

## Study Questions for John 1:19-34 • Behold, the Lamb of God

- The noun “witness” (1:7) or “testimony” occurs fourteen times in this gospel, and the verb “to witness” or “to testify” occurs thirty-three times. In both cases, this is more often than in any other New Testament book. What does this repetition say about John’s focus in writing this account?
- How would you describe John the Baptist’s mission in your own words?
- At the time John the Baptist appeared, the Jews were fervently looking for the Messiah. People had widely different ideas of what the Messiah might be like. Most Jews expected His appearance would herald the last days and that He would be a military leader to regain political control of Palestine. How does John the Baptist characterize the work of Messiah?
- It’s apparent that the Jews believed that Elijah would return just before the Messiah according to the prophecy of **Malachi 4:5–6**. Read the passage from Malachi and then read **Luke 1:16–17**. Comparing the two passages, how did John the Baptist’s ministry align with what God said Elijah would come back to do?
- Pastor Paul shared that the prophecy of Malachi is one where the Law of Double Reference occurs. How does the Law of Double Reference apply to that passage?
- What elements of **Malachi 4:5–6** lead us to believe that there is yet a future fulfillment to the return of Elijah?
- At the end of **verse 21** the religious leaders asked John the Baptist if he was “the prophet.” Where did the Jews get the idea that a prophet would appear on the scene?
- Read **John 1:27**. How would someone make this same point in today’s language?
- In **verse 29** John referred to Jesus as “...**the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.**” Compare that to our Lord’s own statement in **Matthew 20:28** and use both passages to make a statement about the reason God sent His Son to become a man.
- Why is it important to you personally that Jesus is the Lamb of God?
- John expressed to the religious leaders that his baptism in water was of lesser importance than the work of Messiah who would baptize with the Holy Spirit. Why is the baptism of Jesus of greater importance?