

*And if the bugler doesn't sound a clear sound, how will the soldiers know they are being called to battle? 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14:8 NLV*

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First Love Ministries, Inc.

Prayer Study #157

### **Tribes of Israel Revisited**

*And Jacob called unto his sons and said, Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you that which shall befall you in the last days.*

Genesis 49:1

#### Types:

(A type is a prophetic representation foreshadowing something else to come in the future. It differs from a symbol in that a symbol is something which is itself and yet stands for something else and can represent something past, present or future.)

- 1. The natural types the spiritual.** *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. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:45-46*
- 2. Israel (He who strives with God).** Israel types the body of Christ, those who have come out of Egypt (the world), those who have enter the tabernacle's outer court, and those who are 30 fold Christians. We are therefore *spiritual* Israel. Words such as *thanksgiving* and *faith walkers* describe these believers.
- 3. Jerusalem (Lay ye double peace).** Jerusalem types spirit-baptized believers who can go into the inner court of the temple, and who are bearers of more fruit or 60 fold Christians. In addition to the words describing the 30 fold Christians; words such as *praise, run, and hope* describe the walk of these believers.
- 4. Zion (parched place).** Zion, in the natural, is the highest hill in Jerusalem. To get to *spiritual* Zion in our walk with Jesus should be the goal of every believer. However, many opt out of going to Zion because it requires testings and trials, hence *parched place*, and many love the Lord with a lukewarm love and do not want to suffer for the Kingdom. Testings, however, make us pure so that we shine like gold. I suspect that it will be the Zion Company that will come out of great tribulation at the end of the age (*And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, Who are these who are arrayed in white robes? And from where did they come? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they who came out of great*

*tribulation and have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.* [Revelation 7:13-14]). I also believe that this company will be the Remnant Company of the Last Days-days which are more likely closer than we think . At any rate these are sold out and passionate overcomers, who have entered an intimate relationship with Jesus and have entered in to The Most Holy Place or Holy of Holies of the temple, which was made accessible when the curtain of the temple was slashed open because of the sacrifice of the LAMB. Words describing these 100 fold Christians are *worship, anointed ones, love, and much fruit.* These believers are the ones on the Highway of Holiness and are heavenly minded instead of earthly and worldly minded. The Zion Company comes to a place where God is and where there is joy and singing. Zion is a place of *being* in God.

Just a little side note: The church in America is weak, I believe, because it has bought into the emergent church or seeker friendly church idea which generally tries to conform and change the Gospel message to be compatible and to line up with the culture instead of transforming the culture by insisting on the uncompromisable principles of the Word of God. There is certainly nothing wrong with moving forward and not getting stuck in religion and tradition. However, the focus always needs to be on the Word of God and on Jesus.

Background:

Jacob had 12 sons with 4 different women. They are as follows:

Reuben-1<sup>st</sup> born with Leah as the mother  
Simeon-2<sup>nd</sup> born with Leah as the mother  
Levi-3<sup>rd</sup> born with Leah as the mother  
Judah-4<sup>th</sup> born with Leah as the mother  
Dan-5<sup>th</sup> born with Bilhah, Rachel's maid as the mother  
Naphtali-6<sup>th</sup> born with Bilhah, Rachel's maid as the mother  
Gad-7<sup>th</sup> born with Zilpah, Leah's maid  
Asher-8<sup>th</sup> born with Zilpah, Leah's maid  
Issachar-9<sup>th</sup> born with Leah as mother  
Zebulon-10<sup>th</sup> born with Leah as mother  
Joseph-11<sup>th</sup> born with Rachel as mother  
Benjamin-12<sup>th</sup> born with Rachel as mother

Dan is the lost tribe that is left out of Revelations 7. Because Joseph was his father's favorite and perhaps because Joseph was mistreated so terribly by his brothers and yet forgave and saved their lives, Jacob decided to name Joseph's two sons as his own sons as far as the inheritance went. Thus, Manasseh and Ephraim took Joseph's place in the listing of the 12 tribe of Israel. At the end of his life, Jacob blessed his boys but also foretold what would happen to each one, not holding back anything. These prophetic words from Jacob, according to Genesis 49:1 reveal what will happen to all of these tribes *in the last days*. Again, Genesis 49:1 reads, *And Jacob called unto his sons and said, Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you that which shall befall you **in the last days***. (This is the first time in scripture that this term *in the last days* is used.)

