Joshua The LORD is Salvation

Israel2: Specific Information about each Tribe

The Tribes of Israel (sons/grandsons of Jacob ⇒ Israel ^{Genesis 32:28})

Reuben (behold a son) (Leah ^{Genesis 29:32})

Jacob's Blessing Genesis 49:3-4: "Reuben, you are my firstborn, my might, the first sign of my strength, excelling in honor, excelling in power. Turbulent as the waters, you will no longer excel, for you went up onto your father's bed, onto my couch and defiled it."

Moses' Blessing Deuteronomy 33:6: "Let Reuben live and not die, nor his men be few."

Negatives: While Jacob was still alive, Reuben slept with Bilhah, his father's concubine. Genesis 35:21-22 Firstborn rights were taken from Reuben, because "he defiled his father's marriage bed". Samuel 5:1

Tribe members Dathan and Abiram were part of Korah's rebellion. See complete description under tribe of Levi

Reuben was one of two and a half tribes who were concerned about grabbing the first good grazing land on the east side of the Jordan River instead of entering the Promised Land. Numbers 32:1 However, being exposed east of the Jordan, they were the first to go into captivity. 1 Chronicles 5:26

Positives: When Joseph travelled to his brothers while they were "grazing the flocks", most of them wanted to kill Joseph, but Reuben convinced his brothers to not "shed any blood", to "throw him into [a] cistern" and planned to "rescue him from them and take him back to his father". Genesis 37:20-22 At a later time, during the famine and the brothers travels to and from Egypt, Reuben offered the lives of his two sons to guarantee the safety of Joseph's full brother, Benjamin. Genesis 42:35-37

The tribe of Reuben was one of the four camp leaders during the wilderness wanderings. Numbers 2:10

Noteworthy Tribal Members: None found.

❖ Simeon (heard) (Leah ^{Genesis 29:33})

Jacob's Blessing Genesis 49:5-7: "Simeon and Levi are brothers – their swords are weapons of violence.

Let me not enter their council, let me not join their assembly, for they have killed men in their anger and hamstrung oxen as they pleased. Cursed be their anger, so fierce, and their fury, so cruel!

I will scatter them in Jacob and disperse them in Israel."

Moses' Blessing Deuteronomy 33: Simeon did not receive a blessing from Moses.

Negatives: After their (full) sister Dinah was defiled by the son of Hamor (king of Shechem), Simeon and his brother Levi plotted and carried out revenge against Shechem. They deceitfully convinced Hamor to have all the men of Shechem circumcised as an appearament for the violation of Dinah. However, when the men of Shechem were weakened from the circumcisions, Simeon and Levi murdered them all, without the knowledge (and to the grief) of their father, Jacob. Genesis 34:1-31

Simeon's inheritance in the Promise Land was not a plot of land, but simply a series of "towns and their villages" "within the territory of Judah". Joshua 19:1-9

Positives: Simeon was one of the tribes who stood on Mt Gerizim to pronounce blessing on the people during the covenant renewal commanded by Moses Deuteronomy 27:12-13, led by Joshua, Joshua 8:30-35.

Simeon united with Judah in order to eliminate the remaining Canaanites from their land. Judges 1:3,17

Simeon joined Judah and Benjamin in the reform inspired by Azariah and led by Asa. ^{2 Chronicles 15:1-18}

Noteworthy Tribal Members: None found.

★ Levi (attached) (Leah Genesis 29:34)

Jacob's Blessing Genesis 49:5-7: "Simeon and Levi are brothers – their swords are weapons of violence.

Let me not enter their council, let me not join their assembly, for they have killed men in their anger and hamstrung oxen as they pleased. Cursed be their anger, so fierce, and their fury, so cruel!

I will scatter them in Jacob and disperse them in Israel."

Moses' Blessing Deuteronomy 33:8-11: "Your Thummim and Urim belong to the man you favored.

You tested him at Massah; you contended with him at the waters of Meribah. He said of his father and mother, 'I have no regard for them.' He did not recognize his brothers or acknowledge his own children, but he watched over your word and guarded your covenant. He teaches your precepts to Jacob and your law to Israel. He offers incense before you and whole burnt offerings on your altar. Bless all his skills, O LORD, and be pleased with the work of his hands. Strike the loins of those who rise up against him; strike his foes till they rise no more."

