

UNRAVELLING THE BOOK OF REVELATION | SESSION 40

PREPARATION FOR THE

END-TIME PROPHETIC MESSENGERS



IHOP - ONE THING MINISTRIES



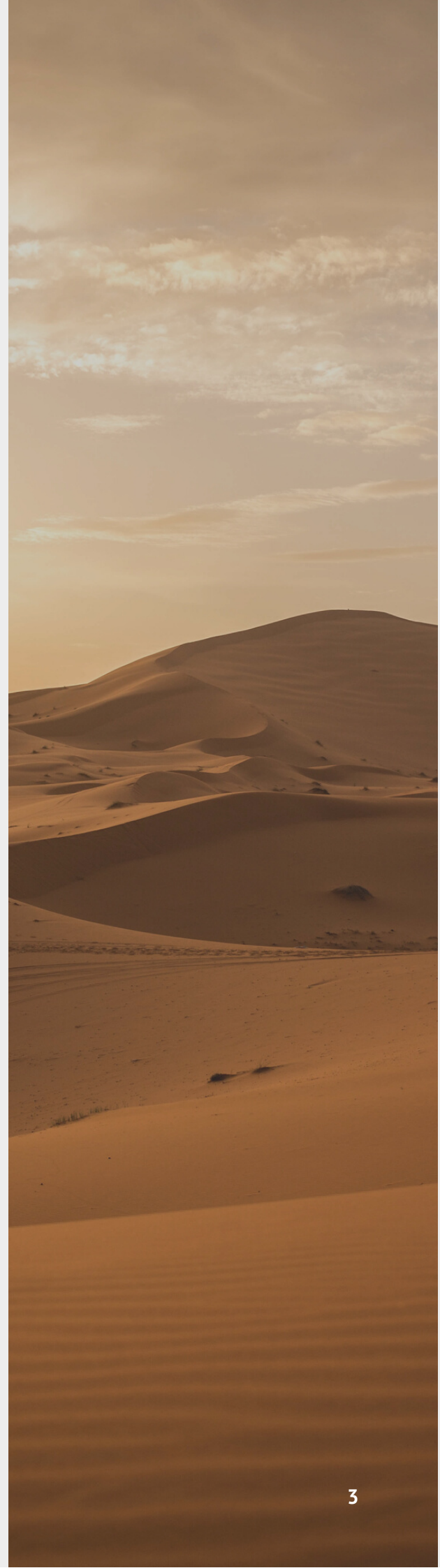
Revelation 10 tells us that God is raising up the seven-thunder prophetic messengers at the End of the Age. **The invitation is given to all in the Body of Christ, but a process of preparation is required.**

***How do we grow to become the
End-Time prophetic messengers?***

There are two key Biblical characters whom we can learn from — **John the Baptist** and **John the Apostle**. Both these men have a real, deep and authentic relationship with the Lord. How they lived their lives, how they carried their hearts and how they pressed in to become the prophetic messengers are so relevant to those of us seeking to be the kind of people God is looking for.

John the Baptist is a prototype of the End-Time forerunners. John 5:35 tells us that he is the burning and shining lamp. He is the burning lamp because his heart is vibrant and he is intense in loving the Lord. He is the shining lamp because he is a powerful voice.

Luke 1:15-17 gives us an important insight into his life, his call and how he carries his heart:



1 JESUS DESCRIBED HIM AS BEING GREAT IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD (LK. 1:15)

THIS TELLS US SOMETHING ABOUT JOHN THE BAPTIST:

A. God esteems him highly

John the Baptist is the prototype of the Friends of the Bridegroom who value intimacy with Jesus and who are consumed about what is on the heart of God. He was not concerned about his reputation, about having followers, about being popular or having a platform. But his delight was simply to hear the voice of the Bridegroom (Jn. 3:29) and to be faithful to speak forth Jesus' heart without holding back, even if it cost him!

B. The desire of John the Baptist is to be great in the sight of God

We have to set our hearts to be great in the sight of God. If we desire to be great in the sight of men, we will always fear men or seek to please them. If we fear men, we will never be the true voices of God because we are likely to say what men wants to hear. And very often, the message of God is not popular.

2

JOHN THE BAPTIST DRANK NEITHER WINE NOR STRONG DRINK (LK. 1:15)

John the Baptist lived a fasted lifestyle. He did not indulge in the pleasures of the world, but he hungered after knowing God.

Fasting tenderises our heart and enlarges our capacity to receive more of God. If our hearts are intoxicated with pleasures, we will be dull and have no desire for the things of God. Hence, cultivating a fasted lifestyle is a crucial and integral part of the lifestyle of a forerunner.

