



Search

Messianic Archetype



Main

Laconic

Quotes



Video Examples

Create New



"And lo, Jesus said unto them: thou shalt make many fictional characters in My likeness."

Kaladin: I'm putting it all on the long bet. If I die, then they'll come out, shake their heads, and tell themselves they knew it would happen. But if I live, they'll remember it. And it will give them hope. They might see it as a miracle.

Syl: Do you want to be a miracle?

Kaladin: No. But for them, I will be.

— *The Way of Kings* (first book of *The Stormlight Archive*)

While the word "messiah" has different meanings in different

CB2

UP TO
20% OFF



term has been [Hijacked by Jesus](#), with Jesus becoming the [Trope Maker](#).

In media, the Messianic Archetype is a character whose role in the story (but not necessarily personality) echoes that of Christ. They are portrayed as a savior, whether the thing they are saving is a person, a lot of people or the whole of humanity. They endure a sizable [sacrifice](#) as the means of bringing that salvation about for others, a fate they do not deserve up to and including death or a [Fate Worse than Death](#). Other elements may be mixed and matched as required but the Messianic Archetype will include one or more of the following:

- [The Chosen One](#)
- [True Companions](#) who follow him
- [Betrayal](#) by one of those followers
- [Persecution](#) by nonbelievers
- [Crucified Hero Shot](#) (or other parallels to the [Passion Play](#))
- [Figurative](#) or [literal](#) resurrection
- A [Second Coming](#)
- [The initials JC](#)

Some takes on what makes a Messianic Archetype include [All-Loving Hero](#), the [Dark Messiah](#) (the extreme [Anti-Hero](#) version), [The Antichrist](#), and the [Anti-Antichrist](#). However, keep in mind that [All-Loving Hero](#) and the Messianic Archetype *are not synonymous*

traits. The Messianic Archetype is about the role the character has in the events of the plot, and can have any personality traits, even overtly villainous ones. Even spawns of The Devil themselves can be Messianic Archetypes (such as the more messianic versions of the [Anti-Antichrist](#)).

It's also not necessary for the archetypal character to be even remotely Christian. The [Ur Examples](#) include Osiris (Egyptian) and Inanna (ancient Mesopotamia and the actual city of Ur) making this trope [Older Than They Think](#).

This trope is the good counterpart to the [Satanic Archetype](#), which are characters inspired by [Satan](#).

Those who fall into this archetype are often [Allegorical Characters](#). See [Away in a Manger](#) for Nativity parallels at an earlier point on the life timeline. Compare [Pietà Plagiarism](#), [Crystal Dragon Jesus](#). Contrast [Faux Symbolism](#). See [A Protagonist Shall Lead Them](#) for the pre-Christian model of "messiah".

Remember that while many Messiahs die (and many then [come back to life](#)), this is still **not** a [Death Trope](#), so spoilers should still be marked.

Examples:



open/close all folders



 Anime & Manga

 Arts

 Comic Books

 Fan Works

 Films — Animation

 Films — Live-Action

 Literature

 Live-Action TV

 Music

 Myths & Religion

 Pro Wrestlina

×

 Tabletop Games

 Theater

 Video Games

 Web Animation

 Web Comics

 Western Animation

Video Example(s):

[Feedback](#)



Cole MacGrath

In the "Hero Ending", Cole sacrifices his life to save mankind from the Beast and the plague.

Steven Universe

Mary Sue

Alternative Title(s): Christ Figure, The Savior, Messiah Figure, Messianic Figure, Messianic Personality

Previous

Index

Next

[Character Calculus](#)

[Heroic Archetype](#)

[The Men First](#)

[Selflessness Tropes](#)

[The Needs of the Many](#)

[Mentor Archetype](#)

[Archetypal Character](#)

[Mixed Archetypes](#)

[Mating Dance](#)

[Symbolism](#)

[Pelvic Thrust](#)



Hell Has New Management

Religion Tropes

Dark Messiah

Love Goddess

Tropes of the Divine

Nephilim

Lilith

Biblical Motifs

Nephilim

Meaningful Name

Lit. Class Tropes

Minimalism

Mercy Kill

WeAreNotAlone/Tropes
M to P

Meta Fiction

The Stormlight Archive

QuoteSource/Literature

Order Reborn

Mary Sue

VideoSource/Internet

Our Dwarves Are All the Same

Reckless Pacifist

Heroes

Mighty Whitey

Jacob and Esau

ImageSource/Other

Mystical Pregnancy

Malaproper

VideoSource/Steven
Universe

Mic Drop

Mascot with Attitude

Fountain of Expies

Monkey King Lite

Meaningful Funeral

ImageSource/Arts

Midnight Snack

Mean Character, Nice Actor

Idealism Tropes

Misery Builds Character



