

# The Messianic Hero

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Isaiah 49.1-7; Luke 23.32-43

Humans, and civilization in general want heroes. We sing, write, film and talk about only one thing more – love. This universal need for a hero manifests in at least four archetypes:

1. The destined hero

This hero follows a transforming path into his or her destiny

1. The virtuous hero

The true-blue hero; virtuous and strong, a good example for others

1. The tormented hero

With a dark secret and often rejected by people

1. The anti-hero hero

Often a criminal with a heart of gold

Our quest for heroes is a projection of our deep need for a savior to reconnect us with God and deliver us from the curse of our age as well as our own misdeeds and personal corruption.

The concept of Messiah, as the deliverer of Israel came into focus 150-300 years before Jesus. In the midst of bad times Israel looked to its history and writings and found a consistent theme. God raised a deliverer in the past and will do so again.

We learn something important about God's character and activity. He allows great freedom while sowing in our ultimate destiny.

Isaiah 49.1-7: the Servant of the Lord

Verses 1-3: The Messiah is a hero of destiny. Jesus is God's ultimate destiny. He reveals God to us and brings God's best future for us.

Verses 4-6: The Messiah is a virtuous hero. Jesus is the true blue hero who lives out the right thing to do. He is our trustworthy example.

Verse 7: The Messiah is a tormented hero. Jesus is crushed by the world system on our behalf.

Luke 23.32-43: Jesus, the anti-hero

Jesus, the tormented hero is on the cross being mocked by almost everyone. He is also the virtuous hero and so responds, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." Jesus is aware of the spiritual reality, in the midst of excruciating pain. The world system is killing him, the antihero because that is what it must do. Jesus is also the destined hero. One person peers into Jesus reality, Jesus gives him more. "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."