



Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

- Deuteronomy 33 & 34
- Numbers 13 & 14
- Genesis 49
- Isaiah 38
- 1 John 1-5
- John 16:5-15
- Romans 8:12-19

SECOND CHANCES

- A Second Chance to Enter
- The Bad Report
- The Good Report
- A King and a Second Chance
- Make Known the Truth
- Your Second Chance
- A Love Letter to God's Children

Everyone wants a second chance. The question is, what will you do with yours. The first time Israel arrived at the shore of the Jordan, one year after they left Egypt, they made horrible choices. The second time, 39 years later, they were given a second chance. As they prepared to enter, Moses reminded them that they have the words and laws of their Heavenly Father as a heritage. Many years later we see King Hezekiah, who also gets a second chance in life. He knows the reason is so he can make the truth of His Heavenly Father known to the children. And you are the child of God with the

heritage of Yahweh's words, His laws, and His truths, and you were given a second chance. What will you do with it?

THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE

"Now this is the blessing with which Moses the man of God blessed the children of Israel before his death. And he said: "The LORD came from Sinai, And dawned on them from Seir; He shone forth from Mount Paran, And He came with ten thousands of saints; From His right hand Came a fiery law for them. **Yes, He loves the people; All His saints are in Your hand; They sit down at Your feet; Everyone receives Your words.** Moses commanded a law for us, **A heritage of the congregation of Jacob.** And He was King in Jeshurun, When the leaders of the people were gathered, All the tribes of Israel together." Deuteronomy 33:1-5

OUTCOME: MAIN TAKEAWAY(S) I AM HOPING FOR PEOPLE

"The living, the living man, he shall praise You, As I do this day; The father shall make known Your truth to the children." Isaiah 38:19

"But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked." 1 John 2:5-6

Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

1. This Torah portion is ordinarily read on the day of Simchat Torah (Rejoicing in the Torah) in conjunction with the beginning of the book of Genesis to mark the conclusion of one year's Torah cycle and the beginning of the next. The portion contains Moses' final blessings over Israel, the story of his ascent up Mount Nebo to overlook the land of Canaan, and the record of his death and burial.
1. **Moses Final Blessings on each Tribe of Israel:** Now this is the blessing with which Moses the man of God blessed the children of Israel before his death. (*Notice the parallel blessings of Jacob over his 12 sons right before he dies in Genesis 49:1-28. **Special Note:** here in Deuteronomy 33 Simeon is conspicuously absent from the blessing. More on this in the notes below.*)
2. Moses first reminds them that from the right hand of Yahweh came a fiery law. And that He loves the people, and that they all sit down at His feet; and everyone receives His words. Moses reiterates how he had commanded a law for them as a heritage.
3. **They were gathered to here these blessings:** The leaders of the people were gathered, and all the tribes of Israel were together:

- (1) **Reuben:** "Let Reuben live, and not die, Nor let his men be few."
- (2) **Judah:** "Hear, LORD, the voice of Judah, And bring him to his people; Let his hands be sufficient for him, And may You be a help against his enemies."
- (3) **Levi:** "Bless Levi as they have observed Your word And kept Your covenant. They shall teach Jacob Your judgments, And Israel Your law."
- (4) **Benjamin:** "The beloved of the LORD shall dwell in safety by Him, Who shelters him all the day long; And he shall dwell between His shoulders."
- (5) **Joseph:** "He is blessed of the LORD with all the precious things of the earth and all its fullness. Receive the favor of Him who dwelt in the bush. Joseph will receive the blessings of the firstborn. Yahweh will use him to push the peoples to the ends of the earth by his sons, the ten thousands of Ephraim, and the thousands of Manasseh."
- (6) **Zebulun and Issachar:** "Rejoice, Zebulun, in your going out, and Issachar in your tents! They shall call the peoples to the mountain; There they shall offer sacrifices of righteousness; For they shall partake of the abundance of the seas and of treasures hidden in the sand."

