

## **Dead Sea Scrolls & New Testament**

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The portrayal of the Messiah in the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Gospels offers fascinating insights into the concept of the messiah in Jewish and Christian theology. In this paper, we will examine these portrayals in detail, beginning with the Dead Sea Scrolls.

The Dead Sea Scrolls offer a complex and fragmented picture of the Messiah. Some texts, such as the "War Scroll," portray the messiah as a military leader who will lead the Jews to victory over their enemies. Other texts, like the "Messiah of Aaron and Israel," describe the messiah as a high priest who will purify the temple and restore proper worship. Still, other texts depict the messiah as a spiritual leader who will bring about a renewal of Jewish faith and practice.

The "War Scroll" is one of the most well-known messianic texts from the Dead Sea Scrolls. It describes a future war between the forces of good and evil, with the messiah depicted as a military leader who will lead the forces of good to victory over the forces of evil. The Messiah is described as a fierce warrior, who will lead his army to destroy the wicked and establish the rule of God on earth.

Another messianic text from the Dead Sea Scrolls is the "Messiah of Aaron and Israel." This text describes the messiah as a high priest who will purify the temple and restore proper worship. The Messiah will be anointed with oil and will be given divine wisdom and understanding to lead the people in righteous worship.

Overall, the Dead Sea Scrolls offer a variety of messianic portraits, with no single consistent picture of what the Messiah was expected to do or be.

Turning to the Gospels, Jesus Christ is portrayed as the messiah. The Gospels offer a cohesive and detailed portrait of Jesus as the Messiah, emphasizing his spiritual leadership and his fulfilment of Jewish prophecy. Jesus is depicted as a miracle worker who healed the sick and performed other miracles, and he is described as a teacher who preached about love, forgiveness, and the kingdom of God.

The Gospel of Matthew, in particular, presents Jesus as the fulfilment of Jewish prophecy. The Gospel traces Jesus' genealogy back to Abraham and David and describes his birth in Bethlehem, the city of David. The Gospel also describes how Jesus fulfilled various prophecies, such as the prophecy of the virgin birth and the prophecy of the suffering servant.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus is presented as the Word of God who was with God from the beginning and who became flesh to dwell among humans. John emphasizes the divine nature of Jesus, portraying him as the Son of God who came to save humanity from sin and death.

In summary, the portrayal of the Messiah in the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Gospels offer different perspectives on the concept of the Messiah. The Dead Sea Scrolls offer a fragmented picture of the messiah, with different texts presenting the messiah in different ways. In contrast, the Gospels offer a cohesive and detailed portrait of Jesus as the Messiah, emphasizing his spiritual leadership, his message of love and forgiveness, and his fulfilment of Jewish prophecy.