

YOUTH WORSHIP

23 May 2026

Text: Deuteronomy 33

Title: "May You be a help against his enemies" Deuteronomy 33:7

INTRODUCTION

1. Deuteronomy 33
 - a. The final chapter in the Book of Deuteronomy
 - b. Moses' last words and prayer of blessing for Israel before they enter the Promised Land
 - c. Moses himself would not go with them
2. A brief comparison with Jacob's prayer
 - a. Jacob's prayer of blessings Genesis 49
 - i. From a father to his sons
 - ii. Focused on their characters and future
 - b. Moses' prayer of blessings Deuteronomy 33
 - i. From a leader to each tribe
 - ii. Concerning the future of each tribe

MOSES' PRAYER FOR THE TRIBE OF REUBEN

1. The background of Reuben (Jacob's firstborn)
 - a. What he was meant to be Genesis 49:3-4
 - i. Mighty and strong
 - ii. Dignified and powerful
 - b. The weakness and sin of Reuben
 - i. He was unstable, and thus would not excel
 - ii. He sinned disgracefully against his father

2. The significance of Moses' prayer for the tribe of Reuben

*"Let Reuben live, and not die,
Nor let his men be few."* Deuteronomy 33:6

- a. The weakness of Reuben had affected his tribe in time to come
- b. Moses prayed for God's mercy and protection
 - i. For the tribe of Reuben to survive
 - ii. That the tribe would not be weak
- c. The significance of protecting Reuben
 - i. For Reuben to have a place in God's blessings upon Israel
 - ii. For the strength and stability of the entire Israel

MOSES' PRAYER FOR THE TRIBE OF JUDAH

1. The background of Judah

- a. The growth of Judah (4th among Jacob's sons)
 - i. He failed his brother Joseph early on though he persuaded his brothers not to kill Joseph Genesis 37:26-27
 - ii. He would later stand out among his brothers, offering to sacrifice himself for the youngest Benjamin Genesis 44:32-33
- b. The future of Judah foretold
 - i. He shall be praised by his brothers Genesis 49:8
 - ii. Leadership shall arise from Judah Genesis 49:10

2. The significance of Moses' prayer for the tribe of Judah

*And this he said of 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."* Deuteronomy 33:7

- a. Mentioned immediately after Reuben
 - i. The growth and change in Judah also affected his tribe in time to come
 - ii. The tribe of Judah would be part of God's plan for leadership in Israel
 - iii. They were already emerging as a leading tribe
cf. Numbers 2:3-9; 7:11-12; 10:14
 - iv. Out of Judah would come the line of kings and the Lord Jesus Christ Himself
- b. The prayer of Moses
 - i. For God to hear the voice and prayers of Judah
 - ii. For God to make his hands sufficient and strong
 - iii. For God to be a help against his enemies
 - iv. To bring him to his people (to return from battle triumphantly)
- c. Judah's challenge implied
 - i. They must seek God prayerfully
 - ii. They must be dependent on God in leadership and overcoming challenges

IMPORTANT LESSONS FOR US ALL

1. Moses' prayer for Reuben and Judah
 - a. Protection of God
 - b. Dependence on God
 - c. Strength from God
2. Personal challenges
 - a. To seek to fulfil potential
 - b. To pursue growth

- c. To be dependent on God as we face challenges
- d. To succeed as a community of God