

UNRAVELLING THE BOOK OF REVELATION | SESSION 47 (PART 2)

THE MATURE BRIDE OF CHRIST

THE ULTIMATE DESTINY
OF THE CHURCH, PART 2

REVELATION 19:1-10



IHOP - ONE THING MINISTRIES



*Then a voice came from the throne, saying,
“Praise our God, all you His servants and those
who fear Him, both small and great!”
(Rev. 19:5)*

The unique day that is spoken of from the foundation of the world, is finally here! **The greatest and most important event in all redemptive history, the marriage of the Lamb, is about to happen!** The Holy Spirit is calling for everyone to cease all that they are doing, celebrate and praise the Father because finally, Jesus will have His mature Bride!



This is the ultimate purpose of God, and our ultimate goal is to prepare for this day! We need to have a heart connect with this truth that is so important to the heart of the Father!

Revelation 19:1-10 gives us a powerful prophetic picture of the Bride of Christ finally becoming mature here on earth. In the previous session, we have talked about her first response of complete and full agreement with the judgments of God through verses 1 to 4. Today, we will talk about the second and third response of the mature Bride.

In verse 6, John describes the voice of the Bride as like **the sound of many waters and mighty thunderings**. The voice of Jesus has been described as the sound of many waters in Revelation 1:15, and the voice of the Father like mighty thunderings in Revelation 4:5. In other words, the mature Bride has arrived at the place where **she sounds exactly like the Father and like Jesus!**

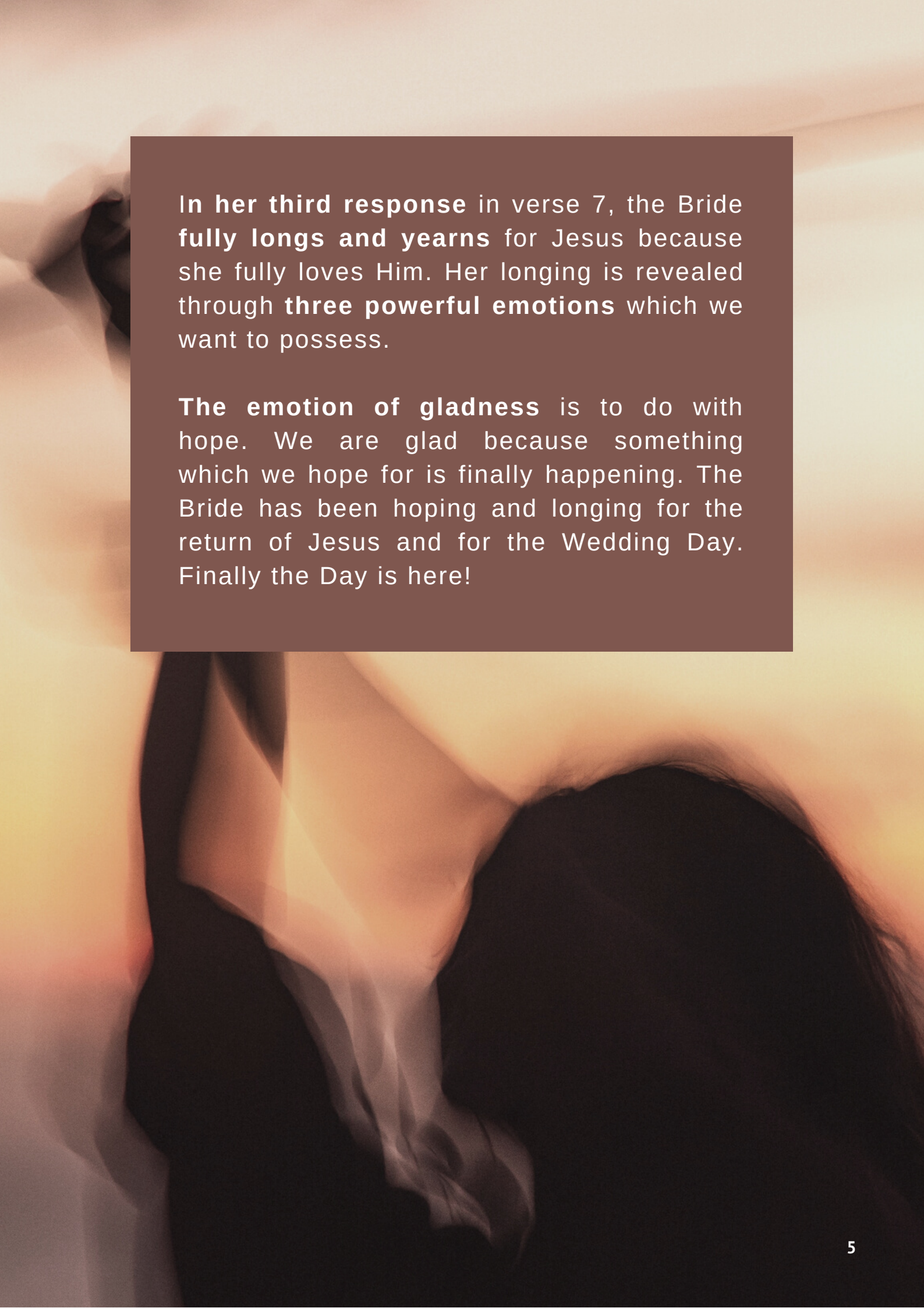
This is a powerful picture of the Bride that has become **fully mature and is in oneness with God**. She is in perfect unity with God and is totally conformed to be like Christ. When our hearts have come to a point of full agreement with the Lord, He can entrust His authority to us, and give us power to execute His judgments.

