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<http://www.fbcweb.org/Doctrines/Jewish-Apologetics91.pdf>

JEWISH APOLOGETICS (91)

Answering Jewish Objections to Isaiah 53 as a Reference to Jesus

Objection #76: Isaiah 53 cannot refer to Jesus because it says the servant of the Lord was sickly and died of disease.

Brown's short response to this objection:

This is the least likely interpretation of the relevant verses in the Hebrew, as confirmed by many major translations both Jewish and Christian. The text indicates that the servant of the Lord will be a man who is intimately associated with pain, grief, and sickness, a man suffering at the hands of people and crushed by the Lord as a guilt offering on our behalf. Such an understanding of the words is found in some Rabbinic interpretations too.¹

Following his discussion of the key verses and Hebrew words, Brown concludes:

This helps us to understand Isaiah 53:4, which states, "He has born our infirmities and carried our diseases" (NRSV). He did not bear our sicknesses by becoming sick, nor did he carry our diseases by becoming diseased; rather, he bore our sicknesses by healing them and carried our diseases by removing them. And in the agonies of crucifixion, suffering in body and spirit, he became our ideal substitute. As his disciple Peter taught, "He Himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wound you have been healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls" (1 Peter 2:24-25).

What a Savior! What Grace!

Pastor Don

¹Michael L. Brown, *Messianic Prophecy Objections—Volume 3*, (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2003), 71-4. 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).