



# Was Jesus the Messiah?



## Key Vocabulary

Messiah	The promised saviour/rescuer.
prophecy	A forecast of what will happen in the future.
Prophet	A person who foretells the future.
incarnation	God in human form; God the flesh.
Advent	The period leading up to the birth of Jesus.
Immanuel	God is with us.
Gospel	The teaching of the life of Jesus.
Old testament.	The first part of the Christian Bible. Written about time before Jesus.

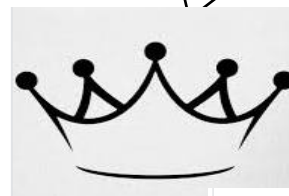


Why are these symbols important, and how do they help us to recognise the Messiah that was promised?

## Key Scripture from the Bible



**A messiah was needed:** The idea of a 'messiah', or 'saviour', is important in Jewish culture, and was central to Jewish belief in the years that Jesus lived and taught. The land of Israel had been attacked and invaded since its creation 1,000 years previously. In 586 BCE the Jewish people were taken into exile in Babylon. Fifty years later they were allowed to return, but from then on, their land was continually under occupation by one foreign power or another. From 63 BCE, the Romans were the occupying power. The Jewish people hoped for a saviour, a messiah, who would vanquish their enemies and restore them to their homeland to live in peace under their own laws.



## Knowledge

Jesus was Jewish. He was born in Bethlehem. Christians believe Jesus is God in the flesh. They believe that his birth, life, death and resurrection were part of a longer plan by God to restore the relationship between God and humans. The Old Testament talks about a 'rescuer' or 'anointed one' – a messiah. Some texts talk about what this 'messiah' would be like. Christians believe that Jesus fulfilled the rescue plans and was the Messiah. Jews do not believe that Jesus was the Messiah.