

## **Jesus, Our Great Prophet**

*Who is the most famous prophet of all time? From the Ranker website,*

1. *Jesus Christ*
2. *The Apostle Paul*
3. *Muhammad*
4. *Nostradamus*
5. *Moses*

*Jesus - [https://www.ranker.com/list/notable-prophet\\_s/reference](https://www.ranker.com/list/notable-prophet_s/reference) :*

- *#2 on People We Wish Were Still Alive (#1 = Prince; #3 = Leonardo da Vinci)*
- *#50 on Celebrities Who Should Run for President*
- *#31 on The Greatest Minds of All Time*
- *#1 on The Most Influential People of All Time*

*Jesus is our great prophet, priest and king*

*Introduction: Jesus came to bring salvation, to be the greatest of gifts. He came to be our prophet, priest and king. As the greatest of prophets Christ gave full disclosure of the salvation which God revealed. He is the light in spiritual darkness.*

### **A. Jesus, the Great Prophet**

1. **Jesus' prophetic role was foretold in the Old Testament (Deut. 18:15)**
2. **Jesus was a prophetic voice to his generation. (Heb. 1:1-2a)**
3. **Jesus was, and is, God's Word to us. (John 1:14)**

**He is the great prophet who was the...**

- a) **Ultimate Revealer of God's Will (Acts 3:22)**
  - b) **Master Teacher of Truth (Luke 24:45)**
  - c) **Preacher of the Kingdom (Matt. 4:17; Col. 1:12-14)**
  - d) **Proclaimer of Life Eternal (John 6:47)**
  - e) **He is the Good News!**
4. **Jesus came to take us from darkness and bring us into the light (Col. 1:12b-14)**

### **B. Darkness? What Darkness? (Rom 1:18-32)**

**Illus. (context) for Rom. 1:16-18 – read John Stott, Romans, p. 69.**

God's wrath is revealed from heaven, just as his righteousness has been (cf. vv. 17-18).

***"The two revelations referred to in these two verses are then really two aspects of the same process. The preaching of Christ crucified, risen, ascended and coming again, is at the same time both the offer to men of a status of righteousness before God and the revelation of God's wrath against their sin." CEB Cranfield, Romans, Vol. 1, p. 110.***

1. **Darkness? *False Truth*** – There is a no God! (Rom. 1:18-20)
  - a. There is a no God! **Yet God has revealed himself from creation to the present in his invisible attributes that are clearly seen!**
  - b. We cannot know God! **Yet God is knowable and is to be glorified and given thanks to by his creation. We are without excuse.**

Illus. 'Invisible attributes, his eternal power and deity, yet clearly seen' – read John Stott, Romans, p. 74.

2. **Darkness? *False Worship*** – Idols or Counterfeit gods (Rom. 1:21-23)
  - a. **Even though God is knowable we foolishly worship lesser things.**
  - b. **Idolatry? – In his book, *Counterfeit Gods*, Timothy Keller gives us this definition:** *'What is an idol? It is anything more important to you than God, anything that absorbs your heart and imagination more than God, anything you seek to give you what only God can give.'* (p. xix)
  - c. ***Counterfeit Gods*, Sub-titled: "The Empty Promises of Money, Sex, and Power, and the Only Hope That Matters" Among other idols he discusses Romantic love, family, materialism, success, nationalism, etc.**
  - d. **God's good gifts become false gods. False worship is when we put anything in God's place. 'If only I had (blank) then my life would be complete and fulfilled.'**
  - e. **We become foolish and worship idols - "We prefer our own wisdom to God's wisdom, our own desires to God's will, and our own reputation to God's honor....Is there any hope? Yes, if we begin to realize that idols cannot simply be removed. They must be replaced. If you uproot them they will only grow back; but they can be supplanted."** Tim Keller, *Counterfeit Gods*, p. 154-155.

'Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts...' (v. 24, 26, 28)

3. **Darkness? *Fallen Passions*** – Wrong and unnatural relationships (Rom. 1:24-27)
  - a. **Fallenness leads to idolatry – 'So God abandoned them to do whatever shameful things their hearts desired.'** (v. 24, NLT)
  - b. **Idolatry of a sexual nature; wrong and unnatural.**
  - c. **They perverted God's good gift - <sup>25</sup> They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator--who is forever praised. Amen. Romans 1:25 (NIV)**

**"...this delivering them up was a deliberate act of judgement and mercy on the part of God who smites in order to heal (Isa. 19:22), and that throughout this time of their God-forsakenness God is still concerned with them and dealing with them."** CEB Cranfield, *Romans*, Vol. 1, p. 121.

4. **Darkness? *Fallen Attitudes*** – Wrong ideas of how to live (Rom. 1:28-31)
  - a. **More Idolatry; We begin to believe our own lies.** <sup>28</sup> Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. **Romans 1:28 (NIV)**
  - b. **The 'I did it my way' Idolatry – v. 29-31. Reject God and make up your own rules on how to live.**

5. **Darkness? *Fallen Values*** – Living in defiant rebellion (Rom 1:32)

- α. We practice and approve of a rejection of God's Word, will and ways. – Not politically correct.**

**Illus. – Caverns; Jesus A Guide In Total Darkness**

**C. *Jesus, the Messiah, Light in the Darkness***

- 1. The Messiah would be a light in the darkness - *Isaiah 9:1-2***

**Hunger Games illustration – Dystopian world, losing hope of a better future**

- 2. The Messiah would be a light for all people - *Isaiah 49:6; Luke 2:25-32***  
**3. Jesus claimed to be the light of the world - *John 8:12***  
**4. Jesus was proclaimed as the light of the world (cf. Paul's defense before Agrippa - *Acts 26:15-23*)**

**D. *The Good News***

- 1. Without Christ we are in darkness.**  
**2. The good news about Jesus is that he did what we could never do. He brought us the truth about our spiritual condition and the answers for our hurts, our needs and our suffering.**  
**3. Religion says: "If I obey then God will accept me"**  
**4. The gospel says: "In Christ I am accepted by God therefore I obey."**  
**5. Jesus came to be the Light for every person who believes that He died in their place.**

**Moon illustration – Jesus is the 'sun' (light, God's truth) we are to reflect his light just as the moon reflects the sun's light.**

**E. *Jesus is the Light in the Darkness***

- 1. Jesus, our great prophet, is the Word of God.**  
**2. Jesus is the good news.**  
**3. He is the Light of the world.**  
**4. Am I reflecting the light of Christ to my world?**