- (7) **Gad:** “Blessed is he who enlarges Gad; He dwells as a lion,
And tears the arm and the crown of his head. He provided
the first part for himself, Because a lawgiver’s portion was
reserved there. He came with the heads of the people; He
administered the justice of the LORD, And His judgments
with Israel.”
- (8) **Dan:** “Dan is a lion’s whelp; He shall leap from Bashan.”
- (9) **Naphtali:** “O Naphtali, satisfied with favor, And full of the
blessing of the LORD, Possess the west and the south.”
- (10) **Asher:** “Asher is most blessed of sons; Let him be favored by
his brothers, And let him dip his foot in oil. Your sandals shall
be iron and bronze; As your days, so shall your strength be.
There is no one like the God of Jeshurun, Who rides the
heavens to help you, And in His excellency on the clouds.
The eternal God is your refuge, And underneath are the
everlasting arms; He will thrust out the enemy from before
you, And will say, ‘Destroy!’
4. **Moses Final Blessings on the Nation:** “Then Israel shall dwell in
safety, The fountain of Jacob alone, In a land of grain and new
wine; His heavens shall also drop dew. Happy are you, O
Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the LORD, The shield
of your help And the sword of your majesty! Your enemies shall

submit to you, And you shall tread down their high places.'"

Deuteronomy 33:28-29 NKJV

5. **Moses Dies on Mount Nebo:** Moses goes up to the top of Mount Nebo. (The parallel death of Jacob in Genesis 49:29-33)

(1) He is reminded that this is the land sworn to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. As promised, you will see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there. [See complete teaching on this topic: [Juicy Rocks and Fiery Serpents](#)]

(2) Moses dies and is buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth Peor; but no one knows his grave to this day.

(3) Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died. His eyes were not dim nor his natural vigor diminished.

☑ It is fascinating that Moses seems to max-out his life span at 120 years and dies in a perfectly healthy condition.

☑ *"And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.""* Genesis 6:3 NKJV

6. Joshua the son of Nun [*from the tribe of Ephraim, the son of Joseph*] was full of the **spirit of wisdom** [**Just like Joseph*], for **Moses had laid his hands on him**; so the children of Israel heeded him, and did as the LORD had commanded Moses.

(1) Joseph too was made ruler over all the land as he was filled with the Spirit of God and with wisdom!

☑️ **"And Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find such a one as this, a man in **whom is the Spirit of God?**" Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, there is no one **as discerning and wise as you. You shall be over my house**, and all my people shall be ruled according to your word; only in regard to the throne will I be greater than you." And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See, **I have set you over all the land of Egypt.**"*" Genesis 41:38-41 NKJV

7. "But since then there has not arisen in Israel **a prophet like Moses**, whom the LORD knew face to face, in all the signs and wonders which the LORD sent him to do in the land of Egypt, before Pharaoh, before all his servants, and in all his land, and by all that mighty power and all the great terror which Moses performed in the sight of all Israel." Deuteronomy 34:10-12
[See complete teaching on a prophet like Moses in sermon notes (page 41 Section 3): [Written on our Hearts](#)]

MOSES' BLESSINGS: A SECOND CHANCE TO ENTER

1. The Children of Israel

A. First: The Lost Opportunity 40 Years Earlier (excerpts from Numbers 13 and 14)

(1) The Spies

(a) "...**Send men to spy out the land of Canaan...**"

Numbers 13:1-2 NKJV

(b) "... **see what the land is like: whether the people who dwell in it are strong or weak, few or many; whether the land they dwell in is good or bad; ...whether the land is rich or poor; ...** Be of good courage. And bring some of the fruit of the land." ... Numbers 13:17-20 NKJV

(c) "And they returned from spying out the land **after forty days.**" Numbers 13:25 NKJV

(2) The Bad Report

(a) "... they **brought back word to them and to all the congregation,** and showed them the fruit of the land. Then they told him, and said: "We went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. **Nevertheless the people who dwell in the land are strong; the cities are fortified and very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there.** ..." Numbers 13:26-29 NKJV

(b) "Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, "**Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it.**" But the men who had gone up with him said, "**We are not able to go up against the**

people, for they are stronger than we.” And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, “The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, ...” Numbers 13:30-33 NKJV

(3) Israel Refuses to Enter—The Lost Opportunity

- (a) **“... And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, “If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness! Why has the LORD brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?” So they said to one another, “Let us select a leader and return to Egypt.”” Numbers 14:1-4 NKJV**

