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<http://www.fbcweb.org/Doctrines/Jewish-Apologetics-92.pdf>

JEWISH APOLOGETICS (92)

Answering Jewish Objections to Isaiah 53 as a Reference to Jesus

Objection #77: Isaiah 53 does not actually say the servant would die.

Brown's short response to this objection:

This objection actually contradicts two of the previous objections . . . both of which understand that according to Isaiah 53, the servant of the Lord would die. Many standard Rabbinic interpretations recognize this, either interpreting the text with reference to Israel's suffering and death at the hands of their enemies or with reference to the suffering and death of the Messiah (either Messiah ben Joseph or Messiah ben David).¹

Michael Brown then goes on to show how the Jews can't have it both ways. They can't deny that the passage speaks of death and then turn around and claim that that it refers to the many deaths of the Jewish people at the hands of their adversaries. He adds:

The text of Isaiah 53 explicitly speaks of the death of the servant of the Lord, using numerous expressions to make this perfectly clear, and there is no valid reason to deny this unless one is trying to evade the obvious sense of the chapter. In addition to the clear expressions describing the servant's suffering . . . note the following: 53:7 says he was brought as a lamb to slaughter; 53:8 says he was cut off from the land of the living; 53:9 speaks of his grave and death (!); 53:10 says he will be offered up as a guilt offering; 53:12 says he poured out his life unto death. What could be clearer?

Pastor Don

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also died for sins once for all, *the* just for *the* unjust, in order that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;

¹Michael L. Brown, *Messianic Prophecy Objections—Volume 3*, (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2003), 74-6. 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 the DDRs).