### Significance of the number 12 in Scripture

Twelve stands for apostolic fullness or divine government. There were twelve stones, twelve apostles, twelve loaves of showbread, twelve tribes, and twelve gates in the New Jerusalem.

Listing of the Twelve Tribes in Scripture(They are also listed in Genesis 35:23-26; Exodus 1:2-5; Numbers 1:20-43; 1<sup>st</sup> Chronicles 2:2; Revelation 7:5-8.)

### **Genesis 49**

Setting: Egypt

Blessing spoken by Jacob

Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Zebulon, Issachar, Dan, Gad, Asher, Naphtali, Joseph, and Benjamin (All of the original twelve tribes)

Stage One of the Christian Life: Children of God, the Born Again Experience

### **Deuteronomy 33**

Setting: In the wilderness before the Israelites entered the Promise Land

Blessing spoken by Moses

Reuben, Judah, Levi, Benjamin, Ephraim, Manasseh, Zebulon, Gad, Dan, Naphtali, Asher, Issachar (Joseph was not omitted but got the double portion with Ephraim and Manasseh)

Stage Two: Baptism in the Holy Spirit

### **Revelation 7**

Setting: In the Last Days before the tribes are caught up to heaven at the Second Coming

Blessing spoken by the angel

Judah, Reuben, Gad, Asher, Naphtali, Manasseh, Simeon, Levi, Issachar, Zebulon, Joseph, Benjamin (Ephraim, Joseph's son, was left out perhaps because this tribe under Jeroboam, the Ephraimite, got into idol worship establishing a false religious system, split the kingdom of Israel, were taken captive and scattered throughout the nations never to return to Israel, and Dan allowed one of the golden calves that Jeroboam set-up to stay in its territory. **The point being that the sin of idolatry and worship of false gods in the last days will deprive these two tribes from the opportunity to testify of the Messiah**, and most likely these will be among those who bow before the Antichrist and take the mark of the beast. Thus Ephraim and Dan, although included in other list of the 12 tribes, are not listed in Revelation.)

Stage Three: Manifested Sons of God, Baptism of Fire (or being purified by trials and tribulations) and the sealing of the servants of God in their foreheads.

**Nine & ½ Tribes inherited Land on the west side of the Jordan:** Simeon, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Asher, Issachar, Zebulon, Benjamin, and Ephraim, plus ½ of Manasseh tribe

**Two & ½ Tribes inherited Land on the east side of Jordan:** Reuben, Gad (aka Gilead), and ½ Manasseh

The tribe of Levi received no inheritance. According to Joshua 13:33, *the LORD God of Israel was their inheritance.*

**Since we were grafted in the vine and are spiritual Jews, some people believe that we individually show forth the characteristics of a particular tribe. Others feel that we move from tribe to tribe, and still others see no connection between the Body of Christ and the Tribes of Israel.**

If we are in a tribe, which Tribe do you think you would be in? (Genesis 29-30, 49) MUCH OF THIS INFORMATION CAME FROM HERBERT LOCKYER'S ALL THE MEN IN THE BIBLE.

1. **REUBEN** (*Behold a son*): The first-born son of Jacob and Leah was unstable as water and was eventually absorbed by the tribe of Gad. Reuben should have inherited the priesthood (which went to Levi),

the birthright (which went to Judah), and the kingdom (which went to Joseph.) No prophet, no judge, no hero from his tribe is listed in the Bible. Reuben slept with his father's concubine (Bilhah), and this brought a curse on him. Nevertheless, in spite of his lack of lack of accomplishments and his sin, there is a tribe of Reuben in the Israel of God. Their stone is Sardius (our ruby) (red). (Stones from Exodus 28:17-21.)

**REUBENITES ARE UNSTABLE AND USUALLY INVOLVED  
IN SOME KIND OF SEXUAL SIN AND NEVER REACHED  
THEIR POTENTIAL IN THE LORD.**

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2. **SIMEON** (*Hearing or hears and obeys*): Simeon was the second born son of Jacob and Leah. Simeon's life was marked by cruelty and rebellion to authority. Simeon, along with Levi, killed the Shechemite males after they tricked them into getting circumcised. They were rebuked by their father, but, instead of asking his forgiveness, they indignantly upheld 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 this tribe. They later joined up with Judah, however, and were changed. From that time the Simeonites became aware of what God had done for them, and they were freed from both curses and captivity. They had been instruments of cruelty but became instruments of warfare against the enemies of God. Leah had felt unloved because Jacob paid more attention to her sister Rachel. God loved her and heard her cry and gave her another son. Thus, prophetically Simeon represents faith and love. Simeon lost this blessing, however, because he and his brother Levi killed all the Shechemite males for no other reason than that Shechem loved their sister Dinah. This was clearly acting contrary to faith and love. In the blessing of Moses, Simeon was not given any territory of his own. Instead the Simeonites were given 17 cities in the territory of Judah. He was made to dwell with Judah because the best way to restore love and faith towards God is through praise and worship. Their stone is topas (our topaz) (yellow-green).

