John the Baptist was sent as a forerunner to Jesus. What is a forerunner? A forerunner is one that comes before; one that indicates the approach of others. Since John the Baptist is a forerunner to Jesus he was sent to tell others of the soon coming of Jesus in His earthly ministry. John the Baptist was to bear witness to Jesus as the Messiah and Son of God.

Using the courtroom language of the Old Testament John uses the words “witness” or “to testify” where the truth of a matter was to be established on the basis of many witnesses. John was not the only witness of Jesus as the Messiah and Son of God because there were other witnesses as well.

Let’s take a look at them –

1. The Witness of the Samaritan woman communicated her belief that Jesus was the Christ, the Messiah – John 4:29 – “Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done” - She saw Jesus as a Jew (v. 9) - a prophet (v. 19) – the Messiah (v. 29)

2. The Witness of the works of Jesus confirms Him as the Christ – John 10:25 – Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father’s name, these testify of Me.”

3. The Witness of God The Father confirms Him as the Son – John 5:37 – “And the Father who sent Me, He has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time nor seen His form.”
   Matthew 3:17 – “And behold, a voice out of the heavens said, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.”

4. The Witness of the Scriptures confirms Jesus is the way to eternal life – John 5:39 – “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal; it is these that testify about Me;”

5. The Witness of the crowd confirms Jesus in their continuing to testify about Him – John 12:17 – “So the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead, continued to testify about Him.”

6. The Witness of The Holy Spirit confirms Jesus as He testifies about Him – John 15:26 – “When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me.”

7. The Witness of you and me – John 15:16 – “You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain,”

The fruit bearing in the New Testament is described as praise, righteous conduct,
character, and conversation, godly attitudes, and especially sharing the gospel with others leading them to trust Christ as the Messiah and Son of God.