(4) The Good Report

- (a) **“But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes; and they spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying: “The land we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land. If the LORD delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, ‘a land which flows with**

milk and honey.' Only **do not rebel** against the LORD, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the LORD is with us. Do not fear them.'" Numbers 14:6-9 NKJV

- (b) "And all the congregation said to stone them with stones. Now the glory of the LORD appeared in the tabernacle of meeting before all the children of Israel." Numbers 14:10 NKJV

(5) Moses Intercedes to Save the People from Destruction

- (a) "Then the LORD said to Moses: "How long will these people reject Me? And how long will they not believe Me, with all the signs which I have performed among them? **I will strike them with the pestilence and disinherit them,** ...And Moses said to the LORD: "Then the Egyptians will hear it, ... **Now if You kill these people as one man, then the nations which have heard of Your fame will speak, saying, 'Because the LORD was not able to bring this people to the land which He swore to give them, therefore He killed them in the wilderness.'** And now, I pray, ... **Pardon the iniquity of this people, I pray, according to the greatness of Your mercy, just as You have forgiven this people, from Egypt**

even until now.” Numbers 14:11-19 NKJV *[Please give them a second chance!]*

(6) Personal and Corporate Consequences

- (a) “Then the LORD said: **“I have pardoned, according to your word;** but truly, as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD — because all these men who have seen My glory and the signs which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have put Me to the test now these ten times, and have not heeded My voice, **they certainly shall not see the land of which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who rejected Me see it.”** Numbers 14:20-23 NKJV
- (b) “But My servant Caleb, because he has **a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land** where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it.” Numbers 14:24 NKJV
- (c) “... **The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in this wilderness** *[remember—Moses also loses his right to enter later on]*, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, from twenty years old and above. **Except for Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun, you shall by no**

means enter the land which I swore I would make you dwell in.” Numbers 14:26-30 NKJV

- (d) “Now the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land, who returned and made all the congregation complain against him by **bringing a bad report of the land, those very men who brought the evil report about the land, died by the plague before the LORD.** But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh remained alive, of the men who went to spy out the land.”

Numbers 14:36-38 NKJV

- (e) “But your little ones, whom you said would be victims, I will bring in, and ...But as for you, your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness. **And your sons shall be shepherds in the wilderness forty years,** and bear the brunt of your infidelity, until your carcasses are consumed in the wilderness. **According to the number of the days in which you spied out the land, forty days, for each day you shall bear your guilt one year, namely forty years,** and you shall know My rejection...” Numbers

14:31-35 NKJV

1. Summary of “The Lost Opportunity 40 Years Earlier”

2. 12 Spies are sent into Canaan for 40 days to do reconnaissance; their assignment is to bring back evidence of it's goodness!
3. 10 men bring back a bad report that incites fear and rebellion, while admitting the land is indeed prosperous.
4. 2 men (Joshua and Caleb) also report the fruitfulness of the land, but their report is uplifting and hopeful.
5. Moses must intercede to keep Yahweh from killing them all. He appeals by reminding Yahweh of his love, mercy and patience, and how bad it would look to the Egyptians if Israel had failed!
6. Yahweh does relent, but not without levying consequences on the negative spies (they die) and the rebellious people (they will wander for 39 more years—one year for each day of spying—and then die). Only those 20 years old and under, at the time of the rebellion, plus **Joshua and Caleb** (the faithful spies) will see the Promised Land. (Remember, later on Moses too will lose his right to enter.)
7. **Special Prophetic Note:** Joshua is from the seed of Joseph through Ephraim, and Caleb is from the seed of Judah, in the distant future representing the

Northern Kingdom of Israel (the House of Israel) and Southern Kingdom of Israel (the House of Judah). Because of the sins of King Solomon, upon his death, the Northern Kingdom was exiled into the nations in the Assyrian Captivity in what likely became the prophetic infiltration of Israel into the nations (Gentiles). And Judah was taken captive by Babylon and 70 years later returned to the land and became what we know today as “the Jews.” Ephraim’s decedents (sent into the nations, have yet to return, but I believe they will before the second coming of Y’shua.)

B. Another Chance 40 Years After the Exodus

(1) 39 years later they are poised at the edge of the Jordan to go in and Moses has a few things to say...

