



# Full Reward

Note for 20260216 – 2 John 1:6-8

# 1. Opening

Welcome to the Devotionals of The House of Bread. In the Word we read that we are to receive the Word of GOD by the Spirit, so I strongly urge you to pray before you receive the Devotional. Let Christ take the lead in your Spiritual Development.

Watch on YouTube at: <https://youtu.be/o2NFXydQO2c>

## Introduction

**Full Reward: Stewardship in the Kingdom of God**  
Redefining heavenly reward not as a passive retirement, but a mandate of active stewardship, service, and faithfulness leading to administrative authority.

**The Five Crowns of the Full Reward**

- The Crown of Glory & The Crown of Life**  
Rewards for leading/protecting the "Children of God" and for perseverance through suffering.
- The Crown of Righteousness**  
Awarded to those who maintain a "Kingdom-first" perspective and long for the King's return.
- The Incorruptible & Soul-Winner's Crowns**  
For those who exercise self-discipline and invest in the reconciliation of others.

**The Stewardship Mandate**

**The Servant's Role (Now)**  
Primary Activity: Engage in Business (Stewardship)  
Primary Tool: The Commandment of Love  
Result: Rebuilding Ruins (Isaiah 61:4)

**The King's Role (Return)**  
Primary Activity: Treading the Winepress (Judgment)  
Primary Tool: The Greatness of His Strength  
Result: Trampling the Peoples (Isaiah 63:6)

**Service vs. Retirement**

**Active Servant**  
Standing in the presence of God as active servants.

**passive retirement**  
Heaven is not a passive retirement.

© NotebookLM

You know, one can make the mistake to be so focused on life and death that you miss learning and reward, forget to be grateful and miss the peace and rest all together. Surely this life was meant to be lived to the full, else life here is wasted on the soul. But what is a full life, what is love and what were the commandments for?

## 2. Scripture Text

### 2 John 1:6-8 ESV

*"[6] And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it. [7]*

*For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist. [8] Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward."*

<https://bible.com/bible/59/2jn.1.6-8.ESV>

### 3. Devotional Reflection

*"...but may win a full reward."*

We have heard that the reward comes with Jesus Christ, when He returns. And sure, we know of **MATTHEW 5**, the meek inheriting the earth and the fulfilling of Righteousness. But, for many, that is just a pie in the sky, a carrot on a stick and so they fall away because they feel the cost is too high. I say, "they" because I cannot include myself in it, knowing I cannot even pay for the reward received here, what still of what's to come?

Jesus spoke of reward. And, of course, like so much that he said was done so in parable form. Shall we have a look at that? I do urge you strongly to hear my words out, less you miss out, this spoken before He rode into Jerusalem on a donkey:

#### Luke 19:11-27 ESV

*"[11] As they heard these things, he proceeded to tell a parable, because he was near to Jerusalem, and because they supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear immediately. [12] He said therefore, "A nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and then return. [13] Calling ten of his servants, he gave them ten minas, and said to them, 'Engage in business until I come.' [14] But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We do not want this man to reign over us.' [15] When he returned, having received the kingdom, he ordered these servants to whom he had given the money to be called to him, that he might know what they had gained by doing business. [16] The first came before him, saying, 'Lord, your mina has made ten minas more.' [17] And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant! Because you have been faithful in a very little, you shall have authority over ten cities.' [18] And the second came, saying, 'Lord, your mina has made five minas.' [19] And he said to him, 'And you are to be over five cities.' [20] Then another came, saying, 'Lord, here is your mina, which I kept laid away in a handkerchief; [21] for I was afraid of you, because you are a severe man. You take what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not*

sow.' [22] He said to him, 'I will condemn you with your own words, you wicked servant! You knew that I was a severe man, taking what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow? [23] Why then did you not put my money in the bank, and at my coming I might have collected it with interest?' [24] And he said to those who stood by, 'Take the mina from him, and give it to the one who has the ten minas.' [25] And they said to him, 'Lord, he has ten minas!' [26] 'I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. [27] But as for these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slaughter them before me.'"

<https://bible.com/bible/59/luk.19.11-27.ESV>

Read verse 27 again, and if you have some spare time, read **ISAIAH 63**, I will add the section at the end.

What is a full reward?

Those that rejected the Nobleman, what reward did they receive? What is reward other than payment for what was done? Is it not written, as we have sown we shall also reap? What is sown, look at those injured behind us, look at the cost of war and neglect. What was said of, and done to, the Nobleman of GOD, Jesus Christ His only Begotten Son. What of those that belong to Him? These Children of GOD that were left amongst the weeds and thorns, how were they treated, and shall we look at **MATTHEW 25:40-41** again?

What is reward?

You know, this world has created the false impression that everyone gets the same "retirement package" when redeemed by Christ, but He Himself showed His approach to reward in this parable. Is it retirement to rule over cities, or standing in a service to the King?

Who will rebuild the cities?

## Isaiah 61:4 ESV

*“[4] They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.”*

<https://bible.com/bible/59/isa.61.4.ESV>

Who are they? For whom are the cities a reward? Who is grafted in and who is plucked out? Who gets to rule over ten, over five and who loses it all? What is “*a just reward?*” Dare I ask, who is anti-Christ, since it was in our reading?