The Bride's second response and declaration is "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!"

She fully surrenders and fully yields to the leadership and kingship of Jesus, because she fully trusts in Him. She has full confidence in Him because she knows that every plan that He has for her is good.

The issue of trust is vital. If we want to become the mature Bride, then we need to cultivate our trust in our Bridegroom King until we become ones who trust Him relentlessly.





In her third response in verse 7, the Bride **fully longs and yearns** for Jesus because she fully loves Him. Her longing is revealed through **three powerful emotions** which we want to possess.

The emotion of gladness is to do with hope. We are glad because something which we hope for is finally happening. The Bride has been hoping and longing for the return of Jesus and for the Wedding Day. Finally the Day is here!

The **emotion of rejoicing** has to do with the realisation that all the sacrifices we have put in, all our suffering and endurance have been worth it. This will happen on the Wedding Day when we finally see Jesus face to face. Jesus remembers our sacrifices and He will reward us generously (Heb. 6:10). In that Day when we behold with our own eyes the full measure of Jesus' glory and worthiness, we will wish that we had given Him so much more than what we have done!



Giving Him glory is about our lives becoming totally God-centred. We become perfectly wholehearted and 100% God-centred. None of us can be perfectly wholehearted until that Day, but let's press in to cultivate these godly emotions now.

The phrase “***and His wife has made herself ready***” is the clearest statement in the Bible of the requirement to prepare ourselves as the Bride. We will not automatically become ready and it is our individual responsibility to prepare ourselves. But the Lord will certainly give us grace and empowerment as we say yes.

There are three primary areas to make ourselves ready:

NUMBER 1


We have to prepare our hearts to be like Christ — this is the preparation of our character, values and virtues that are important to God, as well as preparing ourselves in wholehearted love so that we will fully yearn for His return.

NUMBER 2

We have to prepare our minds to understand Jesus' heart, will and plan so that we can fully align with Him.

NUMBER 3

We have to prepare our strength to be able to partner with Jesus to move in prayer and power, both in this age and the Age-to-come.



The phrase ***“to her it was granted”*** in verse 8 assures us that ultimately it is the Lord who will make the Church ready even though there is a requirement to prepare ourselves. Ephesians 5:26-27 tells us that it is Jesus who sanctifies and cleanses us so that He may present us to Himself a glorious Bride.

The fine linen or white garment in verse 8 is different from the robe of righteousness given to us at the point of salvation (Isa. 61:3). The fine linen is our **acts of obedience, righteousness and love for God**. It is an expression of **our lifestyle of devotion to Him here on earth, how we carry our hearts and how Jesus feels towards us**. It’s a reward from God, and we will wear it eternally!