(a) “Now this is the blessing with which Moses the man of God blessed the children of Israel before his death.

And he said: “The LORD came from Sinai, And dawned on them from Seir; He shone forth from Mount Paran, And He came with ten thousands of saints; **From His right hand Came a fiery law for them.** Deuteronomy 33:1-2 NKJV

- (b) “Yes, He loves the people; All His saints are in Your hand; They sit down at Your feet; **Everyone receives Your words.**” Deuteronomy 33:3 NKJV
- (c) “Moses commanded a law for us, **A heritage of the congregation of Jacob.**” Deuteronomy 33:4 NKJV
- (d) Then Moses, before he dies, pronounces blessings over the tribes of Israel, much like Jacob did (in Genesis 49) when he blessed his sons, from whom the tribes came, before he too died.

C. A Few Blessings of Note (read all the blessings is Deuteronomy 33)

(1) The Blessing over Joseph

- (a) And of Joseph he said: “Blessed of the LORD is his land, With the **precious things of heaven**, with the dew, And the **deep lying beneath**, With the precious fruits of the sun, With the precious produce of the months, With the best things of the ancient mountains, **With the precious things of the everlasting hills**, With the precious things of the earth and its fullness, And the favor of Him who dwelt in the bush. **Let the blessing come ‘on the head of Joseph, And on the crown of the head of him who was separate from his brothers.’ His glory is like a firstborn bull**, And his horns like the horns of the wild

ox; Together with them He shall **push the peoples To the ends of the earth;** They are the ten thousands of **Ephraim,** And they are the thousands of **Manasseh.**”

Deuteronomy 33:13–17 NKJV

(2) The Blessing over Asher

- (a) And of **Asher** he said: “Asher is most blessed of sons; Let him be favored by his brothers, And let him dip his foot in oil. Your sandals shall be iron and bronze; As your days, so shall your strength be. “ There is no one like the God of Jeshurun, Who rides the heavens to help you, And in His excellency on the clouds. The eternal God is your refuge, And underneath are the everlasting arms; He will thrust out the enemy from before you, And will say, ‘Destroy!’ Deuteronomy 33:24-27 NKJV

(3) The Blessing over Levi

- (a) “And of Levi he said: “ Let Your Thummim and Your Urim be with Your holy one, Whom You tested at Massah, And with whom You contended at the waters of Meribah, Who says of his father and mother, ‘I have not seen them’; Nor did he acknowledge his brothers, Or know his own children; **For they have observed Your word And kept Your covenant. They shall teach Jacob Your judgments, And Israel Your law.** They shall put

incense before You, And a whole burnt sacrifice on Your altar. Bless his substance, LORD, And accept the work of his hands; Strike the loins of those who rise against him, **And of those who hate him, that they rise not again.**"" Deuteronomy 33:8-11 NKJV

D. Conspicuously Missing from Genesis 49

(1) All 12 are Blessed in Genesis 49

- (a) Jacob's twelve sons (in order of birth), **Reuben**, **Simeon**, **Levi**, **Judah**, **Dan**, **Naphtali**, **Gad**, **Asher**, Issachar, **Zebulun**, **Joseph** and **Benjamin**, become the ancestors of twelve tribes, with the exception of Joseph, whose two sons **Mannasseh** and **Ephraim**, who were adopted by Jacob, become tribal eponyms (Genesis 48).

(2) The Storyline— Losing a Blessing

- (a) When Moses is about to die he blesses all the tribes except Simeon which is somehow left out. All tribes are blessed in different ways but Simeon is not even mentioned. What possible reason could there be to leave out Simeon?
- (b) Moses died circa 1406 B.C. In order to understand why Simeon is not mentioned in Deuteronomy 33, we must go back in time to when Jacob, the father of the twelve sons who were the progenitors of the twelve tribes of

Israel, died (circa 1859 B.C.). The record of Jacob's blessings is in Genesis 49.

1. "Simeon and Levi are brothers; Instruments of cruelty are in their dwelling place. Let not my soul enter their council; Let not my honor be united to their assembly; For in their anger they slew a man, And in their self-will they hamstrung an ox. Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce; And their wrath, for it is cruel! **I will divide them in Jacob And scatter them in Israel.**"
Genesis 49:5-7 NKJV

(c) Did Jacob's prophetic words that Levi's and Simeon's descendants would be scattered come to pass?

