

Time Audit Chronicles: Jesus' Authority and Witnesses

(John 5:19-47)

Prologue: The Authority of the Son

The Presswood family sat together, the soft glow of the living room lamp casting a warm light over them, as they reflected on John 5:19-47, where Jesus teaches about His authority and the witnesses that testify to His identity as the Son of God. The gentle ticking of the clock added to the peaceful atmosphere, and Ariel's eyes were filled with curiosity as she listened. Ariel had been reflecting deeply on how Jesus' authority comes directly from the Father. She pondered the significance of each witness Jesus mentioned—John the Baptist, His works, the Father, and the Scriptures—and how they all pointed to His true identity. She felt a mix of awe and wonder at the realization of how everything connected. Alice, holding Mr. Fluffernutter tightly, imagined herself standing before a large crowd. "Listen, everyone! Jesus is truly amazing!" she whispered with excitement, her eyes wide with enthusiasm. She pictured herself as one of the witnesses, excitedly testifying to Jesus' greatness, and felt a surge of pride as she held Mr. Fluffernutter like a microphone.

"Daddy," Ariel asked, "Why does Jesus say that He can't do anything apart from the Father? Isn't He the Son of God? Doesn't He have the power to do whatever He wants?"

Ryan smiled, recognizing the importance of Ariel's question. He paused for a moment, his eyes reflecting his admiration for Jesus' teachings. "Great question, Ariel. Jesus was showing us something very profound here. As the Son of God, Jesus has divine authority, but He chose to live in perfect unity and obedience to the Father. Jesus is not acting independently of the Father—everything He does is in perfect harmony with God's will. Jesus and the Father are one, and He only does what He sees the Father doing. This shows the perfect relationship of love, submission, and unity between the Father and the Son."

Ariel thought about this for a moment. "So, even though Jesus is God, He's also showing us how to live in obedience and unity with the Father?"

"Yes," Ryan said. "Jesus is the ultimate example of how to live in perfect relationship with God. And not only does He have the authority to act, but He also points to witnesses that testify to His divinity—John the Baptist, His works, the Father, and the Scriptures themselves."

Ariel smiled, understanding more clearly now. "It's like Jesus isn't just saying He has power—He's showing us the proof through all these witnesses! Let's use the Time Audit Machine to go back and experience this moment where Jesus explains His relationship with the Father and the witnesses to His authority."

The Journey Begins: Jesus Teaches About His Authority (John 5:19-23)

The Time Audit Machine powered on, and with a flash, the family found themselves on the bustling streets of Jerusalem. The air was filled with the scent of spices and freshly baked bread, and the distant hum of merchants calling out their wares. The crowd gathered around Jesus, who stood confidently, His voice carrying over the noise as He spoke to the people. Jesus began by explaining to them, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what

things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.” (John 5:19). His eyes were calm yet piercing, and the people in the crowd leaned in, captivated by the profound connection Jesus described between Himself and the Father. He continued, "For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel." (John 5:20).

Ryan turned to Ariel and Alice as they walked alongside the scene. "Do you see the division in the crowd? Some people are drawn to Jesus' words, while others resist them because they challenge what they already believe."

Ariel's brow furrowed as she observed the crowd. "It must have been hard for them to accept something so new and different. But why couldn't they just see that He was telling the truth?"

"It's not always easy to believe," Ryan said gently. "Some people struggle with pride or fear of change. Others feel threatened because believing in Jesus means letting go of control and trusting Him completely."

Ariel thought about this. "It must take a lot of courage to stand up for Jesus when so many people doubt Him."

"It does," Ryan agreed. "But that courage comes from trusting in Him. When we know the truth, like the people who believed Jesus that day, we can stand firm, even when it's hard.""

Alice skipped a little ahead, clutching Mr. Fluffernutter. "So, Fluffy says if we follow God's plan, we can be like Jesus, too!"

Ryan chuckled, "In a way, yes. Living in alignment with God's will means listening to Him, loving Him, and obeying His Word in our daily lives. It means making choices that reflect His love and truth."

Ariel thought for a moment. "It's like when I choose to do the right thing, even when it's hard—like helping Alice with her toys instead of reading my book. It's not always what I want, but it feels right, like I'm doing what God wants."

"That's a great example," Ryan said. "Living in unity with God's will means putting love and obedience into action, just as Jesus did. His relationship with the Father shows us how we can trust and follow God in our own lives, even in the small decisions."

Ariel listened closely, trying to understand. "So, Jesus was saying that He only does what the Father shows Him to do?"