“Write: Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!”(Rev. 19:9a)



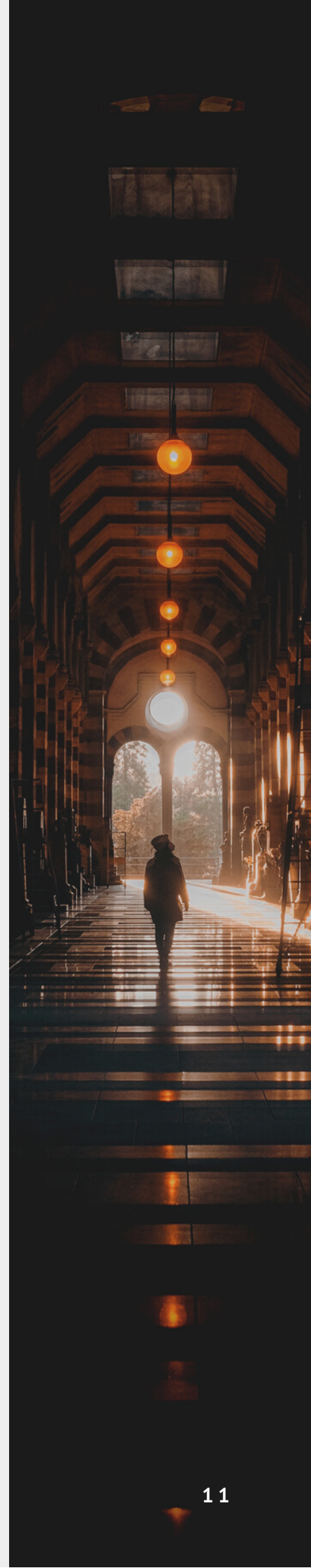
John was commanded by the angel to write because **the message about the wedding is so important to God's heart and for His people to hear**, that God has to remind him to write it down. It's a call for forerunners to get this message out by prayer and proclamation.

The term "***the marriage of the Lamb***" refers to the **Second Coming of Jesus and the Rapture of the saints**, whereas the term "***the marriage supper of the Lamb***" refers to the **Millennial Kingdom**. The background to understanding this comes from the Jewish wedding customs, where there are **four stages of a Jewish wedding**, the final stage being the wedding feast. How long the wedding feast goes on depends on how wealthy the father of the bridegroom is. In this case, our Father in heaven is so wealthy that the duration of the marriage supper of the Lamb is 1000 years!

The phrase “***Blessed are those who are called***” implies that we have to be invited and that there are requirements and qualifications. **Being invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb is the highest fulfilment of our identity and the ultimate destiny of mankind.** This is the goal of our life! **If we arrive at that place, we will be blessed! Blessed are those who find their identity and destiny in this truth!**

In verse 10, John fell down at the angel’s feet and worshipped. By this time, John was a mature apostle who knew the Lord intimately and had already had numerous encounters with Jesus. Thus, it was unlikely that he was worshipping the angel.

This was the likely scenario. John was utterly overwhelmed by the revelation of the mature Bride. It struck his heart so deeply that this was whom he would become, the mature Bride who would fully agree with Jesus. He was overwhelmed, and he fell down to worship God.