1. Simeon's descendants were absorbed into the territory of Judah (see Joshua 19:1, 9) and Levi's descendants were dispersed throughout the land, living in 48 towns and the surrounding pasture-lands.
2. At the time of the second census conducted by Moses and Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, the tribe of Simeon was the smallest and weakest of all the tribes that came out of Egypt, only 22,200 men aged 20 years or older (Numbers 26:14).
3. Simeon was cursed by his father Jacob, probably because of the event recorded in Genesis 34:24–30

when Simeon and Levi took revenge on the men of Shechem after the rape of Dinah.

a) After the horrific event, Jacob said to Simeon and Levi: *You have brought trouble on me by making me a stench to the Canaanites and Perizzites, the people living in this land. We are few in number, and if they join forces against me and attack me, I and my household will be destroyed.* (Genesis 34:30)

(d) Moses was undoubtedly aware of this and that may be why the tribe of Simeon was excluded from Moses' blessing.

(e) You can see that Moses was clearly aware of Jacob's pronouncements as he uses common phrases spoken over Joseph.

E. Jacob's Blessings (see Genesis 49 for all)

(1) **The Blessing over Joseph**

(a) **"Joseph is a fruitful bough**, A fruitful bough by a well;
His branches run over the wall. The archers have bitterly grieved him, Shot at him and hated him. But his bow remained in strength, And the arms of his hands were made strong By the hands of the Mighty God of Jacob (From there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel), By the

God of your father who will help you, And by the Almighty who will bless you With **blessings of heaven above, Blessings of the deep that lies beneath, Blessings of the breasts and of the womb.** The blessings of your father Have excelled the blessings of my ancestors, **Up to the utmost bound of the everlasting hills. They shall be on the head of Joseph, And on the crown of the head of him who was separate from his brothers.**

Genesis 49:22-26

(2) The Blessing over Asher

- (a) “Bread from Asher shall be rich, And he shall yield royal dainties. Genesis 49:20

1. Summary of the Blessings

2. Moses blesses the tribes of Israel before he dies, much like Jacob did before his death.
3. In Moses’ day, Simeon is conspicuously absent from the blessings.
4. It is interesting to note the similar words to Jacob’s that Moses uses over Joseph: *“blessings from the heaven above and deep that lies beneath, everlasting hills, the crown on his head, separate from his brothers.”* Jacob’s blessing includes Ephraim and Mannaseh as the seeds of Joseph, as there is all sorts

of language in Jacob's blessing over Joseph that indicate there are two branches of Joseph's blessing.

F. Israel's Second Chance

(1) You will dwell safely in the land...

- (a) Then Israel shall **dwell in safety**, The fountain of Jacob alone, In a land of grain and new wine; His heavens shall also drop dew. **Happy are you, O Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the LORD**, The shield of your help And the sword of your majesty! **Your enemies shall submit to you**, And you shall tread down their high places."" Deuteronomy 33:28-29 NKJV

G. The Death for Moses and Beyond...

- (1) Moses goes up onto Mount Nebo to die and Yahweh reminds Him that He is NOT entering into the Promised Land!
 - (a) Then the LORD said to him, "This is the land of which I swore to give Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants.' **I have caused you to see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.**"
Deuteronomy 34:4 NKJV
 - (b) He is reminded that this is the land sworn to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. As promised, you will see it with your

eyes, but you shall not cross over there. [See complete teaching on this topic: [Juicy Rocks and Fiery Serpents](#)]

(2) Moses dies in perfect health at 120 years old

(a) “Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died. **His eyes were not dim nor his natural vigor diminished.**” Deuteronomy 34:7 NKJV

1. It is fascinating that Moses seems to max-out his life span at 120 years and dies in a perfectly healthy condition.
2. *“And the LORD said, “My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be **one hundred and twenty years.**””* Genesis 6:3 NKJV

(3) Joshua takes over and is filled with wisdom

(a) Joshua the son of Nun [*from the tribe of Ephraim, the son of Joseph*] was full of the **spirit of wisdom** [**Just like Joseph*], for **Moses had laid his hands on him**; so the children of Israel heeded him, and did as the LORD had commanded Moses. Deuteronomy 34:9

(b) Joseph too was filled with the Spirit and wisdom and made ruler over all the land!

