

# How has belief in Jesus as the Messiah impacted art and music?



In the Old Testament, Isaiah prophesied the coming of a **Messiah**, a saviour or chosen one who would unite the Jewish peoples in an age of peace.

Most Jewish people believe the Messiah has not yet come.

## Christian and Islamic beliefs about Jesus

**Christianity** teaches that **Jesus** was the Messiah. Through his **ultimate sacrifice** he **saved his people** and will return at the end of time to complete the Old Testament prophecies.

In addition, Christians believe **Jesus was the Son of God.**



In **Islam**, **Isa** (Jesus in Arabic), is considered a **prophet** and the **Messiah** promised to the Jewish Israelites, who will return at the end of times.

Muslims **do not believe Isa was the Son of God.**



## The Messiah as spiritual inspiration



- In Christianity, belief in Jesus as the Messiah is very important. It has inspired art and music across the centuries.
- Many people find **spiritual expression** in creative activities such as art and music.
- **Handel's Messiah**, was written by **George Frederick Handel** in 1741. It is inspired by and uses words from the Bible and is still performed today.
- Art inspired by Jesus as the Messiah is displayed in churches, public places and sometimes accompanies Handel's music.

## Key vocabulary

- **Christ**: from the Greek translation of Messiah, **Khristós**
- **hallelujah**: word used to express worship, 'praise the lord', in Hebrew
- **Messiah**: a saviour of the Jewish people prophesied in the Bible
- **prophet**: a person chosen by God to pass on God's messages to ordinary people
- **prophecy**: a prediction of what will happen in the future
- **resurrection**: coming back to life after death
- **spiritual**: a person's inner beliefs and thoughts rather than their outer physical body or surrounding

