

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN
The Witness of John the Baptist
John 1:19-34
Week 2 January 11, 2026
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John presents witnesses to support the claim that Jesus is the Messiah.

THIS IS THE TESTIMONY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST.

And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" 20 He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." 21 And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." 22 So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" 23 He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said." John 1:19-23 ESV

John draws a crowd in the wilderness and is baptizing people so they will recognize and confess their sins.

When people are oppressed they know they need to be rescued

John has already come as a voice crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way for the Lord."

JOHN'S BAPTISM

Now the Pharisees who had been sent²⁵ questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" 26 "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. 27 He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."

John 1:24-27 ESV

Baptism is an act of submission and commitment.

JESUS THE LAMB OF GOD

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! 30 This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.'"
John 1:29-30 ESV

The idea that the Messiah would be a sacrifice for sin was flatly rejected by the religious leaders of Israel.

JESUS THE SON OF GOD

I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel." 32 And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. 33 I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' 34 And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

John 1:31-34 ESV

John must make the leap from Jesus as his cousin to Jesus and Son of God, Lord and Savior.

16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Matthew 3:16-17 ESV

John was sent to smooth out that road and prepare us to see Jesus as the Savior of the world.

Life tests our belief and we need to know if Jesus is really enough.
Is Jesus really the one?

We believe and grow closer to Jesus together.