

Directory of Public Confessions that Jesus Is the Christ (Messiah)

Expanded preliminary edition | 18 October 2026 | 21 entries

This expanding historical research project includes only explicit public declarations identifying Jesus as the Christ or Messiah. It preserves the previous seven entries and adds fourteen individually checked declarations. Five entries are biblical attestations; sixteen are later written or public declarations. This is an internet research sample, not a comprehensive worldwide directory or a census of believers.

Biblical attestations

1. Simon Peter

Biblical | Explicit Messiah confession

Matthew 16:16

The biblical narrative records Peter directly identifying Jesus as the Messiah. Scriptural attestation, not an independent recording.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2016%3A16&version=NIV>

2. Martha of Bethany

Biblical | Explicit Messiah confession

John 11:27

The biblical narrative records Martha affirming her belief in Jesus as the Messiah. Scriptural attestation.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/verse/en/John%2011%3A27>

3. Andrew the Apostle

Biblical | Explicit Messiah identification

John 1:41

Andrew identifies Jesus to Simon as the Messiah; the passage explains the title as Christ. Scriptural attestation.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%201%3A41&version=NIV>

4. Paul the Apostle

Biblical | Explicit proclamation of Jesus as Christ

Acts 17:3

Acts reports Paul publicly proclaiming the Jesus he preaches as the Christ. Scriptural attestation.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts%2017%3A3&version=NIV>

5. Apollos

Biblical | Explicit public proclamation of Jesus as Christ

Acts 18:24-28, especially 18:28

Acts reports Apollos publicly demonstrating from scripture the identity of Jesus as Christ. Scriptural attestation.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts%2018%3A24-28&version=KJV>

Historical writings and public addresses

6. Justin Martyr

Early Christian writing | Explicit written confession: Jesus is the Christ of God

Dialogue with Trypho, chapter 142

Justin closes his literary dialogue by inviting his listeners to share his conviction identifying Jesus as the Christ of God. English translation, not a recorded conversation.

<https://www.newadvent.org/fathers/01289.htm>

7. Benedict XVI (Joseph Ratzinger)

Public address, 24 August 2008 | Explicit public profession that Jesus is the Christ

Angelus, 24 August 2008, English greeting

Benedict includes himself in an explicit collective profession of Jesus as Christ. Official Holy See public-address transcript.

https://www.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/angelus/2008/documents/hf_ben-xvi_ang_20080824.html

8. Francis (Jorge Mario Bergoglio)

Public address, 29 June 2022 | Explicit public profession of Jesus as Messiah

Angelus, 29 June 2022, Before the Angelus, paragraph beginning 'For the fisherman Simon'

Francis includes himself in a collective affirmation identifying Jesus as the Messiah; the evidence is his own statement, beyond his quotation of Peter.

<https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2022/06/29/220629e.html>

9. Irenaeus of Lyons

Early Christian writing | Explicit written identification of Jesus as Christ

Against Heresies III.16.2, interpretation following Matthew's birth account

Irenaeus affirms that the Jesus born of Mary and the Christ are one and the same, opposing their separation. English translation of his theological work.

<https://www.newadvent.org/fathers/0103316.htm>

10. Tertullian

Early Christian writing | Explicit written identification of Jesus as Christ

Against Praxeas, chapter 28, discussion of the title 'Christ'

Tertullian explicitly identifies the anointed Jesus with the Christ in his own argument. English translation; this is a written theological affirmation.

<https://www.newadvent.org/fathers/0317.htm>

Public addresses and named statements

11. Ezra Taft Benson

Public address, October 1988 | Explicit public affirmation that Jesus is the Christ

I Testify, paragraph on the Book of Mormon as tangible evidence

In his own testimony Benson affirms that God provided evidence identifying Jesus as the Christ. Official conference transcript.

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/1988/10/i-testify?lang=eng>

12. Neil L. Andersen

Public address, October 2014 | Explicit public confession that Jesus is the Christ

Joseph Smith, concluding testimony beginning 'I give you my witness'

Andersen gives his own witness identifying Jesus as the Christ. The person indexed is the speaker, not Joseph Smith named in the talk's title.

