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

JEWISH APOLOGETICS (40)
 ANSWERING JEWISH OBJECTION #31
 (DDR #659)

Objection #31: Although Jews have been forced to hold public debates with Christians in the past, Jews have won every debate. You can even check the Christian records for verification.

Michael Brown's short response:

To the contrary, the earliest records of debate and dialog between Jews on the subject of the messiahship of Jesus indicate that the followers of Jesus decisively won. Your facts are wrong here. Of course, there is no defense for the forced debates of the Middle Ages, and I would be more than happy if the rabbis won these debates against their theological opponents, since these Christian leaders were hardly faithful representatives of the Messiah. But let's put history aside for now, since none of us were there to witness any of the debates of the past. For years the Rabbinic community said that Jews who believed in Jesus were deceived and misled because of our ignorance and lack of scholarship, so we began to challenge rabbinic leaders to discuss the issues in public. Do you know what happened? These debates went so well that we widely distribute audio and video copies of these public forums to interested Jews of every background. The rabbis whom we debated do not.¹

Michael Brown follows this with a discussion of how the early Christians defeated the Jews in debates in the New Testament, cf. Acts 18:28, "for he [Apollos] powerfully refuted the Jews in public, demonstrating by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ." Furthermore, Michael Brown has debated Jews on college campuses and at synagogues and these debates are available for all to see. If you are interested in seeing one, let me know and I will loan you one of my copies. Brown invites the reader to ask himself the question: "Why does my ministry [Brown's]

¹Michael L. Brown, *Answering Jewish Objections to Jesus: General and Historical Objections*, 1ST ed. (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 2000). See 199-201 for his full response to this objection. In this work, Brown lists the objection and then gives a short response that 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 the DDRs).

organization actively distribute each and every recorded debate I have done with rabbis—some of whom are respected scholars or leading anti-missionaries—while those I debated virtually never distribute the debates? What does this tell you?"

On the Glory Road,

Heaven exists now: A *place* of bliss for departed believers:

Genesis 5:24 And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.

Luke 23:43 And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise."

2 Corinthians 5:8 we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

Matthew 6:9 "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name.

John 14:2-3 "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. ³ "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.