

# JESUS THE MESSIAH

While watching a film about the life of our Lord Jesus Christ, I heard something that made me stop and think. Many Israelites believed the Messiah they were expecting would be a great king or general who would free them from the Romans.

When I thought about their plight, I wondered if I, too, would have thought this had I lived there and then. It all made me consider that the life of Jesus was a very carefully thought-out strategy.

The one thing I always keep in mind when considering such things is that I've never found anything that Jesus said or did that was not a strategy to achieve his mission here on earth: 'to save sinners'.

To start with, why wasn't Our Lord Jesus Christ born in splendour in the house or palace of some high-ranking person? Why was he born in a stable? A place about as lowly as one could get, among smelly animals, yet within a holy, loving family? Was this so that no one could say, "It's okay for you; you live in that well-off household"? It did allow him to say, if he needed to, that it would be difficult to be born lower than him.

Why was he born almost secretly? The Israelites were expecting him, especially as St. John the Baptist, who to them was like a holy prophet, was always going on about a messiah coming. Why didn't the whole of Israel know so that grand celebrations could begin?

If it had happened like this, wouldn't the Romans have intervened, killing any newborn baby and causing much bloodshed, just like King Herod had done with the Holy Innocents?

Being born in such a place and not many knowing about it kept the Romans from knowing about his birth. It was only revealed to three kings from the Orient who knew that someone important was being born and travelled to find him, and God's angels revealed it to the lowest-ranked people in Israel, shepherds.

Both High and Low-ranked people were being informed, but on an extremely small scale. No one could say that any class of people had been privileged. It has also meant that people worldwide have remembered and celebrated his birth in a stable at Bethlehem for two thousand years.

When Jesus started his mission, why didn't he tell people he was the Messiah or the Son of God? It's probably because he knew that humans are sceptics. If he had started by saying he was the Son of God, the reply could have been ridiculing.

He knew that most people were sceptics, and his exceptional wisdom resulted in him not mentioning who he was but making them wonder.

He did this by teaching the scriptures with authority and working miracles such as walking on water, raising the dead, controlling the weather, and curing many illnesses.

Jesus revealed who he was but slowly, culminating in his resurrection as the final proof of his divinity. This slow build-up enables us to remember what Jesus showed and told his followers to do, even after two thousand years.

When he started his mission, the followers he selected were not highly educated people. Was this so that anyone in the future would realise that anyone who wants to can be one of his disciples and continue his mission to save sinners?

Returning to why he didn't use his power to eliminate the Romans. One possible answer is that time has no meaning to God. He lives in eternity and wants the eternal souls of all human beings to do the same when they die. 100 years is nothing compared to eternity; we humans don't have much time to repent.

When I think about what happened to Our Lord Jesus Christ from his birth to his ascension into heaven, I could be wrong, but I like to think that his wisdom, being way beyond ours, was used in many ways to create strategies that made us all think about his mission—to save sinners.