Negatives: As detailed above, Jacob rebuked Levi and Simeon for murdering all the men of Shechem in order to avenge the defiling of their (full) sister Dinah by the son of Shechem's king. Genesis 34:1-31

Jealousy of Moses and Aaron's leadership positions, Korah (a Kohathite) led a rebellion that resulted in the families of Korah, Dathan and Abiram being swallowed up by the earth, their 250 supporters being burned up and 14,700 of the Israelites who had also "grumbled" dying of a plague. Numbers 16

Positives: The Levites were "given wholly" to the Lord, who chose to take "them as [His] own in place of the firstborn, the first male offspring from every Israelite woman" who belong to Him. Numbers 8:15-18

The "Lord set apart the tribe of Levi to carry the ark of the covenant of the Lord, to stand before the Lord to minister and to pronounce blessings in his name" Deuteronomy 10:8. "That is why the Levites [had] no share or inheritance among their brothers; the Lord is their inheritance" Deuteronomy 10:9.

It seems that, in spite of his violent nature ^{Genesis 49:5-7}, the Lord chose Levi to serve Him in this way, because of their stance (through the leading of Moses) against idolatry at Mt Sinai ^{Exodus 32:26-29}.

Levi had three sons ^{1 Chronicles 6:1-30}, each with distinct responsibilities:

- Gershon: Under the "direction of Aaron and his sons" (priests) Numbers 4:27, the Gershonites were tasked with physical care of the soft parts (tents, etc) of the Tent of Meeting Numbers 3:25-26, 4:24-26.
- *Kohath:* He was grandfather to Moses and Aaron. Exodus 6:16,18,20 The Kohathites were generally responsible for the "care of the sanctuary". Numbers 3:31, 4:4-20 Aaron and sons were specifically chosen as priests Numbers 3:10, and the other clans took care of the "most holy things" Numbers 4:4.
- *Merari*: Also under the priests ^{Numbers 4:33}, the Merarites were in charge of the physical care of the hard parts ("frames, crossbars, posts and bases") of the Tent of Meeting. ^{Numbers 3:36-37, 4:31-32}

The Levite men may have been apprenticed at the age of twenty-five Numbers 8:24, but could only "serve in the work at the Tent of Meeting" from "thirty to fifty years of age". Numbers 4:23,30,35

Noteworthy Tribal Members: Moses ^{1 Chronicles 6:1-3}, Aaron ^{1 Chronicles 6:1-3}, Samuel ^{1 Chronicles 6:33-34}, Asaph ^{Ezra 3:10}, Ezra ^{Ezra 7:11}, Jeremiah ^{Jeremiah 1:1}, Ezekiel ^{Ezekiel 1:3}, John the Baptist ^{Luke 1:5} and Barnabas ^{Acts 4:36}.

★ Judah (praise) (Leah Genesis 29:35)

Jacob's Blessing Genesis 49:8-12: "Judah, your brothers will praise you; your hand will be on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons will bow down to you. You are a lion's cub, O Judah; you return from the prey, my son. Like a lion he crouches and lies down, like a lioness – who dares to rouse him? The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the nations is his. He will tether his donkey to a vine, his colt to the choicest branch; he will wash his garments in wine, his robes in the blood of grapes. His eyes will be darker than wine, his teeth whiter than milk."

Moses' Blessing Deuteronomy 33:7: "Hear, O LORD, the cry of Judah; bring him to his people. With his own hands he defends his cause. Oh, be his help against his foes!"

Negatives: Judah committed incest with his daughter-in-law, Tamar. Genesis 38:12-26

Judah's descendant, Achan, took sacred things of God during the conquest of Jericho. Joshua 7

The greatest human King of Israel, David, was an adulterer and murderer. ^{2 Samuel 11:1–12:23}

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Positives: Judah convinced his brothers to sell Joseph into slavery instead of killing him. Genesis 37:26-27

Firstborn rights were transferred from Reuben to Joseph, but Judah was the royal line. 1 Chronicles 5:1-2

The "house of Judah" ^{1 Chronicles 28:4-7} was chosen by "the Lord, the God of Israel" "to be king over Israel forever", leading to Jesus Christ, the "Lion of the tribe of Judah" ^{Revelation 5:5}, who will sit on the "throne of his father David" ^{Luke 1:26-33} on Earth and His Father's throne in heaven ^{Revelation 3:21}.

Birth of the twin sons of Judah & Tamar (Perez and Zerah) kept the royal line alive. Matthew 1:3, Luke 3:33

Judah had prime positions in the wilderness wanderings Numbers 10:14 and encampment Numbers 2:3-9.

