

The Suffering Servant passages in Isaiah chapter fifty-two and fifty-three give one of the most accurate and vivid accounts of Messiah's sufferings and the glory which was to follow.

In light of this, the majority of Jewish scholars today claim these portions of Scripture have never been regarded as a prophecy of the Messiah by their own people.

Some go even further than this, stating that the vision does not refer to an individual at all, but rather to the people of Israel as a whole, who suffered oppression and affliction throughout history.

First, to say the Suffering Servant refers to Israel and not an individual is very questionable. Isaiah says, "For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people." This clearly states the Servant actually died! We must also question how the Servant can be stricken *for* God's people and at the same time *be* God's people.

Isaiah also stresses that the Servant was a righteous Person without violence and deceit. This cannot be said of the people of Israel, even the best of them, as the rest of the Book itself makes clear.

Concerning the second objection, that the Jewish Community has never interpreted this prophecy as relating to the coming Messiah, there is much evidence to the contrary from a variety of ancient Jewish sources.