

Pastor-teacher Don Hargrove
Faith Bible Church

For this series and other doctrines, see <http://www.fbcweb.org/doctrines.html>

JEWISH APOLOGETICS (121) –
Introduction to Brown's Fourth Volume: *Objections based on the New Testament*

Michael Brown, arguably the world's preeminent Jewish apologist for Christianity, has written four volumes that deal with Jewish objections to Christianity (many of these objections are also cited by skeptics and atheist). We have completed Brown's first three volumes and are ready to move into his last volume. However, before we move into volume four, I would like to summarize the material.

Volume one deals with the general and historical objections to Christ and Christianity. The *general objections* boil down to the perception that, "Jesus is not for Jews! Our religion is Judaism, not Christianity. No true Jew would ever believe in Jesus." *Historical objections* tend to be more substantial and deal with the very purpose of the Messiah and his failure to bring in the kingdom. The heart of these objections is: "Jesus cannot be the Messiah because we are obviously not in the Messianic age." We have answered every objection and demonstrated that Jesus is indeed the Messiah as prophesied in the Old Testament.

Volume two deals with the Jewish theological objections. These cut to the heart of differences between Judaism and Messianic Jews. These revolve around: the nature of God (the Trinity, deity of Jesus, and person of the Holy Spirit); the nature of man and the need for salvation; sin and the means of atonement. In sum, these objections claim that "the religion of the New Testament is a completely foreign religion which is not only un-Jewish, but is also unfaithful to the Hebrew Bible." We have answered all of these objections, and demonstrated that Christianity is the only faith system that does fulfill Old Testament Judaism.

Volume three deals with the objections to Jesus as the fulfillment of Old Testament Messianic prophecies. Traditional Judaism objects to Christian Messianic “proof texts”—either denying that they have anything to do with Jesus, claiming that they have been mistranslated, misquoted, or taken out of context by the New Testament authors or traditional Christian apologists. We have answered all of these Jewish objections and have shown that the prophecies could only be fulfilled by Jesus. Either Jesus is the Messiah or there is no Messiah. The Messiah had to come before the Temple was destroyed in A.D. 70. Jesus is the only candidate.

Volume four deals with Jewish objections to the New Testament. These can be broken down into several categories: The New Testament misquotes and misinterprets the Old Testament, at times manufacturing verses to suit its purposes; the genealogies of Jesus given by Matthew and Luke are hopelessly contradictory (at best) and entirely irrelevant anyway; the New Testament is filled with historical and factual errors (especially Stephen’s speech!); the teachings of Jesus are impossible, dangerous, and un-Jewish (and Jesus as a person was not so great either); the New Testament is even self-contradictory. To sum up rather bluntly: “Only a fool would believe in the divine inspiration of the New Testament.” These are serious charges. They strike at the very heart of Christianity as a credible theological system. These attacks seek to destroy the very credibility of the New Testament Scriptures. It is here where we will next meet all of their challenges and rationally demonstrate that the New Testament Scriptures are indeed divinely inspired and in full accord with God’s message in the Old Testament.

Let’s defend the Christian Faith!

Jude 1:3 Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

Pastor Don