3

JOHN WAS FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, EVEN FROM THE MOTHER'S WOMB (LK. 1:15)

THIS TELLS US THAT JOHN IS FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT AND HE WALKS WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.

4

**HE WILL TURN MANY...
TO THE LORD THEIR GOD (LK. 1:16)**

JOHN'S MESSAGE IS TO CALL THE PEOPLE OF GOD
TO RETURN TO HIM IN WHOLEHEARTEDNESS.

5

**HE WILL ALSO GO BEFORE HIM IN THE
SPIRIT AND POWER OF ELIJAH (LK. 1:17)**

THESE PROPHETIC MESSENGERS WILL PREACH THE MESSAGE,
OPERATING IN GREAT POWER AND AUTHORITY,
WITH ACCOMPANYING SIGNS AND WONDERS
THAT AUTHENTICATE GOD'S WORD.

6

**TO MAKE READY A PEOPLE PREPARED
FOR THE LORD (LK. 1:17)**

THEIR MINISTRY IS TO MAKE THE PEOPLE OF GOD
READY AS THE BRIDE FOR JESUS' COMING.

Isaiah 40 gives us an important insight into the preparation of the End-Time forerunners. This passage was only partially fulfilled in the life of John the Baptist. The complete fulfilment involving the global dimension of all flesh seeing God's glory only occurs at the End of the Age.

Verses 1 to 5 talk about the role and function of a forerunner. Verses 6 to 26 talk about the message of a forerunner. Verses 27 to 31 talk about the preparation process of a forerunner, and the key is waiting upon the Lord (Isa. 40:31).





John spent years of his life in preparation in the wilderness. He was preparing himself and waiting for the word of the Lord. Waiting is not a passive thing. It is an active pressing in into the heart of God, fasting, praying, and studying and meditating on the Word of God.

There are two aspects of "waiting", that is seen in the life of John the Baptist:



1

WE STRENGTHEN OUR SPIRIT AND WE STRENGTHEN OUR INNER MAN

What do we do at the place of waiting? We press in and strengthen our inner man. We pray, press in, eat the little book and meditate on the Word of God.

This is an intentional process – both Jesus and John the Baptist did it – they grew to become strong in the spirit (Lk. 1:80; 2:40). If Jesus the Son of God has to grow and strengthen His inner man, what more us weak and broken human beings.

2

WE RECEIVE REVELATION OF GOD AT THE PLACE OF WAITING

Wilderness is the place of waiting. It is the place where we receive the word of the Lord. Most of us are always on the run. If we are on the run, we will never receive high-level revelation from the Lord. We have to learn to wait.

Luke 3:1-2 is such a divine paradox. The word of God did not come to the prominent political and religious leaders of that time. Instead, it came to a nameless, faceless soul who was burning for God and waiting for Him in the wilderness!





What about John the Apostle? What can we learn from him with regard to being a prophetic messenger? Early in his life, Jesus prophetically named him the Son of Thunder (Mk. 3:17). He eventually matured to become the prototype of the seven-thunder prophetic messengers.

How did John prepare himself to become the messenger?

John 21:20 gives us two powerful insights into his life. It shows us:

1 HOW JOHN DEFINED HIMSELF

John is someone who knows how to carry his heart well. He never defined himself by his achievements. He did not call himself the great revivalist, the great apostle or the great teacher who wrote five books of Bible. He did not even mention his name once in the gospel of John. But he calls himself “the disciple whom Jesus loved”!

Wow! John defined himself by his relationship with Jesus! It reveals his identity, his priority and the pursuit of his heart. This is how he carries his heart. This is how he lives. This is how we can overcome the End-Time pressures and persecutions.

2

HOW JOHN PREPARED HIMSELF TO BE A SEVEN-THUNDER PROPHETIC MESSENGER

A. John cultivated and developed confidence in the love of God


John saw himself as the one whom Jesus loves. That is his confidence. We need to know who we are in Christ and we need to know that God loves us deeply. Not just in our minds but in our hearts!

B. John set his heart to hear from God's heart

John saw himself as one who leans on Jesus' heart. That was the focus and pursuit of his whole life. He desired intimacy with Jesus and he was hungry to receive revelation from Jesus. That is why he leaned on Jesus' bosom, which is a posture of intimacy. And he did that for 70 years!

C. John prayed and leaned in to the Heart of Jesus

John leaned in, prayed and asked for the secret of Jesus' heart. After 70 years of leaning in to the heart of Jesus, the Lord came personally to reveal His End-Time plans to him through the Book of Revelation.



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book, leaning and pressing in until
the word of the Lord comes!

**For when the moment comes
for us to speak, will we
be found ready?**



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