1. **“And Pharaoh said to his servants, “Can we find such a one as this, a man in **whom is the Spirit of***

God?" Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, there is no one **as discerning and wise as you. You shall be over my house**, and all my people shall be ruled according to your word; only in regard to the throne will I be greater than you." And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See, **I have set you over all the land of Egypt.**"” Genesis 41:38-41 NKJV

(4) Since then there has been no prophet like Moses

- (a) But since then **there has not arisen in Israel a prophet like Moses**, whom the LORD knew face to face, in all the signs and wonders which the LORD sent him to do in the land of Egypt, before Pharaoh, before all his servants, and in all his land, and by all that mighty power and all the great terror which Moses performed in the sight of all Israel." Deuteronomy 34:10-12 NKJV
[See complete teaching on a prophet like Moses in sermon notes (page 41 Section 3): [Written on our Hearts](#)]

A KING WITH A SECOND CHANCE

2. The Children of the King

A. Setting the Stage

(1) Moses...Yahweh's words are a heritage to the congregation

- (a) "... His right hand came a fiery law for them. Yes, He loves the people; All His saints are in Your hand; **They sit down at Your feet; Everyone receives Your words.**

Moses commanded a law for us, **A heritage of the congregation** of Jacob." Deuteronomy 33:2-4 NKJV

(2) Hezekiah, what will you do with your 2nd chance!?

- (a) "The living, the living man, he shall praise You, As I do this day; The father shall make known Your truth to the children." Isaiah 38:19 NKJV

- (b) If I had died in my sins I would not have been able to praise you and make known the truth to my children!

B. Regrets and Requests

(1) Set your house in order...

- (a) "In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death. And Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, went to him and said to him, "Thus says the LORD: '**Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live.**'" Isaiah 38:1 NKJV

(2) Help me Lord, I've been faithful...

- (a) "Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed to the LORD, and said, "**Remember now, O LORD, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth**

and with a loyal heart, and have done what is good in Your sight.” And Hezekiah wept bitterly. Isaiah 38:2-3 NKJV

(3) Yahweh has heard your prayer...

- (a) And the word of the LORD came to Isaiah, saying, “Go and tell Hezekiah, ‘Thus says the LORD, the God of David your father: **“I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will add to your days fifteen years. I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria, and I will defend this city.”**’” Isaiah 38:4-6 NKJV

C. A God without Limitations

(1) A God big enough to move the sun backwards...

- (a) **And this is the sign** to you from the LORD, that the LORD will do this thing which He has spoken: **“Behold, I will bring the shadow on the sundial, which has gone down with the sun on the sundial of Ahaz, ten degrees backward.”** So the sun returned ten degrees on the dial by which it had gone down. Isaiah 38:7-8 NKJV

D. The Words of a Man Given a Second Chance

(1) My life was cut short...

- (a) This is the writing of Hezekiah king of Judah, when he had been sick and had recovered from his sickness: I

said, "In the prime of my life I shall go to the gates of Sheol; I am deprived of the remainder of my years." I said, **"I shall not see YAH, The LORD in the land of the living; I shall observe man no more among the inhabitants of the world. My life span is gone, Taken from me like a shepherd's tent;** I have cut off my life like a weaver. He cuts me off from the loom; From day until night You make an end of me. I have considered until morning— Like a lion, So He breaks all my bones; From day until night You make an end of me. Like a crane or a swallow, so I chattered; I mourned like a dove; My eyes fail from looking upward. **O LORD, I am oppressed; Undertake for me!** Isaiah 38:9-14 NKJV

(2) Then Yahweh heard my cries and extended my years—I will use them well...

(a) "What shall I say? He has both spoken to me, And He Himself has done it. **I shall walk carefully all my years** In the bitterness of my soul. **O Lord, by these things men live; And in all these things is the life of my spirit; So You will restore me and make me live. Indeed it was for my own peace That I had great bitterness; [all things work for good! Romans 8:28]** But You have lovingly delivered my soul from the pit of corruption,

For You have cast all my sins behind Your back. For Sheol cannot thank You, Death cannot praise You; Those who go down to the pit cannot hope for Your truth.

