

Pastor-teacher Don Hargrove  
Faith Bible Church <http://www.fbcweb.org/index.html>  
September 9, 2011

JEWISH APOLOGETICS (115)  
<http://www.fbcweb.org/Doctrines/Jewish-Apologetics-115.pdf>

**Objection #98: Jesus cannot be the Messiah because the Messiah was to be a reigning king, whereas Jesus was despised, rejected, and crucified.**

Brown's short response to this objection:

The prophetic Scriptures indicate that first the Messiah would suffer and then he would reign. This is exactly what happened: Jesus-Yeshua—who is one of us and has identified himself totally with us—joined us in our suffering, rejection, and pain. We have suffered torture and death; he too was tortured and killed. We have been mocked, maligned, and misunderstood; to this day, he is the butt of ugly jokes and a common curse on people's lips (When people get angry, they don't yell "Moses!" or "Buddha!" or "Muhammad!" but "Jesus Christ!") But whereas we have often suffered because we were guilty, he suffered because he was innocent—and he did it for us, the ideal Savior for a despised and rejected people.<sup>1</sup>

Following this, Brown turns to the discussion in the various passages of the Tanakh (Hebrew Old Testament) on the suffering Messiah, e.g., Isaiah 52:13-15; Zechariah 9:9-10; 12:10; Psalm 118:22. In his discussion of the rejected stone of Psalm 118:22, Brown notes: "we see that just as God himself was both the rock of salvation and the rock of offense for his people, being rejected by the majority during biblical times, the same pattern holds true for the Messiah." Brown, then, shows how Jesus as a suffering servant and High Priest is better able to understand the pain and suffering of the Jews of the Holocaust than a lofty figure who never experienced the sting of rejection and humiliation. Further, the 2<sup>nd</sup> member of the Trinity as Jesus (incarnation) is the only member of the Godhead who can sympathize with man in suffering, see Heb. 4:14-16.

*Pastor Don*

---

<sup>1</sup>Michael L. Brown, *Messianic Prophecy Objections —Volume 3*, (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2003), 167-69. 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).