God commissioned Judah to lead in the post-Joshua conquest of the Promised Land. $^{\rm Judges~1:1-20}$

Noteworthy Tribal Members: Caleb Joshua 14:6, Achan Joshua 7:18, Othniel Judges 3:7-11, Elimelech Ruth 1:1-2, Boaz Ruth 2:1, Obed Ruth 4:21, Jesse Ruth 4:22, David 1 Samuel 16:1,13, Solomon 1 Kings 1:32-35, all the Kings of Judah 182 Kings and Daniel Daniel 1:6.

Jacob's Blessing Genesis 49:16-18: "Dan will provide justice for his people as one of the tribes of Israel.

Dan will be a serpent by the roadside, a viper along the path, that bites the horse's heels so that its rider tumbles backward. I look for your deliverance, O LORD."

Moses' Blessing Deuteronomy 33:22: "Dan is a lion's cub, springing out of Bashan."

Negatives: Lacking trust in God's promise to drive the Canaanites out of their land ^{Joshua 23:5}, most of Dan left their inheritance ^{Joshua 19:40-46} and moved north to Naphtali ^{Joshua 19:47}. They attacked and burned ^{Deuteronomy 33:22} Leshem (Laish ^{Judges 18:27}), then rebuilt the city, naming it Dan. ^{Judges 18:27-28}

Dan was the most idolatrous tribe in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Judges 18:28b-31, 1 Kings 12:28-30 As a result, they were left off the list of sealed tribes Revelation 7:3-8 during the Tribulation Daniel 9:27.

Positives: Dan's tribe was one of the four camp leaders during the wilderness wanderings. Numbers 2:25

After being left off the Tribulation list of sealed tribes Revelation 7:3-8, Dan is not only included in the Millennial tribes, but is listed first. Ezekiel 48:1-29 (an illustration of the Grace of God Genesis 49:18)

Noteworthy Tribal Members: Samson Judges 13

❖ Naphtali (struggle or wrestling) (Rachel's handmaid, Bilhah Genesis 30:7-8)

Jacob's Blessing Genesis 49:21: "Naphtali is a doe set free that bears beautiful fawns."

Moses' Blessing Deuteronomy 33:23: "Naphtali is abounding with the favor of the LORD and is full of his blessing; he will inherit southward to the lake."

Negatives: None noted.

Positives: The tribe of Naphtali helped Deborah and Barak defeat Sisera/Canaanites. Judges 5:18

Noteworthy Tribal Members: Barak Judges 4:6

⇔ Gad (good fortune or troop) (Leah's handmaid, Zilpah ^{Genesis 30:9-11})

Jacob's Blessing Genesis 49:19: "Gad will be attacked by a band of raiders, but he will attack them at their heels."

Moses' Blessing Deuteronomy 33:20-21: "Blessed is he who enlarges Gad's domain! Gad lives there like a lion, tearing at arm or head. He chose the best land for himself; the leader's portion was kept for him. When the heads of the people assembled, he carried out the LORD's righteous will, and his judgments concerning Israel."

Negatives: Gad was another of the tribes who were more concerned about grabbing the good grazing land on the east side of the Jordan River than in entering the Promised Land. Numbers 32:1

Positives: Gad was one of the several tribes of Israel who defected from backing King Saul to be "brave warriors" in support of David at Ziklag ^{1 Chronicles 12:8-15} and at Hebron ^{1 Chronicles 12:37}. These tribes were all "fully determined to make David king over all Israel". ^{1 Chronicles 12:38}

Noteworthy Tribal Members: None found.

Asher (happy/blessed) (Leah's handmaid, Zilpah ^{Genesis 30:12-13})

Jacob's Blessing Genesis 49:20: "Asher's food will be rich; he will provide delicacies fit for a king."

Moses' Blessing Deuteronomy 33:24-25: "Most blessed of sons is Asher; let him be favored by his brothers, and let him bathe his feet in oil. The bolts of your gates will be iron and bronze, and your strength will equal your days."

Negatives: None noted.

Positives: King Hiram of Tyre (Asher) sent materials to David for his palace construction ^{2 Samuel 5:11}, and he sent "cedar and juniper" to Solomon for the purpose of building the Temple ^{1 Kings 5:1-11}.

Although Asher was known as a land of "delicacies", later the house of a widow in Zarephath (Asher) would be known as a place of sustenance for Elijah during the drought he announced. ^{1 Kings 17:1-16}

Noteworthy Tribal Members: Anna Luke 2:36-38

★ Issachar (reward or wages) (Leah Genesis 30:16-18)

Jacob's Blessing Genesis 49:14-15: "Issachar is a rawboned donkey lying down between two saddlebags. When he sees how good is his resting place and how pleasant is his land, he will bend his shoulder to the burden and submit to forced labor."

