

# THE ANOINTED ONE

Throughout history, we've seen the rise and fall of great men and women who've had a major impact on the world, either for good or evil. Some were great military leaders like Julius Caesar, Ghengis Kahn or Dwight Eisenhower. Others were powerful political leaders such as Franklin Roosevelt, Mao Tse-Tung, Stalin, and Hitler. Each impacted the world, some quite negatively.

## KEY POINTS

Perhaps you've noticed that one name is missing from our list. And this name has had more impact on the history of the world than all of the others put together. Jesus Christ. But there is an amazing difference between Him and the others that were

### Jesus Christ, the Messiah

- "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." (John 11:25)
- "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6)
- "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows... But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." (Isaiah 53)

mentioned. And that is: Jesus never led an army, never fought in a battle. Even Mohammed led an army. But Jesus never did.

He also never held a political office, never governed, and never led a powerful nation or empire. He didn't have a lot of money. On the contrary, he was extremely poor in this world's goods. (Matthew 8:20) Whatever the source of His power and influence, it had nothing to do with money.

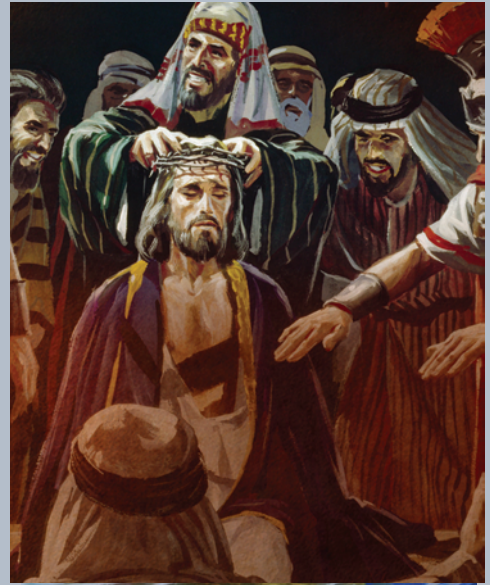
While it is believed that Mohammed wrote the Koran, Jesus never wrote a book. Jesus' influence didn't come from anything He wrote because as far as we know, He never wrote anything. And then on top of it all, He never had a great following. Most leaders and people flat-out rejected Him.

And then there was His death. He died the death of a common criminal, crucified between two thieves.

Yet, Jesus turned the world upside down. The influence of Jesus has been without peer or precedent.

Listen to a few of the things He said about Himself: "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." (John 11:25) "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6)

What do you do with someone who makes such claims? I like how one writer, C.S. Lewis, expressed it: "A man who was merely a man and who said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on the level with a man who says he's a poached egg—or else He would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God; or else a madman or something worse." (C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, p. 56) How then do we explain this Jesus? There's only one logical answer: Jesus Christ is indeed the Son of God. He is the Messiah promised in the Holy Scriptures. He is the Ultimate Sacrifice God provided for the sins of the world.



Jesus of Nazareth fulfilled over 300 prophecies from the Old Testament scriptures regarding the Messiah.

Let's look at some of the Old Testament prophecies that point to Jesus as the Messiah. It's been estimated that more than 300 prophecies point directly to the life and ministry of Jesus. We obviously can't look at them all, but we can look at a few: "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Ps. 22:1, 7) Does any of this sound familiar? If you're already a Bible student, you know that when Jesus was on the cross, He cried out at one point: "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46) These were the very same words that King David wrote 1,000 years before in Psalm 22 in describing this scene.

Again in the Psalms it says: "they pierced my hands and my feet." (Ps. 22:16) Why did David write that? David was never crucified. What is amazing about this statement is that crucifixion wasn't even practiced in that part of the world at the time of David. Bible scholars recognize that this is talking about the death of Jesus on the cross of Calvary, a thousand years later. (See also Ps. 22:18)

For centuries, the Jews saw Zechariah 9:9 as a prophecy concerning the Messiah. "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass." (Zechariah 9:9) This was written more than 500 years before Christ arrived in our world. Here is the fulfillment of this prophecy: "Go into the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find an ass tied, and a colt with her: loose them, and bring them unto me. . . . And the disciples went, and did as Jesus commanded them, and brought the ass, and the colt, and put on them their clothes, and they set him thereon." (Matthew 21:2-7) Isn't it wonderful that we can trust the Bible!

It was also long believed by the Jews that the Messiah would come from the city of Bethlehem. This written by Micah was the reason why: "But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting." (Micah 5:2) And, of course, Jesus was born in Bethlehem!

Look at this incredible prophecy written 800 years before Jesus found in Isaiah 53. "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs [or sickness] and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." (Isaiah 53)

Jesus was rejected and despised. He was bruised and crucified for our sins. Through his pain and death we receive eternal healing – eternal life! Jesus was the promised Messiah. He is the long awaited Savior of the world!

### **TAKE-HOME MESSAGE**

No other person in the stream of history has made such an enormous impact on the life of the inhabitants of this planet. Why? Because He was none other than the Son of God! The promised Messiah and Savior of the world. This fact, though, will mean nothing, unless He becomes your Savior and friend!

### **BETWEEN YOU AND GOD**

The apostle Paul wrote about God's great plan of salvation in this way: "God made Him Who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God."

(2 Corinthians 5:21) Would you like to have the righteousness of God? Place your life within the life of Jesus and God's Holy Spirit will make your decision a reality. Jesus is knocking at your hearts door. Won't you listen to His voice and open the door? (Rev. 3:20)



Jesus was despised and rejected by men.