



If you were to describe Jesus to your friends, what words would you choose to use? What picture would they draw in their minds using your description?

Would your description more reflect someone they would “like” or someone they would “revere”?

What are the dangers of leaning too far in either direction?

Dangers of Likeability:

Dangers of Reverence:

The Promised Messiah

It was prophesied consistently through the Old Testament that one day a messiah would come to redeem and reconcile people fully to God.

What does each of the following passages reveal about the Old Testament promise of a coming messiah? Underline each description.

Jeremiah 23:5-6 (NLT)

“For the time is coming,” says the Lord, “when I will raise up a righteous descendant from King David’s line. He will be a King who rules with wisdom. He will do what is just and right throughout the land. ⁶ And this will be his name: ‘The Lord Is Our Righteousness.’ In that day Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety.

He will be called: _____

Description:

What is the significance of this prophecy?



Isaiah 9:6-7 (NLT)

For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the Lord of Heaven’s Armies will make this happen!

He will be called:

Description:

What is the significance of this prophecy?

Isaiah 11:1-10 (NIV)

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. ² The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him-- the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord-- ³ and he will delight in the fear of the Lord. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; ⁴ but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. ⁶ The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. ⁷ The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest. ⁹ They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰ In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious.



Description:

What is the significance of this prophecy?

Based on these passages, describe what you believe Old Testament Jews would have been anticipating with regard to the promised Messiah?

They would be expecting a man who would:

Did Jesus fulfill all these expectations?

How are we to understand these prophecies in light of Jesus' life and ministry?

There are more prophecies which relate to the character and role of the Messiah.



In the following passage, underline the ideas that contrast with the “mighty, righteous king” motif.

Isaiah 53:1-12 (NIV)

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 men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. ⁴ Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten 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 upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. ⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. ⁷ He 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 her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. ⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken away. And who can speak of his descendants? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was stricken. ⁹ He 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. ¹⁰ Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand. ¹¹ After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light [of life] and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. ¹² Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, 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.

How could the above sets of passages possibly come together – the Righteous King and the Suffering Servant?

When is Jesus going to appear fully, as the Righteous King?

Which description do you most relate to, the Suffering Servant or the Righteous King? Why?

How might embracing a deeper understanding of both dynamics affect your life?



The Israelites focused on their expectation of a Righteous King and as a result, many misunderstood Jesus' role as the Suffering Servant.

What are some ways you may have limited your perspective of Jesus?

What are some ways you could gain a greater balance in your perspective of Jesus?

HOMEWORK:

Additional Passages that focus on Jesus' dual roles.

Righteous King:

Daniel 7:13-14

Ezekiel 38:17-23

Revelation 1:12-18

Revelation 19:11-16

Suffering Servant:

Isaiah 49:1-7

Isaiah 50:4-9