

## PRAYER STUDY 13

*Tribes of Israel*  
*Ephesians 2 and 3*

### 1. FIRST THE NATURAL, THEN THE SPIRITUAL

1 Corinthians 15:45-46 "And so it is written, 'The first man, Adam, was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a life-giving spirit. However, THAT WAS NOT FIRST WHICH IS SPIRITUAL, BUT THAT WHICH IS NATURAL; AND AFTERWARD THAT WHICH IS SPIRITUAL.'"

### 2. TYPES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

- a. Israel(*He who strives with God*.)-Body of Christ-outer court, out of Egypt, thanksgiving, walk, faith, bearers of fruit-30 fold Christians
- b. Jerusalem(*lay ye double peace*)-Spirit baptized believers, The Holy Place, Praise, run, hope, bearers of more fruit-60 fold Christians
- c. Zion(*parched place*)-Overcoming Church of Jesus Christ, Sold out ones, The Most Holy Place, The Holy of Holies, Worship, mount-up, anointed ones, love, much fruit-100 fold Christians

### 3. TRIBES OF ISRAEL(GENESIS 29 AND 30)

- a. REUBEN(*Behold a son*): First born son of Jacob(Leah); Unstable as water, eventually absorbed by the tribe of Gad; Reuben should have inherited the priesthood(went to Levi), the birthright(went to Judah), and the kingdom(Joseph); no prophet, no judge, no hero from his tribe; Reuben slept with his father's concubine(Bilhah), and this brought a curse on him. Nevertheless, there is a tribe of Reuben in the Israel of God.

#### INSTABILITY AND SEXUAL SIN

- b. SIMEON(*Hearing, hears and obeys*): Second born son of Jacob(Leah); Simeon's life was marked by cruelty and rebellion to authority. Simeon along with Levi killed the Shechemite

males and when rebuked by their father upheld indignantly their right to act as they did. During the 40 years in the wilderness, thousands of the Simeonites were killed because of the idolatry of the tribe. They later joined up with Judah and were changed. From the time the Simeonites became aware of what God had done for them, there was no more curse and no more captivity for them. They had been instruments of cruelty, but they became instruments of warfare against the enemies of the Lord.

#### DISRESPECTFUL TO AUTHORITY

- c. LEVI(*Joined or adhesion*): Third son of Jacob(Leah); As already noted, Levi participated with Simeon in murdering the Shechemite males and was rebuked by Jacob. However, when he separated from Simeon, he became called to the ministry. Isolation is a feature of this tribe. This was a priestly tribe that had no territory of their own. "The true Levites," says Dr. C.H. Waller, "are men who have been made lonely among their brethren that they may live alone with Jehovah..."

#### PRIESTS

- d. JUDAH(*Praise of the Lord*): Fourth son of Jacob(Leah); Judah was called a "lion's whelp", one of strength and royalty. From his lineage came David and *JESUS*. Judah was first in numbers, first in territory, first in marching order, first in prowess, and first in war. "Thou art he whom thy brethren shall praise." His symbol was the Lion-king.

#### PRAISERS

- e. DAN(*He that judges*): Fifth son of Jacob(Bilhah, Leah's maid); Dan was known for physical strength and ability as a warrior and military leader. Dan is the lost tribe that is left out of Revelations 7. Many scholars believe that the Antichrist will come from this tribe because he is likened to a serpent in the scriptures.

#### JUDGEMENTAL PERSON WHO RELIES ON HUMAN STRENGTH

- f. NAPHTALI(*Obtained by wrestling*): Sixth son of Jacob(Bilhah, Rachel's maid); He got his name because Rachel had wrestled in prayer of God's favor and blessing. He was a great orator, but had no self control. He went through life aimlessly with a goal.

THOSE WHO TALK THE TALK  
BUT DON'T WALK THE WALK

- g. GAD(*Good fortune, a troop or a seer*): Seventh son of Jacob (Zilpah, Leah's maid); Gad had great physical strength and ability as warriors and military leaders. Jacob predicted for the tribe of Gad a time of sore conflict, yet of final conquest. They were very energetic and aggressive.

HUMAN STRENGTH

- h. ASHER(*Happy*): Eighth son of Jacob(Zilpah, Leah's maid); Asher was prosperous and the most acceptable to his brothers. There were no great leaders or great events that happened connected to Asher. Anna is one of the few remembered Asherites. She was the old woman who confessed Christ at his birth in the temple. Asher was content to dwell among the Canaanites. Asher was one who was promised endurance and was generous to the other tribes.

WORLDLY POPULARITY

- i. ISSACHAR(*There is here or reward*): Ninth son of Jacob(Leah); Issachar was said to have an understanding of the times and knew what Israel ought to do. They had great strength on the field of battle. However, their love of ease made them unwilling at times to use their strength at all times in the interest of their country.

DISCERNER OF THE TIMES

- j. ZEBULON(*Dwelling or Wished for Habitation*): Tenth son of Jacob(Leah); Zebulun was a commercial tribe who had open door to the sea and thus to the world. They had the opportunity to be a missionary tribe. This was the place of the earthly habitation for the Lord of Glory(Isa.9:1-7, 63:15;2 Chron. 6:20

MISSIONARIES

- k. JOSEPH(*May God Add or Increase*): Eleventh son of Jacob & first of Rachel; Joseph was a dreamer who went from rags to riches. He was faithful in the hard places. He won the confidence of those in authority over him. He resisted temptation. He had physical beauty, but it was never a snare to him. He was silent when accused. He was unspoiled by sudden prosperity. He was a dream interpreter. He manifested great wisdom, brotherly love, filial devotion, and utter submission to God. He returned good for evil.

DREAM INTERPRETERS  
PROVIDERS FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST  
ADMINISTRATORS

- l. BENJAMIN(*Son of the right hand*): Twelfth son of Jacob & second of Rachel; Benjamin's symbol was the "ravenous wolf", a symbol of greed. His mother died giving birth to him, and he was the only one born in Canaan. The Benjamites were very courageous and mighty warriors but were very greedy in dividing the spoil with the other tribes. Benjamites include Saul, the first king of Israel, and Saul, the apostle who became Paul. The tribe of Benjamin inherited Jerusalem, the seat of God's love, and was the meeting place for all Israel.

THOSE ESPECIALLY BLESSED BY GOD