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2014/10/joseph-smith?lang=eng>

13. Russell M. Nelson

Public statement, 12 March 2019 | Explicit public profession that Jesus is the Christ

Modern Apostles Bear Witness of Jesus Christ, Russell M. Nelson section

Nelson includes himself among the apostles affirming the identity of Jesus as Messiah. Personal statement republished on the Church's official Canada website.

<https://ca.churchofjesuschrist.org/modern-apostles-bear-witness-of-jesus-christ>

14. Jeffrey R. Holland

Public statement, 12 March 2019 | Explicit public confession that Jesus is the Christ

Modern Apostles Bear Witness of Jesus Christ, Jeffrey R. Holland section

Holland personally testifies to Jesus's messianic identity. His named statement appears in an official institutional republication.

<https://ca.churchofjesuschrist.org/modern-apostles-bear-witness-of-jesus-christ>

15. David A. Bednar

Public statement, 12 March 2019 | Explicit public confession that Jesus is the Christ

Modern Apostles Bear Witness of Jesus Christ, David A. Bednar section

Bednar declares an apostolic witness identifying Jesus as Messiah. His own named statement is republished on the official Church website.

<https://ca.churchofjesuschrist.org/modern-apostles-bear-witness-of-jesus-christ>

16. D. Todd Christofferson

Public statement, 12 March 2019 | Explicit public confession of Jesus as Messiah and Christ

Modern Apostles Bear Witness of Jesus Christ, D. Todd Christofferson section

Christofferson expressly identifies Jesus of Nazareth as the Messiah foretold in prophecy. The named first-person statement is institutionally republished.

<https://ca.churchofjesuschrist.org/modern-apostles-bear-witness-of-jesus-christ>

Further addresses and personal testimonies

17. Ulisses Soares

Public address, April 2021 | Explicit public confession that Jesus is the Christ and Messiah

Jesus Christ: The Caregiver of Our Soul, final paragraph before Notes

Soares's closing personal testimony expressly identifies Jesus as both Christ and promised Messiah. Official conference transcript.

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2021/04/41soares?lang=eng>

18. Thierry K. Mutombo

Public address, April 2026 | Explicit public confession that Jesus is the Christ

The Joy of a Covenant Relationship with God, concluding testimony before 'Christ is risen'

Mutombo personally testifies to Jesus's messianic identity in the concluding paragraph. Official conference transcript.

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2026/04/47mutombo?lang=eng>

19. John S. Lewis

Published personal testimony, October 2011 | Explicit written confession that Jesus is the Christ

John S. Lewis, final testimony paragraph before the video link

Lewis explicitly gives his own testimony identifying Jesus as the Christ. Signed personal essay hosted by FAIR; not an endorsement by his universities.

<https://www.fairlatterdaysaints.org/testimonies/scholars/john-s-lewis>

20. Dinah Sered

Published personal testimony, 27 May 2021 | Explicit personal identification of Jesus as Messiah

The Sereds' Story, Dinah's Story, 'My Unique Story'

In her own section of the coauthored testimony, Dinah identifies Jesus as her Messiah. This is a public personal account.

<https://jewsforjesus.org/our-stories/the-sereds-story>

21. Dan Sered

Published personal testimony, 27 May 2021 | Explicit personal confession of Jesus as Messiah

The Sereds' Story, Dan's Story, 'Dinah Showed Me Yeshua in the Old Testament'

Dan recounts his own conclusion that Jesus was the Messiah and his ensuing personal acceptance. Coauthored public testimony, not independent verification of the narrated events.

<https://jewsforjesus.org/our-stories/the-sereds-story>

Methodology and limitations

Expanded preliminary edition | Sources checked 18 October 2026

Only explicit identification of Jesus as Christ or Messiah qualifies. General Christian affiliation, another title alone, anonymous accounts, and merely quoting another person without adopting the confession are excluded.

Distinguish biblical narratives, translated historical writings, official public-address transcripts, institutionally republished named statements, and signed personal accounts. Biblical texts are scriptural attestations, not independent modern recordings. Historical translations and autobiographical accounts are identified as such.

Sources were individually checked on 18 October 2026. Names, dates, source locations and contextual summaries support review. Inclusion documents a public declaration at its cited date, not current private beliefs or independent confirmation of every narrative detail.

Accessible official English texts are overrepresented. Coverage is uneven across periods, traditions, languages and regions; no representative global coverage is claimed. Existing historical status labels are retained in Excel; Not assessed on new records does not assert current living/deceased status.