"Yes," Ryan said. "Jesus is teaching about the unity between the Father and the Son. Even though Jesus is fully God, He doesn't act on His own. He acts in perfect harmony with the Father's will. This shows us that everything Jesus does is divinely ordained and for the Father's glory."

Ariel looked at her father thoughtfully, her brow furrowed in concentration. "So, Jesus isn't saying He can't do things on His own—He's showing that He wants to be obedient to the Father in everything." She felt a sense of awe as she considered the depth of Jesus' obedience and the love that motivated it.

“That’s exactly right,” Ryan said. “Jesus’ authority isn’t something He’s using for Himself; He’s using it to reveal the Father and to do the Father’s will. And as the Son of God, He’s the perfect example of obedience and submission to God’s plan.”

Jesus Cites Witnesses to His Identity (John 5:24-40)

As Jesus continued speaking, He began to list the witnesses to His identity. Ariel noticed how each word seemed to carry weight, as if Jesus wanted to make sure no one missed the importance of what He was about to say. First, He said, “I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.” (John 5:30). Jesus was showing that His judgment and authority are grounded in the Father’s will, and He acts not for His own glory, but for the Father’s.

Ariel reflected on Jesus’ words. “So, Jesus doesn’t act for Himself. He’s always seeking to do the Father’s will. He doesn’t judge based on His own desires, but on what the Father wants.”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “Jesus always acts with a heart of obedience and humility, seeking the Father’s glory above all else. Now, He moves on to present the witnesses that testify to His identity as the Son of God.”

Jesus first mentioned John the Baptist, saying, “Ye sent unto John, and he bare witness unto the truth.” (John 5:33). John was a familiar figure to many, known for his powerful preaching and for boldly declaring Jesus as the Lamb of God. The crowd murmured in recognition, remembering John’s testimony. Jesus referred to John the Baptist as a witness who had testified about Jesus being the Lamb of God.

Ariel thought about this. “So, John the Baptist was one of the first witnesses to tell people about Jesus. He pointed others to Jesus and said that He was the Messiah.”

“That’s right,” Ryan said. “John’s testimony was a powerful witness to Jesus’ identity. But Jesus doesn’t stop there. He also points to His works—the miracles and signs He performed as evidence of His divine authority.”

Witnesses to Jesus’ Identity: His Works and the Father (John 5:36-38)

Jesus continued, “But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.” (John 5:36). The crowd began to murmur among themselves, their reactions ranging from awe to skepticism. Some leaned forward, eager to hear more, while others crossed their arms, their expressions a mix of doubt and resistance. Ariel noticed a young woman clutching a child, her face reflecting both hope and uncertainty, and an older man shaking his head, clearly unwilling to believe.. Ariel imagined some of those works—healing the blind, calming the storm, raising the dead. Each miracle was like a shining beacon, pointing directly to Jesus as the Son of God. Jesus was referring to His miracles—the signs and wonders that proved His divine mission and authority. The miracles He performed—healing the sick, raising the dead, and other acts of power—were all evidence that He was sent by God.

Ariel nodded, her eyes widening with realization. “So, Jesus’ works were proof of His authority. It wasn’t just words—He was showing everyone that He had the power to heal, raise the dead, and perform miracles, which proved He was truly sent by God.”

“That’s right,” Ryan said. “Jesus’ works didn’t just serve the people—they were also signs that pointed to the truth of who He was. His miracles were evidence that He was sent by the Father and was acting in perfect obedience to God’s will.”

Jesus also spoke of the Father as a witness, saying, “And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me.” Ariel remembered the stories she had read about the Father speaking during Jesus’ baptism and the transfiguration—clear moments when God’s voice declared Jesus as His beloved Son. “Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape.” (John 5:37). Jesus was telling the people that the Father had testified to Him through prophecies and His actions throughout history, but the people had not truly listened or understood the Father’s testimony.

Ariel listened closely. “So, the Father Himself testified about Jesus, through the prophecies in the Scriptures and His works in history.”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “The Father’s testimony is seen in the Old Testament prophecies that pointed to Jesus as the Messiah. The problem was that many people couldn’t recognize the Father’s testimony because they didn’t understand the Scriptures or the true nature of God’s will.”

The Scriptures Testify to Jesus’ Identity (John 5:39-47)

Jesus then turned to the Scriptures, saying, “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.” (John 5:39). Ariel’s heart skipped a beat as she realized that all the stories she had read—the prophecies, the Psalms, the accounts of Moses and the prophets—were all pointing to Jesus. Jesus emphasized that the Scriptures were not just a source of knowledge but a testimony to His identity as the Messiah. He continued, “And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.” (John 5:40), lamenting that the people were unwilling to accept the truth of the Scriptures and come to Him for salvation.