For too long ministers sold an idealistic “*retirement plan.*” “*Oh, the people are tired, they want to rest, so let us tell a lie about peace and rest.*” Heaven is not a retirement village or kingdom, it is standing in fullness in the presence of GOD as His servants, sons and daughters (as we fail to understand the state of gender then, not taken or given in marriage, but as the angels.) Our understanding is limited by what we want to hear, but how far is it removed from truth?

GOD'S will be done, not mine. I have seen my days of labour to come. How does the elderly labour for the young? When we look ahead for idealism, we edit-out reality. It is not our ideal scenario, but His perfect State.

Sadly, even now I might have lost some that were only ever in it for gain, with rebellious hearts to stand in service of the Most-High GOD.

## 4. Closing Paragraph

As mentioned earlier, we close of with **ISAIAH 63**, with the return of Jesus Christ:

## Isaiah 63:1-6 ESV

*“[1] Who is this who comes from Edom, in crimsoned garments from Bozrah, he who is splendid in his apparel, marching in the greatness of his strength? “It is I, speaking in righteousness, mighty to save.” [2] Why is your apparel red, and your garments like his who treads in the winepress? [3] “I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no*

*one was with me; I trod them in my anger and trampled them in my wrath; their lifeblood spattered on my garments, and stained all my apparel. [4] For the day of vengeance was in my heart, and my year of redemption had come. [5] I looked, but there was no one to help; I was appalled, but there was no one to uphold; so my own arm brought me salvation, and my wrath upheld me. [6] I trampled down the peoples in my anger; I made them drunk in my wrath, and I poured out their lifeblood on the earth.”*

<https://bible.com/bible/59/isa.63.1-6.ESV>

What is “a just reward?”

Selah,

Shalom.

## 5. The Five Crowns of "Full Reward"

I have opted to give a little more in this “Full Reward” view, but know, this is more of an introduction of that which stands as a mere shadow of eternal life with Jesus Christ.

### **Context:**

*In the Greco-Roman world of the New Testament, a "crown" (stephanos) was not a royal diadem of inherited power, but a wreath given to victors in a race or soldiers who showed valour. These crowns represent the "Full Reward" for specific areas of stewardship and alignment with the Spirit of God.*

### **1. The Incorruptible Crown (The Victor’s Crown)**

- **Scripture:** *“Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an incorruptible.” — 1 CORINTHIANS 9:24–27*
- **The Stewardship:** Self-discipline and mastery over the flesh.
- **Connection to Devotional:** This is the reward for those who do not "miss the learning" by being too focused on earthly comforts. It is for the servant who "put the money to work" rather than indulging in the sloth of the "handkerchief" life.

## 2. The Crown of Rejoicing (The Soul-Winner's Crown)

- **Scripture:** *"For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you?"* — **1 THESSALONIANS 2:19**
- **The Stewardship:** Relational investment and the ministry of reconciliation.
- **Connection to Devotional:** This ties directly to the "rebuilding of ruined cities" (**ISAIAH 61:4**). The "ruins" are often people. This crown is for those who looked at the "injured behind us" and the "cost of neglect" and chose to invest the Nobleman's mina into the lives of others.

## 3. The Crown of Righteousness (The Watchman's Crown)

- **Scripture:** *"Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness... to all who have loved his appearing."* — **2 TIMOTHY 4:8**
- **The Stewardship:** Maintaining a "Kingdom-First" perspective and longing for Justice.
- **Connection to Devotional:** This is the "Full Reward" for those who do not view the return of Christ as a "pie in the sky," but as a reality they hunger for. It is the reward for the "Watchmen" who are not appalled by the "Winepress" (**ISAIAH 63**) because they desire the King's reign above all.

## 4. The Crown of Glory (The Shepherd's Crown)

- **Scripture:** *"And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory."* — **1 PETER 5:4**
- **The Stewardship:** Leading, feeding, and protecting the "Children of God" among the weeds.
- **Connection to Devotional:** As you noted, "Heaven is not a retirement village." This crown is for those who take up the mantle of **Authority over Cities (LUKE 19)**. You cannot rule a city without the heart of a shepherd. It is the reward for those who laboured for the young even in their own "days of labour."

## 5. The Crown of Life (The Martyr's/Overcomer's Crown)

- **Scripture:** *"Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial... he will receive the crown of life."* — **JAMES 1:12; REVELATION 2:10**
- **The Stewardship:** Perseverance through suffering and the "high cost" of faith.
- **Connection to Devotional:** This crown is for those who answered Jesus' question—*"Will he find faith on earth?"*—with a resounding "Yes." It is for those who stood in the

"Fullness of the presence of God" even when the world offered a "deceiver's" path (2 JOHN 1:7).

## 6. Resources

### Archived Playlists:

Find the devotional archives on the website at: <https://www.thehouseofbread.co.za>

### NEW: Download Music



We have added the ability for you to download the music you heard in the devotionals. You can listen to the song before hitting the "Download" button to know it is the right song you wanted. For now, at least, these are free downloads, and my hope is that I can keep it free. Enjoy!

Link: <https://music.thehouseofbread.co.za/index.php>

### Radio Stations:

House of Bread Music Radio App

Download link:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.app.houseofbreadmusic>

Brought to you by ministry

