

LIII. 12 describes the *ample reward* of this community. Speaking once more for Jehovah, the prophet declares that, because it has poured out its life for the sake of others and has let itself be ranked with the rebellious, he will give it a share in "the many", and it shall portion out or divide spoil with strong or mighty ones. The term translated "the great" in the English versions is the same as that rendered "the many" in the last verse, and the preposition translated "with" ought to be rendered "in". According to Job xxxix. 17, to have a share in anything is to have it as an inheritance, or to have a proprietary interest in it; and, according to Proverbs xvi. 19, to divide spoil with others is to distribute it among others; so the idea is that the loyal Israelites should win over to their side so large a number of their ungodly countrymen that, like all great conquerors, they would have spoil to distribute among their friends. In such metaphorical language, for the spoil was not regarded as literal booty, nor was it supposed to be actually distributed, the godly exiles are assured of being amply rewarded for their undeserved sufferings by gaining spiritual victories and reaping spiritual spoil among their unregenerate brethren. The reward in this verse, like the results in the last verse, is promised solely on the ground of what they suffered for the sake of the nation. They let themselves be ranked with the rebellious, that is, those who merited punishment by reason of apostasy,