Ryan turned to Ariel and Alice. “Did you catch what Jesus is saying here? The Scriptures aren’t just ancient texts—they’re a map that points straight to Him. From Genesis to Malachi, every story, every prophecy, every psalm is part of the bigger picture of God’s plan to send Jesus.”, lamenting that the people were unwilling to accept the truth of the Scriptures and come to Him for salvation.

Ariel’s eyes widened. “So, Jesus was saying that the Scriptures themselves point to Him? Everything in the Bible—especially the Old Testament—was about Him? Like, all those prophecies and stories were preparing for Him?”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “Jesus was showing that the entire Bible, from beginning to end, is about Him. The prophecies about the Messiah, the sacrificial system, and the promises to Israel—all of it pointed forward to Jesus, and He was the fulfillment of those promises. But the people didn’t understand that because they were too focused on the letter of the law rather than the heart of the Scriptures.”

Ariel paused, reflecting on this. "So, when I read about the Passover lamb in Exodus, that was really pointing to Jesus? And all the prophecies about the Messiah—like being born in Bethlehem or riding on a donkey—those were fulfilled by Him?"

"Exactly," Ryan said, his face lighting up. "The Bible is one unified story, and Jesus is the central figure. The sacrificial lamb in the Old Testament foreshadowed His ultimate sacrifice on the cross. When you read the Scriptures, you're seeing God's promises fulfilled in Jesus.""

"That's exactly right," Ryan said. "The Scriptures testify to Jesus' identity as the Son of God, and He came to fulfill everything that was written about Him. But the Jewish leaders were so focused on their own traditions that they couldn't see the fulfillment of the prophecies right in front of them."

Reflection: Witnesses to Jesus' Identity

Back in the garage, the Time Audit Machine powered down, its hum slowly fading into silence. The room was dim compared to the brightness of the bustling streets of Jerusalem. The family sat in quiet reflection, each of them absorbing the weight of what they had just witnessed.

Ryan broke the silence, his voice calm but thoughtful. "Did you notice how Jesus rebuked the people for missing the true message of the Scriptures? He said, 'Search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life, and these are they which testify of Me.' Sometimes, it's possible to read the Bible and miss the heart of its message because we're focused on rules or knowledge rather than seeking Jesus."

Ariel tilted her head. "So, people were reading the Bible, but they didn't understand that it was all about Jesus?"

"Exactly," Ryan said. "The Jewish leaders were experts in the Scriptures, but they missed that every prophecy, every symbol, and every story pointed to Jesus. It's a reminder to us that when we read the Bible, we should be asking, 'How does this point me to Jesus?'"

Ariel paused, reflecting on this. "Sometimes, I just read the stories because they're interesting, but I guess I don't always think about how they're connected to Jesus. Maybe I need to start looking for Him more when I read."

Ryan nodded, his smile encouraging. "Exactly. The Bible is one grand story, with Jesus at the center. The prophecies about the Messiah, the sacrificial lamb in Exodus, and even the promises to Abraham all find their fulfillment in Him. When you read the Scriptures, it's like uncovering layer after layer of God's plan."

Ariel's face lit up. "So, when I read about David defeating Goliath, it's not just about courage—it's showing how God uses a Savior to defeat what we can't?"

"That's a wonderful connection," Ryan said, beaming. "Jesus is the ultimate Savior who defeats sin and death. Each story in the Bible whispers His name."

Alice clutched Mr. Fluffernutter and proclaimed, "Fluffy says every Bible story is like a treasure chest, and inside is something about Jesus!"

Ryan laughed warmly. "That's a perfect way to see it, Alice. And when we uncover those treasures, they help us understand God's love and His incredible plan for us.""

Alice, clutching Mr. Fluffernutter, chimed in with excitement. "Fluffy says the Bible is a big treasure hunt, and Jesus is the treasure!"

Ryan laughed warmly. "That's a perfect way to think about it, Alice. And the amazing thing is, when we trust Jesus, we get to be part of His story."

Ryan leaned forward, his tone thoughtful. "You know, believers today are also called to be witnesses to Jesus' identity. The way we live, the choices we make, and the love we show can all reflect who He is. How do you think we can live out our faith as witnesses?"

Ariel furrowed her brow, deep in thought. "Maybe by being kind to my friends, even when it's really hard. If they see me doing the right thing, they might wonder why and ask about Jesus."