**SIMEONITES ARE THOSE OFTEN DISREPECTFUL OF  
AUTHORITY, BUT THEY CAN BE POWERFUL IN  
WARFARE AGAINST THE ENEMY IF THEY LEARN TO  
SUBMIT AND IF THEY ARE COUPLED WITH JUDAH.**

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3. **LEVI** (*Joined or adhesion*): Levi was the third son of Jacob and Leah. As already noted, Simeon participated with Levi in the murdering of the Shechemite males and was rebuked by Jacob. It seems unfair, almost, that Levi was given no rebuke from Moses and even a greater blessing than some of the tribes. The reason is that Levites redeemed themselves from their disrespect of authority by being the only tribe that stood with Moses to oppose the worship of the golden calf. Before this, all of Israel was considered priests before the Lord, but all the other tribes lost this status because they did not stand with Moses in opposing the worship of the golden calf. When the Levites separated from Simeon, they became called to the ministry. It was then that they became attached and joined to God. 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 made lonely among their brethren that they might live alone with Jehovah..." Their stone is carbuncle (our emerald) (green).

**LEVITES ARE PRIESTS OR MINISTERS OF THE GOSPEL.  
THEY HAD TO SEPARATE FROM SIMEONITES WHO  
REBEL AGAINST AUTHORITY. THE LORD WANTS  
LEVITES TO COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM AND BE  
SEPARATE. (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 6:17)**  
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4. **JUDAH** (*Praise of the Lord*): Fourth son of Jacob and Leah, Judah was called a "lion's whelp," i.e. one of strength and royalty. From his lineage came David and JESUS. Judah was first in numbers, first in territory, first in marching orders, first in prowess, and first in war. Praise must go before us if we are to defeat the power of the enemy who "„,comes down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time."(Revelation 12:12b) His symbol was the Lion-king. Their stone is emerald (our garnet) (red). (Exodus 28:17-21)

**PRAISERS**  
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5. **DAN** (*He that judges*). The fifth son of Jacob with Bilhah, Leah's maid, 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 believe that the Antichrist will come from this tribe because he is likened to a serpent in the scriptures. Their stone is sapphire

(clear). Many think the Danes of Denmark and the Nordic tribes are from Dane.

**JUDGMENTAL PERSON WHO RELIES ON HUMAN  
STRENGTH**

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6. **NAPHTALI** (*Obtained by wrestling*): Naphtali was the sixth son of Jacob with Bilhah, Rachel's maid. He got his name because Rachel had wrestled in prayer for God's favor and blessing against her sister Leah. He was a great orator but had no self-control. He went through life aimlessly without a goal. Their stone is diamond (our alabaster) (white).

**NAPHTALI PEOPLE OFTEN ARE THOSE WHO TALK THE  
TALK BUT DON'T ALWAYS WALK THE WALK.  
HOWEVER, WHEN THEY SUBMIT TO THE HOLY SPIRIT,  
NAPHTALI PEOPLE CAN BE GREAT WARRIORS FOR THE  
LORD AND AGAINST THE ENEMY.**

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7. **GAD** (*Good fortune, a troop or a seer*): Gad was the seventh son of Jacob. His mother was Zilpah, Leah's maid. Gad had great physical strength and ability as a warrior and military leader. Jacob predicted that the tribe of Gad would have a time of great conflict but would finally conquer. Gadites were very energetic and aggressive. Their stone is ligure (our opal).

**GADITES ARE THOSE WHO USE HUMAN STRENGTH  
INSTEAD OF SPIRITUAL STRENGTH. THEY ARE TYPE A  
PERSONALITIES. GAD ALSO REPRESENTS THE  
TRIBULATIONS ONE MUST GO THROUGH IN ORDER TO  
MATURE AND TO TASTE AND KNOW VICTORY.**

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8. **ASHER** (*Happy*): The eighth son of Jacob, Asher's mother was 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 prayed everyday and confessed Jesus as Christ when his parents took him to the temple the first time. Asher was content to dwell among the Canaanites. Asher was one who was promised endurance and was generous to the other tribes. Their stone is agate (red, green, & white).

