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Faith Bible Church
July 12, 2011
<http://fbcweb.org/doctrines.html>

JEWISH APOLOGETICS (85)
Answering Jewish Objections to Isaiah 53 as a Reference to Jesus

Objection #69: Isaiah 53 speaks of the people of Israel, not Jesus (or any Messiah).

Brown's short response to this objection:

It is impossible, both contextually and logically, for Isaiah 53 to be speaking of the people of Israel. Rather, the text clearly speaks of one individual, and as many rabbis recognized through the ages, that individual was the Messiah.¹

In his longer response he adds,

For the last thousand years, religious Jews have often interpreted Isaiah 53 with reference to the people of Israel, but that has by no means been the consensus interpretation, and it is not the interpretation of the Talmudic rabbis.

Noteworthy also is the oft-quoted comment of Rabbi Moshe Alshech, writing in the sixteenth century, 'Our Rabbis with one voice accept and affirm the opinion that the prophet is speaking of the Messiah, and we shall ourselves also adhere to the same view.'²

The notion that Isaiah refers to the nation of Israel instead of Jesus is relatively recent Jewish invention developed *only* because of rejection of Jesus Christ. The evidence for Isaiah 53 as a prophecy of the Messiah is on our side, and that evidence is from ancient Judaism.

Fight for the Christian faith! It is worth fighting for!

Pastor Don

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.

¹Michael L. Brown, *Messianic Prophecy Objections —Volume 3*, (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2003), 49-57. 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).

²Ibid., 41.