Ryan nodded. "That's a wonderful example, Ariel. When we stand up for what's right, even when it's tough, we're pointing people to Jesus."

Alice clutched Mr. Fluffernutter, holding him up like a microphone. "Fluffy says we can tell stories about Jesus! Like, 'Once upon a time, there was a man who calmed storms and helped everyone!' Then we can say, 'That's Jesus!'"

Ryan chuckled. "Your storytelling is a perfect way to share, Alice. And it shows that Jesus' love is for everyone, no matter who they are."

He turned back to Ariel. "What about sharing something specific from the Bible that has inspired you? Maybe a story or a verse that means a lot to you."

Ariel's face lit up. "I love the story of the Good Samaritan. It reminds me how Jesus taught us to love and help everyone, even people who are different from us."

Ryan smiled proudly. "That's perfect. And we can also reflect Jesus in small acts of kindness—helping someone carry their groceries, writing a kind note to someone who's sad, or just being a good listener. Every little thing we do with love and sincerity points to Jesus and shows the world who He is." And just like the witnesses Jesus mentioned, our lives can point others to Him."""

"Yes," Ryan said, "Jesus didn't expect people to believe blindly. He provided evidence—witnesses who

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Interactive Reflections

1. Jesus pointed to witnesses like John the Baptist, His miracles, the Father, and the Scriptures. Which of these witnesses strengthens your faith the most? Why?
 2. How can you look for ways that God's work is still visible in your life today?
 3. What do you think it means to have perfect unity with God's will, like Jesus demonstrated?
 4. The Scriptures point to Jesus throughout the Bible. What is your favorite story or prophecy about Jesus in the Old Testament?
 5. How can you be a witness to Jesus' truth in your own life, just like John the Baptist or the Scriptures?
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Songs or Poetry

Children's Song: "The Witnesses Sing"

*"John the Baptist cried aloud,
'Prepare the way, make Jesus proud!'
Miracles came, His power shone bright,
God declared, 'This is My Light!'*

Chorus:

*The witnesses sing, they point to the King,
In Scripture and works, His truth takes wing.
Believe in the Son, the Savior is He,
The Son of God, who sets us free!"*

Mr. Fluffernutter's Perspective

"Hi there, friends! It's me, Mr. Fluffernutter, and oh boy, do I have something exciting to share! Did you know that there were lots of witnesses who told everyone about Jesus? It wasn't just one or two people—it was like having a whole team cheering for Him!

John the Baptist shouted, 'Get ready for Jesus!' Then, Jesus did these amazing miracles, like healing people and feeding crowds. And don't even get me started on the Scriptures—they're like a treasure map that points right to Him.

But my favorite part? God Himself said, 'This is my beloved Son!' If that's not the ultimate mic drop, I don't know what is! What would you tell others about Jesus? Share your thoughts with me—I'll hop right over to listen!"

Ariel's Journal Reflection

"Today, I learned about how Jesus explained His authority and how many witnesses testified about Him. It was like putting together a puzzle and seeing the full picture of who Jesus is!

I think about John the Baptist—how bold he must have been to point people to Jesus, even when it was hard. Then there are all the miracles Jesus did, proving He was sent by God. But what really amazed me was how the Scriptures were pointing to Him all along. It's like the Bible is one big story, and Jesus is the main character!

I want to be a witness like John the Baptist, telling others about Jesus and how He changes lives. Sometimes I feel nervous about sharing my faith, but I know the truth is worth sharing. Just like the witnesses in Jesus' time, I can help others see who He is through my words and actions."

Alice's Reflection with Mr. Fluffernutter

Alice sat cross-legged on the floor, holding Mr. Fluffernutter like a microphone. "Okay, Fluffy, if you were a witness to Jesus, what would you say?" She giggled as she imagined his answer.

"Maybe you'd say, 'Jesus is the best bunny friend ever!' Or maybe you'd hop around, showing people how great He is by sharing His love!" Alice paused, her brow furrowing. "I think I'd want to tell people about His miracles. Like how He healed people and made sure everyone had enough to eat. That would make them believe, right?"

She hugged Mr. Fluffernutter tightly. "Fluffy, let's practice being witnesses! Tomorrow, we'll tell Ariel and Daddy how much Jesus loves them. And maybe we can remind Mommy too, even when she's busy. Do you think they'll believe us? I know I do!"

KJV Scripture

- **John 5:19:** *"Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise."*
- **John 5:36:** *"But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me."*
- **John 5:39:** *"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me."*