with transgressors. Mark's citation demonstrates the early church's conviction that Jesus' crucifixion fulfilled specific Old Testament prophecy, not accidental tragedy but cosmic plan.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus being 'numbered with transgressors' inform your understanding of justification by faith alone?
2. What does the prophetic precision of Isaiah 53 reveal about God's sovereign orchestration of redemption?
3. In what ways should Christ's bearing your 'transgressor' status affect how you view and treat other sinners?

Interlinear Text

Kαὶ	ἐπληρώθη	ἥ	γραφὴ	ἥ	λέγουσα,	Kαὶ	μετὰ
And	was fulfilled	which	the scripture	which	saith	And	with
G2532	G4137	G3588	G1124	G3588	G3004	G2532	G3326
ἀνόμων	ἐλογίσθη						
the transgressors	he was numbered						
G459	G3049						

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