

Prometheus: Our Mythological Savior

Many people know the story of Jesus, but there was another hero even before the modern day savior existed. Do you know who it was? Prometheus, a Greek hero who could tell the future, went through many trials just to save the humans on earth. Prometheus and Jesus were similar in many ways even though they were not born from the same country (Pontikis). The words "Jesus Christ" were borrowed from Greek and they mean "The Anointed One who Rescues ("Jesus")." They were both rescuers of the lowly humans on Earth. Both served under god(s); maybe not the same type of god(s), but they were both below another supreme being. Prometheus prompted humans to give only bad meat to the gods (Zeus in particular) and save more for themselves and for that Zeus punished the humans for Prometheus' actions by taking their fire. In response, Prometheus stole the fire back from Zeus and gave it to the humans. In turn, Prometheus was made to suffer. He was chained to a rock where a giant eagle would arrive daily to tear out his liver (Pontikis). He lived like that for thousands of years until Hercules rescued him, and Chiron, a centaur, who had been poisoned by Hercules arrow and was now suffering from the deadly poison since he could not die, gave his life so that Prometheus would live freely (Stewart). Prometheus was much like modern Christianity's Jesus.

Both Jesus and Prometheus loved the humans on earth. Prometheus wanted them to have better food and tricked Zeus so that the humans could keep their offerings. When we were punished for it, he risked his life and happiness to steal fire back for us, even when he knew what would happen to him because of it (Zimmerman). Because of his hard work the humans worshipped him ("Prometheus"). Jesus helped the humans understand religion better, and often cared for the humans he came across. He helped the starving and the sick, and even cured a man's blindness. He is known for "dying for our sins ("Jesus")." They both had an amazing amount of compassion for us and were willing to suffer the consequences of their actions, even if it meant dying for our sins.

Our heroes were punished for their actions when they helped the humans. Prometheus was chained to a rock for his rebellion against Zeus, as Jesus was crucified for his rebellion against the Jewish beliefs (Hamilton). Since they both could see the future (Prometheus simply because of his gift, and Jesus because of God) they knew what was going to happen to them, and still did not try to change their own fate (Pontikis). Jesus also knew that he would be betrayed by one of his disciples, as Prometheus knew he would be saved by Hercules. They both accepted the responsibility of their actions and were not afraid of the pain and suffering they would have to endure for the good of mankind. Because of this, humans were grateful to these men, and worshipped them the same way they would a god. They also created new connections to the currently existing gods for the people. They were, and still are, considered very heroic to the humans they protected. They were not afraid of working hard, even if it meant introducing some rebellion (Cotterell).

Jesus and Prometheus were both little rebels redeemed from their pain. The Jewish people hated Jesus because they thought that he was simply making everything up and falsely saying that he was the son of God. Regardless of what they said about him, he continued to do what he believed in. He knew what was right, even if it seemed that no one else did ("Jesus"). Prometheus frequently went against Zeus even when it would have been wiser for him to do what Zeus wanted him to. Like Jesus, Prometheus did what he knew was right, even when it meant sacrificing himself (Zimmerman). Frequently Jesus was hated for what he believed in, and Prometheus was often looked down upon by other gods. After thousands of years of suffering Prometheus was freed by Hercules, and Jesus was resurrected. This proved to humans that both Jesus and Prometheus made the ultimate sacrifice for them: suffering, pain, and in Jesus' case, death ("Jesus)(Cotterell).

As you can see, Jesus and Prometheus have a lot in common, even though their stories took place a long time apart. They both loved humans and often took pity on them. They were willing to work for our good, even when they knew they would get nothing in return. Because of the good that they did for us, they were punished by someone else, whether it was mortal or immortal, and had to suffer for many years. This fight for humanity was portrayed as rebellion; Jesus against the Jews and Prometheus against Zeus. Their hard work earned them recognition on Earth, and they are worshipped almost as gods as important as God, or Zeus. Next time someone mentions something about Jesus "dying for your sins" (as my grandmother often does), put in a good word for Prometheus too. After all, wasn't he first?

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