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<http://www.fbcweb.org/Doctrines/Jewish-Apologetics89.pdf>

## JEWISH APOLOGETICS (89)

Answering Jewish Objections to Isaiah 53 as a Reference to Jesus

### **Objection #74: Several key words in Isaiah 53 speak of a servant in the plural.**

Brown's short response to this objection:

I'm surprised that you're still using this objection. It is simply not true, as can be seen by checking even leading Jewish translations of the Bible. Those who claim that there are references to a plural servant in Isaiah 53 failed to realize the specific Hebrew grammatical forms being used and consequently mistranslated or misinterpreted the Hebrew text. These objections were answered decisively decades ago.<sup>1</sup>

One of the verses of Isaiah 53 does speak of death in the plural:

**Isaiah 53:9** His grave was assigned with wicked men, Yet He was with a rich man in His deaths, Because He had done no violence, Nor was there any deceit in His mouth.

While Brown believes that the plural in "deaths" is a plural of majesty, it is far more likely a reference to the two deaths of Jesus Christ on the cross. Christ died twice: He died spiritually for three hours on the cross for all human sin, and then died physically because His work of salvation was finished for all time.

#### **His spiritual death:**

**Matthew 27:46** And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?"

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<sup>1</sup>Michael L. Brown, *Messianic Prophecy Objections—Volume 3*, (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2003), 66-67. 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).

**His physical death:**

**John 19:30** When Jesus therefore had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head, and gave up His spirit.

**The point of it all:**

**2 Corinthians 5:21** He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

*Pastor Don*