

Pastor-teacher Don Hargrove

Faith Bible Church <http://www.fbcweb.org/index.html>

August 25, 2011

JEWISH APOLOGETICS (111)

<http://www.fbcweb.org/Doctrines/Jewish-Apologetics-111.pdf>

Objection #94: Zechariah 12:10 has nothing to do with Jesus.

Brown's short response to this objection: Although there are ambiguities in the Hebrew text, this passage clearly speaks of a time of national mourning in Israel over one slain, resulting in the spiritual cleansing of the nation (Zech. 12:10-13:1). One of the oldest Jewish interpretations of this passage, found in the Talmud, refers Zechariah 12:10 to the death of the Messiah ben Joseph, the suffering Messiah of Jewish tradition. Why then does it surprise you that the New Testament interprets Zechariah 12:10 with reference to Yeshua?¹

After demonstrating all of the exegetical and contextual errors found in modern Jewish-English translations caused by an attempt to get around the obvious reference to the Messiah who is also identified as God, Brown concludes with:

Before Yeshua's death, he wept over Jerusalem, wishing that the leaders of our people had recognized him and seeing the terrible consequences that would befall our nation because we rejected the Messiah (Luke 19:41-44). Listen carefully to his words: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing. Look, your house is left to you desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord'" (Matt. 23:37-39). In other words, you will not see me again until you welcome me as the Messianic King.

As to what is written in Zechariah 14:1-5? The Lord himself will come down and fight for his people, and "on that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will split in two" (14:4a). Yes, the Lord himself will come to earth, to Jerusalem, and deliver his people. When? On the day they look to him whom they pierced on the day that national atonement comes to the people, on the day the Messiah—the Son of God—returns to earth!

So, rather than Zechariah 12:10 having nothing to do with Jesus, it has everything to do with him.

¹Michael L. Brown, *Messianic Prophecy Objections — Volume 3*, (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2003), 148-52. 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. I highly recommend his book if you are interested in his longer responses (there is far too much material to include in this series).

In the Logos,
Pastor Don