

**Andrew' and Philip's** testimony leads others to follow Jesus

"We have found the Messiah" (v. 41)

"We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." (v. 45)

ESV **John 5:39** You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me...

**Nathanael** said:

"Can anything good come out of Nazareth? (v. 46)

"Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" (v. 49)

**Jesus** said:

"Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man." (v. 51)

What does this mean?

"What the disciples are promised, then, is heaven-sent confirmation that the one they have acknowledged as the Messiah has been appointed by God... it is no longer at Bethel, that God reveals himself, but in Jesus... through him comes the fulness of grace that surpasses and replaces the earlier grace (1:16)" (Carson, 163–164)

**What does it mean to you that Jesus is the Messiah?**

**How should Jesus's identity as the Messiah change your outlook on life?**

**Do you believe Jesus is the Son of God?**

Sunday, December 28, 2025  
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**Who is the Son of God?**  
The Incarnation According to John  
No. 4 | He is Jesus  
**John 1:19–51**

## Review

John's Gospel begins with a theological prologue highlighting the Person of Jesus Christ (1:1–18). It summarizes how the Son of God took on humanity, becoming the Jesus of history, to uniquely and perfectly reveal God's glory and grace.

## Purpose

ESV **John 20:30–31** Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup> but these are written so that you may **believe** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

## Who is the Son of God?

**He is Jesus**

**No. 4**

## How does John explain the identity of the Son of God?

### Outline

**1:19–51** John the Baptist, among others, bear witness about Jesus, testifying that He is the promised Messiah of the Old Testament.

**1:19–34** John the Baptist testifies about the Messiah before the religious leaders and before his disciples.

**1:35–51** Through John's testimony, his disciples follow Jesus, which starts a chain reaction of leading others to follow Jesus.

### What's going on in this passage?

- As the first narrational section of John's Gospel, this passage explains the historical setting for the beginning of Jesus's ministry while also highlighting some of the themes initially introduced in the Prologue.
- This passage introduces the first disciples who follow Jesus (as recorded by John's Gospel).
- Every disciple in this passage (except for Philip) follows Jesus because of someone else's testimony about who Jesus is.
- Four different individuals attest to Jesus's identity as the Messiah which is further demonstrated by Jesus's description of Himself (1:51).

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- The events in this passage take place throughout five days, as evidenced by John's repeated use of "the next day."

### Who is the Messiah? How is Jesus shown to be the Messiah?

#### John the Baptist and Jesus's first disciples testify to Jesus's identity as the promised Messiah.

##### Explanation

#### John testifies about the Messiah (1:19–34)

##### John testifies before the religious leaders (1:19–28)

"... the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?'" (v. 19)

"He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, 'I am not the Christ.'" (v. 20)

Christ (Greek), or Messiah (Hebrew) literally means "Anointed One," and refers to the prophesied Anointed One throughout the Old Testament (cf. Psa. 2:2; Isa. 11:1–2; 42:1; 61:1, etc.)

"What then? Are you Elijah? ... Are you the Prophet?" (v. 21)

##### John the Baptist said... (v. 23)

ESV **Isa. 40:3** A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
<sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. <sup>5</sup> And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

"Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" (v. 25)

John answered:

"I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even **he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.**" (vv. 26–27)

#### John testifies that Jesus is the Messiah 1:29–34

"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (v. 29)

What does this mean?

It appears John uses this phrase as a general allusion to Old Testament sacrifices, which foreshadowed the perfect sacrifice of Christ. Like his statement from 1:15, John the Baptist appears to speak better than he knew (cf. John 11:49–52).

"After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me."

"I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel." (v. 31)

"I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him... I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God." (vv. 32–34)

#### John's testimony starts a chain reaction of leading others to follow Jesus

John's testimony leads two of his disciples to follow Jesus, (1:35–40)

"The next day again...'Behold, the Lamb of God!'" (v. 36)

Jesus said:

"What are you seeking? ... Come and you will see." (vv. 38–39)