Isaiah 38:15-18 NKJV

(3) Dead men cannot praise You, nor make known your truth to his children...

(a) The living, the living man, he shall praise You, As I do this day; The father shall make known Your truth to the children. "The LORD was ready to save me; Therefore we will sing my songs with stringed instruments All the days of our life, in the house of the LORD."" Isaiah 38:19-20 NKJV

1. Summary of a King given a Second Chance

2. Moses died approximately 691 years before Hezekiah took over the throne of Israel at 25 years old. 14 years later Hezekiah is on his deathbed in fervent prayer to be delivered. Yahweh grants him 15 more years of life. What will he do with those years, that second chance?
3. Moses reminded the people that they were given a second chance to enter the Promised Land and that Yahweh's words, His laws, were a heritage to the children of Israel. Hezekiah, after he is granted a

second chance dedicates his life to the same cause;
*“The living, the living man, he shall praise You, As I do
this day; The father shall make known Your truth to
the children.”*

YOUR SECOND CHANCE: A LOVE LETTER TO HIS CHILDREN

3. The Father Shall Make Known Your Truth to the Children

A. A child's Response (Response-ability)

(1) Why am I (John) writing you?

- (a) “My little children, these things I write to you, **so that you may not sin**. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.” I John 2:1-2 NKJV

(2) The Test of Knowing Him

- (a) “Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. **He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar**, and the truth is not in him. But whoever **keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him**. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him

ought himself also to walk just as He walked." I John
2:3-6 NKJV

(3) Children, Fathers, Young Men (stages of maturity)

- (a) "I write to you, **little children**, Because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake. I write to you, **fathers**, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, **young men**, Because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, **little children**, Because you have known the Father. I have written to you, **fathers**, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, **young men**, Because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, And you have overcome the wicked one." I John 2:12-14 NKJV

(4) Loving the World

- (a) "**Do not love the world or the things in the world.** If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever." I John 2:15-17 NKJV

(5) Self-Deception of the Enemy vs. Truth of Anointing

(a) “Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the **Antichrist** is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour. **They went out from us, but they were not of us;** for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us. **But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things. I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and that no lie is of the truth.** Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.” 1 John 2:18-23 NKJV

(6) The Anointing Teaches you All Truth

(a) “**Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning.** If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father. And this is the promise that He has promised us—eternal life. These things I have written to you concerning those who try to deceive you. **But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in**

you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.” I John 2:24-27 NKJV

1. Upper Room Discourse: The Spirit of Truth: He will convict the world of sin...

- a) ““But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, **He will convict the world of sin**, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.” John 16:5-11 NKJV

2. The Anointing is the Spirit of Truth

- a) ““I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the **Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into**

all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for **He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.** All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.” John 16:12-15 NKJV

(7) Practicing Righteousness (also see I John 3:7 and I John 3:10)

- (a) “And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming. **If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.**” I John 2:28-29 NKJV

(8) The Anointing: Children of God Shall be like Him

- (a) “Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be **called children of God!** Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, **now we are children of God;** and it has **not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him,** for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who

has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure." I John 3:1-3 NKJV

1. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

- a) "Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. **For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.** For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the **Spirit of adoption** by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit **that we are children of God**, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and **joint heirs with Christ**, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be **glorified together.**"

Romans 8:12-17 NKJV

- b) "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the **glory which shall be revealed in us**. For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the

revealing of the sons of God.” Romans 8:18-19

NKJV

(9) Sin Defined—in Him you need not sin!

- (a) “Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and **sin is lawlessness**. And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin. Whoever abides in Him **does not sin**. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.” I John 3:4-6
NKJV *[Sin is lawlessness, but we have the law as a heritage—so we need not be lawless (need not sin!)]*

(10) The Potential Deception—the freedom to sin and still claim you are a child of child of God.