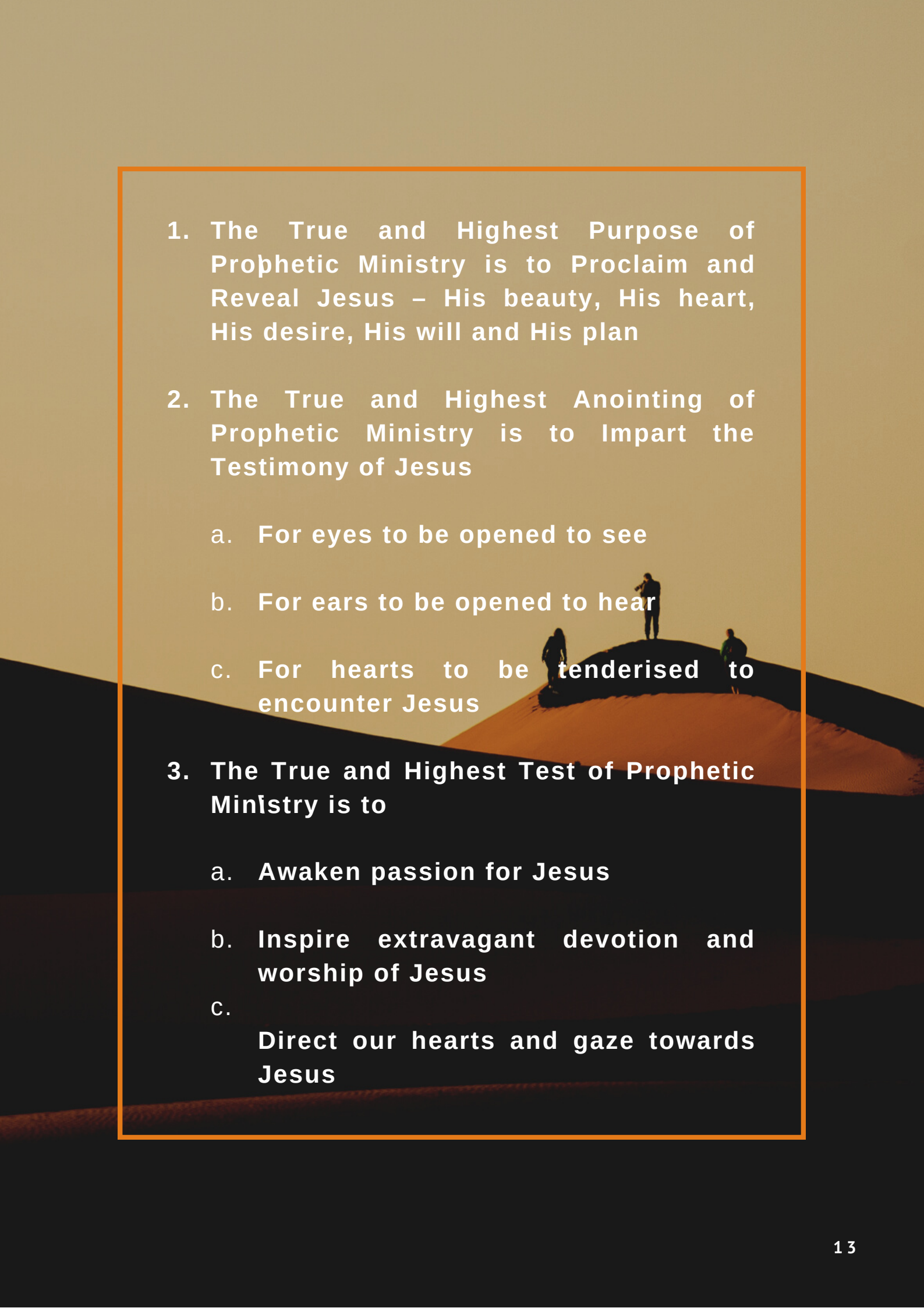


John's response is what we want. We want to have a hear towards our destiny as the mature Bride that will radically change the way we live.

The angel ended by saying, "*Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.*"

The highest call and purpose of any prophetic ministry is to reveal who Jesus is and to awaken people to love Him more. If it does not achieve this, the prophetic ministry has failed.

We can derive three important principles of prophetic ministry from Revelation 19:10:

- 
- The background of the slide is a photograph of a desert landscape at sunset. The sky is a warm, golden-orange color, and the sand dunes are dark silhouettes. Three people are visible on the crest of a dune in the middle ground, their forms silhouetted against the bright sky. One person is standing in the center, another is to the left, and a third is to the right. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.
- 1. The True and Highest Purpose of Prophetic Ministry is to Proclaim and Reveal Jesus – His beauty, His heart, His desire, His will and His plan**

 - 2. The True and Highest Anointing of Prophetic Ministry is to Impart the Testimony of Jesus**
 - a. For eyes to be opened to see**
 - b. For ears to be opened to hear**
 - c. For hearts to be tenderised to encounter Jesus**

 - 3. The True and Highest Test of Prophetic Ministry is to**
 - a. Awaken passion for Jesus**
 - b. Inspire extravagant devotion and worship of Jesus**
 - c. Direct our hearts and gaze towards Jesus**



As we read Revelation 19:1-10, may the enormity of it all hit our hearts. May we have the same response as Apostle John, such that as we behold the reality of us becoming the mature, equally-yoked Bride on the Wedding Day, we will declare, “This is who I am. This is who I will become. This is what I am living for – the Wedding Day of the Lamb!”



IHOP - ONE THING MINISTRIES

www.onethingministries.net