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Faith Bible Church <http://www.fbcweb.org/index.html>
August 20, 2011

JEWISH APOLOGETICS (106)
<http://www.fbcweb.org/Doctrines/Jewish-Apologetics-106.pdf>

Objection #90: Psalm 40 is absolutely not Messianic in any way.

Brown's short response to this objection:

Did you know that the Talmudic rabbis interpreted all kinds of obscure verses to be Messianic? They saw hints and allusions to the Messiah in hundreds of unusual biblical texts, in passages that are totally unrelated to anything Messianic. In contrast with this, Psalm 40 has some very important Messianic themes.¹

After discussing how in this psalm David caught a glimpse of God's desire for obedience instead of sacrifice, Brown writes:

Once this psalm became part of the Hebrew Bible, it took on a life of its own, as Israelite worshipers would sing and pray these words for themselves—and every one of them would fall short of the ideal, just as the psalmist did. And this continued until the one perfect Israelite came into the world, the Messiah, the only one who was completely obedient, the one who could truly say, “In the scroll of the book it was written about *me*,” since he was the ultimate sacrifice, the perfect offering, the one who fulfills the image of the sacrifices of atonement and cleansing. His life satisfied the real meaning of the sacrificial system. He was not just the one who was totally yielded to the will of the Father, he was the one who actually offered himself up as sin offering. . . So, according to Hebrews 10, when the Messiah came into the world (not meaning the moment he was born, but typically and prophetically), he said, “God, you don't want more sacrifices and offerings. You have already received hundreds of thousands of lambs and goats and rams and bulls. You want me! I'm the one you spoke of in your Law”—and for the first time, the Scripture was fulfilled and the goal was realized. It makes perfect sense!²

In Christ Alone,

Pastor Don

¹Michael L. Brown, *Messianic Prophecy Objections—Volume 3*, (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2003), 129-31. In his book, Brown lists the objection and then gives a short response which is followed by a more developed response. This DDR series, for the most part, tracks the objection and his *short* response after which you will find my comments. I highly recommend his book if you are interested in his longer responses (there is far too much material to include in this series).

²*Ibid.*, 130-31.