

Messiah

Outline the historical and cultural context in which Christianity began

Examine extracts from the Bible which demonstrate the principal beliefs of Christianity

Examine the following scripture passages and use the questions below to develop your understanding of the Messiah and the reign of God:

- 1. What image of the Messiah is found in the scripture references?**
- 2. What were the Jews expecting in a Messiah?**
- 3. How did Jesus of Nazareth fulfil prophecies of the Messiah?**

○ Isaiah 61:1–2 p780 school bibles

Isaiah 61:1-2 New International Version (NIV)

The Year of the Lord's Favor

61 The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,
because the Lord has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the prisoners,^[a]

² to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,

Footnotes:

- [Isaiah 61:1](#) Hebrew; Septuagint the blind

○ Isaiah 53:1–12 p772 school bibles

Isaiah 53 New International Version (NIV)

53 Who has believed our message

and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

² He grew up before him like a tender shoot,
and like a root out of dry ground.

He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

³ He was despised and rejected by mankind,
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.

Like one from whom people hide their faces
he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

⁴ Surely he took up our pain
and bore our suffering,
yet we considered him punished by God,
stricken by him, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
and by his wounds we are healed.

⁶We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to our own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

⁷He was oppressed and afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
he was led like a lamb to the slaughter,
and as a sheep before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

⁸By oppression^[a] and judgment he was taken away.
Yet who of his generation protested?
For he was cut off from the land of the living;
for the transgression of my people he was punished.^[b]

⁹He was assigned a grave with the wicked,
and with the rich in his death,
though he had done no violence,
nor was any deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer,
and though the LORD makes^[c] his life an offering for sin,
he will see his offspring and prolong his days,
and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.

¹¹After he has suffered,
he will see the light of life^[d] and be satisfied^[e];
by his knowledge^[f] my righteous servant will justify many,
and he will bear their iniquities.

¹²Therefore I will give him a portion among the great,^[g]
and he will divide the spoils with the strong,^[h]
because he poured out his life unto death,
and was numbered with the transgressors.
For he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.

Footnotes:

- a. [Isaiah 53:8](#) Or From arrest
- b. [Isaiah 53:8](#) Or generation considered / that he was cut off from the land of the living, / that he was punished for the transgression of my people?
- c. [Isaiah 53:10](#) Hebrew though you make
- d. [Isaiah 53:11](#) Dead Sea Scrolls (see also Septuagint); Masoretic Text does not have the light of life.
- e. [Isaiah 53:11](#) Or (with Masoretic Text) ¹¹ He will see the fruit of his suffering / and will be satisfied
- f. [Isaiah 53:11](#) Or by knowledge of him
- g. [Isaiah 53:12](#) Or many
- h. [Isaiah 53:12](#) Or numerous

○ Jeremiah 23:5–6 p 816 in school bibles

Jeremiah 23:5-6 New International Version (NIV)

⁵“The days are coming,” declares the LORD,
“when I will raise up for David^[a] a righteous Branch,
a King who will reign wisely
and do what is just and right in the land.

⁶In his days Judah will be saved
and Israel will live in safety.

This is the name by which he will be called:
The LORD Our Righteous Savior.

Footnotes:

a. [Jeremiah 23:5](#) Or up from David’s line

○ Ezekiel 34:22–25 p903 school bibles

Ezekiel 34:22-25 New International Version (NIV)

²²I will save my flock, and they will no longer be plundered. I will judge between one sheep and another. ²³I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd. ²⁴I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them. I the LORD have spoken.

²⁵“I will make a covenant of peace with them and rid the land of savage beasts so that they may live in the wilderness and sleep in the forests in safety.

○ Matthew 16:16 (p1026 in school bibles), 26:68 (p1041)

Matthew 16:16 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁶Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

Matthew 26:68 New International Version (NIV)

⁶⁸and said, “Prophecy to us, Messiah. Who hit you?”

○ John 7:26–27 (p1118-1119)

John 7:26-27 New International Version (NIV)

²⁶Here he is, speaking publicly, and they are not saying a word to him. Have the authorities really concluded that he is the Messiah? ²⁷But we know where this man is from; when the Messiah comes, no one will know where he is from.”

○ Luke 4:16–21 p1074 school bibles

Luke 4:16-21 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁶He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”^[a]

²⁰ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. ²¹ He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

Footnotes:

a. [Luke 4:19](#) Isaiah 61:1,2 (see Septuagint); Isaiah 58:6

○ Acts 2:36 (p1141)

Acts 2:36 New International Version (NIV)

³⁶ “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”

○ Acts 18:5 (p1162)

Acts 18:5 New International Version (NIV)

⁵ When Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Messiah.