**ASHERITES ARE OUT FOR WORLDLY APPROVAL AND POPULARITY. NEVERTHELESS, ASHERITES WHO ARE SOLD OUT TO JESUS WALK IN BLESSING AND PROSPERITY, AND THEY CAN BE PEOPLE WHO ARE JOYFUL AND CONTENT.**

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9. **ISSACHAR** (*He will be hired or he will bring reward*): Issachar not only understood the times, but he knew what Israel ought to do. The tribe of Issachar had great strength on the field of battle. However, their love of ease made them unwilling at times to use their strength in the interest of their country. Also, Issachar took their eyes off of God and began to focus on “the land that was pleasant.” This prophetically speaks of those too busy with their work and ministries to spend time alone with God. Thus, they become those who have a form of godliness but deny the power (2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:5). Issachar, whose mother was Leah, was the tenth son of Jacob. Their stone is amethyst (blue).

**DISCERNER OF TIMES**

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10. **ZEBULON** (*Dwelling*): The tenth son of Jacob was with his wife Leah. Zebulon was a commercial tribe who had open door to the sea and thus to the world. They thus had opportunity to be missionaries. Zebulon once was a land known for darkness and apostasy. Then the Lord visited and started his ministry there, and Matthew records, *The people who sat in darkness saw great light, and to them who sat in the region and shadow of death, light is sprung up. From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, “Repent; for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”* (Matthew 4:16-17) Their name is associated with increase. Theirs was also the place of the earthly inhabitation of the Lord. Prophetically this tribe will see many places opened up through divine visitation. Also prophetically they represent the branches dwelling in the Vine and allowing the Lord to abide in us. Their stone is beryl.

**MISSIONARIES**

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11. **JOSEPH** (*May God add or increase*): The eleventh son of Jacob was the first son of Jacob’s beloved wife Rachel. I am sure she spent many years in humiliation that she could not bear children. Yet her son Joseph, whom she waited for, for so long was one of the most



outstanding men of the Bible. He was a dreamer and a dream interpreter, who was faithful in the hard place, who knew the godliness of submitting to authority, and who resisted temptation. He had physical beauty and yet it was never a snare for him. He was silent when he was accused. He was unspoiled by sudden prosperity when he went from rags and prison to riches and the Pharaoh's right hand man. He had great wisdom, true brotherly love, great devotion to his father, and utter submission to God. He returned good for evil. Their stone is onyx (like our banded carnelian) (black, brown, & white).

**DREAM INTERPRETERS, PROVIDERS FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST, ADMINISTRATORS**  
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12. **BENJAMIN** (*Son of the right hand*): The twelfth son of Jacob and the second of Rachel was the only son born in Canaan. His mother died in child birth and wanted him to be named Benoni, son of sorrow, but Jacob refuses and names him Benjamin, the son of my right hand. Benjamin was the first and only son born to Jacob after the Lord renamed Jacob as Israel. Benjamin was probably spoiled as the youngest and as the second of Rachel's sons. He grew up without his mother, and I am sure that his father was an old man when Benjamin was born. His symbol is the "ravenous wolf." This is a symbol of greed, and although the Benjamites were courage and mighty warriors, they also were greedy and did not want to divide the spoils of war with other tribes. Benjamites include Saul, the first king of Israel, and Saul, the apostle who became Paul. The tribe of Benjamin was highly favored and it inherited Jerusalem, the seat of God's love and the meeting place of all Israel. When Jeroboam, from the tribe of Ephraim, son of Joseph and nephew of Benjamin, broke up the united kingdom of Israel and took 10 tribes to the north, making Samaria his capitol, and establishing what the scripture called the House of Israel, Benjamin's tribe sided with Judah who took the southern kingdom with the capital in Jerusalem. Benjamites in scripture include Queen Esther and Mordecaia. Their stone is jasper (our chalcedony) (dark green).

