

Pastor-teacher Don Hargrove
Faith Bible Church <http://www.fbcweb.org/index.html>
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JEWISH APOLOGETICS (120) – Conclusion of Brown’s Third Volume
<http://www.fbcweb.org/Doctrines/Jewish-Apologetics-120.pdf>

At the end of Brown’s third volume on Jewish Objections, he provides an appendix of seven principles on Jewish apologetics. He begins this section with

“You don’t know what you’re talking about!”

“You’re completely misinterpreting Isaiah!”

“This verse has absolutely *nothing* to do with your Jesus! The fact is, it’s not even a Messianic prophecy!”

“As for the *real* Messianic prophecies, Jesus fulfilled none of them.”

Have you ever had these arguments thrown out at you? Do you know how to answer them? Here are some important keys and principles that will help you to see that, in fact, Yeshua fulfilled the prophecies of the Hebrew Scriptures:

1. *Messianic prophecies are not clearly identified as such.* [He notes that there is not a single verse in the entire Hebrew Bible that is specifically identified as a Messianic prophecy. Those who object to Isaiah 53 as messianic yet accept Isaiah 2 need to be shown that such an interpretation is based on traditional bias.]
2. *Messianic hope in Israel developed gradually.*
3. *Many biblical prophecies are fulfilled gradually.*
4. *The prophets saw the Messiah coming on the immediate horizon.* [Even the traditional Jew would have to admit that Isaiah and other prophets thought that the Messiah was coming during their lifetimes. As Chafer has pointed out: prophecy for the prophets is like looking and seeing the mountain ranges without seeing the valleys in between. All accusations against the NT taking prophecies out of context must be met with this principle.]
5. *It is important to read every prophecy and in its overall context in Scripture.* [In this point Brown goes into some detail of how Isaiah 7:14 must be understood in context of Isaiah chapters seven through nine, which Matthew clearly develops.]
6. *The Messiah was to be both Priest and King.* Traditional Judaism has largely forgotten the Messiah’s priestly work. However, in Psalm 110, the Davidic ruler was to be both priest and king. In Zechariah 6, *the crown* is placed on the head of *the high priest* named Joshua (he is also called Yeshua in Ezra and Nehemiah!), who is then referring to as “the Branch,” a Messianic title!

7. *The Messiah is the ideal representative of his people.* In ancient Israel, the king and his people were one. The history of Israel paralleled the life of Jesus. For example, when Moses was born, Pharaoh was trying to kill Israelite baby boys. Also, both the nation of Israel and Jesus spent their early years in Egypt. (*That is why Matthew quotes Hosea 11:1 in Matthew 2:15! Compare also Matthew 2:20 with Exodus 4:19.*) Because the Messiah was the ideal representative of his people, *he fulfills the words of the Psalms.* Thus, Psalm 22, the psalm of the righteous sufferer whom God wonderfully delivers, is not at all identified as a Messianic prophecy. Yet to any impartial reader, it is clear that both the depth of suffering described as well as the universal effects of the deliverance can refer only to Jesus, the ideal righteous Sufferer, the representative King, the one greater than David. Therefore, the NT writers often see the Psalms as containing Messianic prophecies, since the Messiah is seen as their ultimate, representative subject.

Brown then adds,

How can you put all these principles together? Every time you see a Messianic prophecy quoted in the New Testament, look it up in the Old Testament and read the whole section from which it is taken (this could be a paragraph, a chapter, and even more). Then try and see which of the interpretive keys presented here explains the quote. Remember, often several principles are at work together!

Not only will you enrich your understanding of the Word, but you will learn to appreciate how wonderfully God has woven together the prophecies of the Messiah's coming.

And *then* what should you do? Share your discoveries with an interested Jewish friend!

This concludes the third volume of *Answering Jewish Objections*. I have decided to continue with his series, and so we will move to his fourth and final volume which deals with *Jewish objections to the New Testament*. I am in the process of putting these studies on our website so they will be available for quick reference. I covet your prayers as I seek God's will in what series to move into *after* I finish volume four. There are several things I would like to develop: an overview of OT and NT histories, the history and refutation of Darwinism, the age of the earth, science, and Genesis et al. Oh, the wonders of life and God's marvelous creation!

Let's defend the Christian Faith! Jude 1:3!

Pastor Don