- (a) “Little children, **let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous**. He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. **Whoever has been born of God does not sin**, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.” I John 3:7-9 NKJV

(11) Child of God vs. Child of the Devil

- (a) “**In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice**

righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.” 1 John 3:10 NKJV

(12) **Do those things that are pleasing in His sight**

- (a) “My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in **deed and in truth**. And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him. For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. Beloved, **if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God**. And **whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight**.” 1 John 3:18-22 NKJV [*Sin is lawlessness, but we have the law as a heritage—so we can do the things that are pleasing in His sight.*]

(13) **By this we know...**

- (a) “Now **he who keeps His commandments** abides in Him, and He in him. And **by this we know** that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.” 1 John 3:24 NKJV

(14) **The spirit of truth or the spirit of error?**

- (a) “You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are of the world. Therefore they

speak as of the world, and the world hears them. **We are of God.** He who knows God hears us; **he who is not of God** does not hear us. **By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.**" I John 4:4-6 NKJV

(15) **How do we know?**

- (a) "Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him. **By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments.** For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome." I John 5:1-3 NKJV *[Sin is lawlessness, but we have the law as a heritage—so we can love His children by keeping His commandments.]*

(16) **The whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one, but we have the TRUTH!**

- (a) **"We know that whoever is born of God does not sin;** but he who has been born of God keeps himself, **and the wicked one does not touch him.** We know that we are of God, and **the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.** And we know that the Son of God has come **and has given us an understanding, that we may**

know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true,

in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life. Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.” I

John 5:18-21 NKJV

- (b) **...and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true...**

- (c) **Moses...Yahweh’s words are a heritage to the congregation: “... They sit down at Your feet; **Everyone receives Your words.** Moses commanded a law for us, **A heritage of the congregation** of Jacob.” Deuteronomy 33:3-4 NKJV**

- (d) **Hezekiah, If I had died in my sins I would not have been able to praise you and make known the truth to my children! “The living, the living man, he shall praise You, As I do this day; **The father shall make known Your truth to the children.**” Isaiah 38:19 NKJV**

1. Summary: Your Second Chance—A Love Letter to His Children

2. The Father Shall Make Known Your Truth to the Children.

3. Why am I writing you children? So that you may not sin.

4. He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar.
5. Whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him.
6. Children, Fathers, Young Men (stages of maturity)
7. Do not love the world or the things in the world.
8. Self-Deception of the Antichrist vs. Truth of Anointing
9. But you have an anointing—I have written to you because you know the truth, and that no lie is of the truth.
10. The Anointing Teaches you All Truth
11. The Spirit of Truth will guide you into all truth.
12. Everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.
13. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.
14. Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God.
15. The Children of God Shall be like Him
16. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.
17. Sin Defined—sin is lawlessness.
18. The Potential Deception—freedom to sin and still claim you are a child of God.

19. If our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.
20. He who keeps His commandments abides in Him.
21. We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.
22. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments.
23. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.
24. The whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one, but we have the TRUTH!
25. Moses: Yahweh's words are a heritage to the congregation:
26. Hezekiah: "The living, the living man, he shall praise You, As I do this day; **The father shall make known Your truth to the children.**"

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

- 1. Discuss the circumstances leading up to Israel's first opportunity to cross into the Promised Land:**
 - A. What was the bad report?
 - B. What were the consequences for those who brought the bad report and for those who believed it?
 - C. What was the good report?
 - D. What was the blessing for Joshua and Caleb for bringing the good report?
- 2. Forty years after the Exodus Israel had a second chance to cross into the Promised Land:**
 - A. What does Moses do as the day approaches to cross over?
 - B. Which tribe is missing in Moses' address as he speaks to the people one final time? Why is that?
 - C. What is Moses reminded of on the mountain he is to die on?
 - D. What is interesting about the state of Moses' health when he dies?
- 3. What does Joshua have in common with Joseph (the son of Jacob) as he takes over for Moses?**
- 4. In Deuteronomy 33:3-4, Moses reminds the people that they have received Yahweh's words (laws) as a heritage:**

- A. Compare Moses' declaration with what King Hezekiah declared in Isaiah 38, after Yahweh gave him a second chance, and answered his prayers to rescue him from a life cut short; *"The father shall make known Your truth to the children."*

5. How does the letter of 1 John seemingly fulfill the following:

- A. Moses words: *"The people sit down at Your feet; Everyone receives Your words. Moses commanded a law for us, a heritage of the congregation of Jacob."*
- B. Hezekiah's words: *"The father shall make known Your truth to the children."*