**BENJAMITES ARE THOSE ESPECIALLY BLESSED BY GOD BUT THOSE WHO HAVE TO BE CAREFUL NOT TO WALK IN A "WOLF NATURE" AND MAKE MERCHANDISE**

## **OF THE GOSPEL OR OPERATE AS WOLVES IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING.**

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Again we note the addition in some lists in the scripture of Manasseh and Ephraim. These were the two sons of Joseph by his Egyptian wife Asenath. The first three kings of Israel (Saul, David, & Solomon) reigned over all 12 tribes. After Solomon's reign, Jeroboam led a breaking away of 10 tribes who established a northern kingdom known as Israel. Eventually, because of their idolatry, the Lord allowed them to be defeated by Assyria and carried into all the world. The southern kingdom was made up of Judah and Benjamin and called Judah. This kingdom was carried into captivity to Babylon for 70 years. Some believe that the tribe of Manasseh represents the United States and the tribe of Ephraim represents the British Empire.

The Lord is coming for a *glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish* (Ephesians 5:27). This bride is related to the twelve tribes of Israel. Revelation 21:10 tells us, *And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God, and her light was like a stone most precious, even a jasper stone, clear as crystal; and had a wall great and high and had twelve gates, and at the gate twelve angels, and names written on the gates, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel.* ( I would encourage you to read the entire chapter for a description of this place-a place for *they who are written in the Lamb's book of life.*)

### **Eastern side of New Jerusalem-The Bride of the Lamb**

Judah, Issachar and Zebulun with the main emblem- a lion.

PRAISE, REWARD, DWELLING, POSITION

Speaks of our kingly authority in God

### **North side of New Jerusalem-The Bride of the Lamb**

Dan, Asher, and Naphtali with the main emblem-an eagle.

I do not know why some Bible scholars put the tribe of Dan, the lost tribe which is left out of Revelation, as one of the tribes of the New Jerusalem, but I am glad since this indicates God's grace.

JOY, JUDGMENT, WRESTLING, PROSPERITY

Sons of God

Speaks of Spiritual battles we face

**West side of New Jerusalem-The Bride of the Lamb**

Manasseh, Ephraim, and Benjamin with the main emblem-an ox  
FORGETFULNESS, DOUBLE FRUITFULNESS, SON OF MY  
RIGHT HAND

Servanthood

**South side of New Jerusalem-The Bride of the Lamb**

Reuben, Gad, and Simeon with the main emblem-man  
MAN, AN ARMY, HEARING, STRENGTH

Priesthood

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Paul Keith Davis is a prophetic voice in America. He says that we are in a season of time that involves preparation for God's people to move with the cloud of His Presence into a place of promise, and that this preparation partly will be characterized by a great pronounced measure of His presence and will see a wave of harvest of future harvesters. In other words, those brought to the kingdom during this time will be those who will bring in the Great Harvest at the end of the age. Davis points out that the Lord specifically chose the tribes of Judah, Issachar, and Zebulon to lead the way in front of all the other tribes. These three were the first to move when the cloud moved. Judah, sent first into some of the battles with Israel's (the church's) enemies are the praisers. The tribe of Issachar are those who have a special understanding of the times and know what to do. The tribe of Zebulon means dwelling and is always identified with increase.  
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*Is should be remembered that the Early Church had no New Testament. Their "New Testament" was to be found in the "Old Testament." Concerning the Old and New Testament it has been aptly said:*

*The New is in the Old contained.  
The Old is in the New explained.  
The New is in the Old concealed,  
The Old is in the New revealed.  
The New is in the Old enfolded.  
The Old is in the New unfolded.*

*Hence, because the new Testament Canon of Scripture had not been written or completed in Early Church history, the Apostles continually appealed to the Old Testament writings for everything that God was doing in their midst.*

*Kevin Conner in The Tabernacle of David*

THESE ARE THEY  
By Bill and Gloria Gaither

The oceans give up  
All the dead that are in them.  
The graves open wide  
To set the captives free,  
And those who are roaming  
The earth rise to meet them-  
Abraham's seed as the sands of the sea.

These are they  
Who have come out  
Of great tribulation.  
They have washed their robes  
In the blood of the lamb.  
They have gone through much sorrow  
Into great jubilation.  
They're redeemed by the blood of the lamb.

Like a strong mighty army  
Their voices are ringing,  
The great cloud of witnesses  
Sing freedom song  
As they enter the country  
Built by their own Father,  
The promised homeland,  
They yearned for so long.  
All the strangers and pilgrims  
All the tired, weary wanderer's  
They will wander no more.  
The table is ready  
For the great celebration  
And the welcome home banner  
Flies over the door.

They are they  
Who have come out  
Of great tribulation.  
They have washed their robes  
In the blood of the Lamb.  
They have gone through much sorrow  
Into great jubilation.  
They're redeemed by the blood of the lamb.