



# Line of Witnesses

Malachi 3:1-4    2 Corinthians 5:17-21    John 1:6-8, 15, 19-34  
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Some of you have probably **sat on a jury** before, and the rest of us have seen enough 'law and order' type shows that we have a good understanding of what it means. In a trial, a line of witnesses come forward to testify that something is true. The jury listens to the evidence and makes a decision.

## IN A WAY, the Bible does that with Jesus.

It likes like you are on the jury, and the Bible is presenting a long line of witnesses to prove to you that Jesus is the Christ, the long-awaited Messiah of the Old Testament times. Throughout the Old Testament times, *4,000 years of history*, God kept the promise alive that He would send a Savior who would crush Satan's head and bless the entire world. That Savior, that Messiah, is Jesus! The New Testament word for *Messiah* is the word "*Christ*"<sup>1</sup>.

The Bible presents a long line of witnesses to show you and to testify to you that Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ. Today, think of yourself in a jury box, and let's take a look at some of the witnesses that prove that Jesus is the Messiah, the Savior sent by God!

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<sup>1</sup> "Messiah" is an Old Testament Hebrew word that means "anointed." (The New Testament Greek word for "Messiah/anointed" is "Christ.") This word is used to describe the One God promised to send and "anoint" with the Holy Spirit to be the Savior of the world. You could say that the word "Messiah" means the "Office and Work of the Savior." Jesus is this Messiah, the Christ who saves us from our sins! The entire Old Testament was anticipating His arrival on earth in fulfillment of God's Promises. Advent is a time when we rehearse this fascinating story and remember the great promises.

The first witness is **John the Baptist**. In fact he was sent by God specifically to be **the official witness** of the Messiah; John is the promised **forerunner** of the Messiah. John the Baptist is like a **herald** that's blowing a trumpet and pointing to Jesus and saying, "This is the Messiah, this is the long promised Savior of the Old Testament times."

"I will send my **messenger**, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to His temple; the Messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the Lord Almighty. Malachi 3:1 THIS IS ONE OF THE PROPHECIES OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

I myself did not know Him, but the One who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The Man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the One who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God." John 1:33-34

On behalf of all the Old Testament people, prophets, priests, and kings, John gets to point to Jesus and say, "**Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!**"

**Taking away the sin of the world** is the work of the Messiah, the Christ. God had promised to send the Savior who would take our sins away from us like a sacrificial lamb. Jesus took our sins upon Himself and carried them to the cross where He suffered and died. He shed His blood as the **once and for all sacrifice** for sin. Every single sacrifice of the Old Testament times was a foreshadow of the Messiah, it pointed the people forward to the Savior to come. Every single Old Testament sacrifice taught the people that God was going to send a Savior who would take their sin away. Jesus is that Savior, He is the Messiah, the Christ, or as John the Baptist testifies, "**the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!**"

John the Baptist still testifies today; you have heard his words. Today believe that Jesus is the one God sent for you, and that your sins have been **taken away** from you, they have been dealt with on the cross. You now have peace with God through the Lord Jesus Christ, the forgiveness of your sins, and the gift of eternal life.

Not only did God send **John the Baptist** as the “*official witness*” so that you know that Jesus is the Christ, the promised Son of God and Savior of the world, but **God the Father also testifies!** At Jesus’ Baptism<sup>2</sup>, God the Father publicly speaks to the world and testifies “*This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased.*” God the Father rarely speaks in Scripture, but when He does, He is testifying to you that Jesus is His Son, the Messiah, the long awaited Savior.

One of the ways that the *Resurrection of Jesus Christ* is taught to us is that God the Father raised His Son from the dead in order to testify to you that Jesus is the Savior!

This Man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put Him to death by nailing Him to the cross. But God raised Him from the dead, freeing Him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on Him. Acts 2:23-24

**God the Father bears witness** in word and actions that Jesus is the Christ! Today believe the testimony, and understand what it means! It mean that you have a Savior who has done all the work of salvation for you! God sent the Messiah, His only begotten Son, to live, suffer, and die for you! You are really forgiven; you really do have peace with God, and you certainly will survive death and escape the final judgment!

If **God the Father’s** testimony was not enough, nor **John the Baptist’s**, the official witness God sent; there is even more! **God the Holy Spirit** is also a witness that Jesus is the Christ, the Savior of the world!

Jesus said, “When the Comforter comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—He will testify about Me. John 16:26

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<sup>2</sup> The Baptism of Jesus is a visual of what the word “Messiah” means. Jesus is ‘anointed’ with the Holy Spirit, like prophets, priests, and kings in the Old Testament times, but even greater because He is the Son of God and the Savior of the world! In His Baptism, the Holy Spirit comes down on Jesus in the form of a dove and lands on him, signaling that He will stay with Jesus in His work of saving the world. “Messiah/Christ” is the office of the Savior, the one ‘anointed’ with the Holy Spirit.

**The Holy Spirit**, the third person of the Holy Trinity, bears witness that Jesus is the Christ, the promised Savior of the world! The Holy Spirit's testimony is what we would normally call the *New Testament*. He inspired, guided, and directed the Apostles to write the truth of God's Holy Word down. And its center and core, the most important thing in the New Testament is that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, the Savior of the world; and that by believing in His Name you will have eternal life!

Today believe the testimony of the **Holy Spirit** as He works through the Holy Scriptures! God has not left you to die in your sins; He sent His Son, the promised Messiah of the Old Testament, to rescue you and give you life! You have spiritual life; you are alive to God each and every day through faith! You have eternal life; at the moment of death you will be with Christ in heaven! And you have the hope of resurrection life; the confident assurance that your body will rise from the dead and be glorified on the Last Day.

A *biblical principle* is that *two or three witnesses establish the truth*. God has given you **two and three witnesses** to establish the truth that Jesus is the Christ, the promised Savior of the world. But God doesn't stop there! If we had more time, we could look at the Old Testament Prophets, Patriarchs, and Kings; we could see all the prophecies fulfilled in Jesus; we could listen to Jesus' own words; we could review His miracles; we could hear the song of the Angels; we could study the genealogy of Jesus; and we could learn from the many individual testimonies recorded in Scripture.

**The biblical evidence is overwhelming:  
Jesus is the Christ;  
the promised savior of the world!**

Advent is a time when we once again get to hear the testimony that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God! It's like you were sitting in a "jury box", and you have all these witnesses telling you the same thing: **Jesus is the Christ!** Today listen to the witnesses, and believe! Amen!

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**God the Father,**

**we thank you for your testimony that Jesus is the Christ, your very own Son.**

**We thank you for sending John the Baptist who officially bears witness to Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah.**

**We praise you for the New Testament, inspired by the Holy Spirit Himself, which reveals Jesus as our Lord and Savior.**

**Give us ears to hear and hearts that believe. During this Advent season, deepen our faith and conviction in Jesus, the Messiah, the long promised Savior of the Old Testament.**

**Amen!**

## Malachi 3:1-4

“I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the Lord Almighty. 2 But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. 3 He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, 4 and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years.

## **2 Corinthians 5:17-21**

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. 21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

## **John 1:6-8, 15, 19-34**

6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to witness concerning that Light, so that through Him all might believe. He himself was not the Light; he came only as a witness to the Light. . . . 15 John testified concerning Him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me Because before I was born, He already was.'" ...



19 Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. 20 He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah." 21 They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." 22 Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" 23 John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'" 24 Now the Pharisees who had been sent 25 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." 28 This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing. 29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! 30 This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' 31 I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel." 32 Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. 33 And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' 34 I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God."