Moses' Blessing Deuteronomy 33:18-19: "Rejoice, Zebulun, in your going out, and you, Issachar, in your tents. They will summon peoples to the mountain and there offer the sacrifices of righteousness; they will feast on the abundance of the seas, on the treasures hidden in the sand."

Curiosity: Issachar & Zebulun are land-locked, and yet Moses mentioned their affiliation with the sea.

Negatives: None noted.

Positives: When he recorded that the tribe of Issachar helped David in his battles against King Saul in the vicinity of Hebron, the author of First Chronicles also referred to the men of Issachar as prophets ("the men of Issachar, who understood the times and knew what Israel should do" ^{1 Chronicles 12:32}).

Noteworthy Tribal Members: Tola Judges 10:1-2

Jacob's Blessing Genesis 49:13: "Zebulun will live by the seashore and become a haven for ships; his border will extend toward Sidon."

Moses' Blessing Deuteronomy 33:18-19: "Rejoice, Zebulun, in your going out, and you, Issachar, in your tents. They will summon peoples to the mountain and there offer the sacrifices of righteousness; they will feast on the abundance of the seas, on the treasures hidden in the sand."

Negatives: None noted.

Positives: The tribe of Zebulun helped Deborah and Barak defeat Sisera/Canaanites. Judges 5:18

Noteworthy Tribal Members: Elon Judges 12:11-12

Jacob's Blessing Genesis 49:22-26: "Joseph is a fruitful vine, a fruitful vine near a spring, whose branches climb over a wall. With bitterness archers attacked him; they shot at him with hostility. But his bow remained steady, his strong arms stayed limber, because of the hand of the Mighty One of Jacob, because of the Shepherd, the Rock of Israel, because of your father's God, who helps you, because of the Almighty, who blesses you with blessings of the skies above, blessings of the deep springs below, blessings of the breast and womb. Your father's blessings are greater than the blessings of the ancient mountains, than the bounty of the age-old hills. Let all these rest on the head of Joseph, on the brow of the prince among his brothers."

Moses' Blessing Deuteronomy 33:13-17: "May the LORD bless his land with the precious dew from heaven above and with the deep waters that lie below; with the best the sun brings forth and the finest the moon can yield; with the choicest gifts of the ancient mountains and fruitfulness of the everlasting hills; with the best gifts of the earth and its fullness and the favor of him who dwelt in the burning

bush. Let all these rest on the head of Joseph, on the brow of the prince among his brothers. In majesty he is like a firstborn bull; his horns are the horns of a wild ox. With them he will gore the nations, even those at the ends of the earth. Such are the ten thousands of Ephraim; such are the thousands of Manasseh."

Negatives: None noted.

Positives: Joseph was blessed with good looks Genesis 39:6b, a favored status with his father Genesis 37:3 and a favored status with God Genesis 37:5-7,9. In response to these factors, his brothers developed a jealous-based hatred for Joseph Genesis 37:4,8,11, resulting in the brothers making plans to kill him. Reuben and Judah urged them not to kill him, so they sold Joseph into slavery Genesis 37:21,26-27. After a series of trials Genesis 39:1-41:40, God blessed Joseph through Pharaoh, who made him to be the second most powerful person in Egypt Genesis 41:41-43. Joseph's position (and with God's guidance) allowed him to save the Egyptians and much of the world (including Jacob's family) from starvation Genesis 41:56-57 and reconcile with his brothers, stating: "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is being done, the saving of many lives." Genesis 50:20.

Noteworthy Tribal Members: They are listed under the tribes of Manasseh and Ephraim.

Benjamin (son of my right hand [Jacob]) (*Ben-Oni:* son of my trouble [Rachel ^{Genesis 35:16-18}]) Rachel, the Mother of Joseph and Benjamin, died while giving birth to Benjamin. ^{Genesis 35:16-20}

Jacob's Blessing Genesis 49:27: "Benjamin is a ravenous wolf; in the morning he devours the prey, in the evening he divides the plunder."

Moses' Blessing Deuteronomy 33:12: "Let the beloved of the LORD rest secure in him, for he shields him all day long, and the one the LORD loves rests between his shoulders."

Negatives: None noted.

Positives: Most people are under the assumption that Jerusalem existed in the territory of Judah; however, in actuality, it was originally in the land inheritance of the tribe of Benjamin. Joshua 18:21-28

The men of the tribe of Benjamin were very skillful warriors (bow/arrow, slinging stones). For example, they "were able to shoot arrows or to sling stones right-handed or left-handed" ^{1 Chronicles 12:1-2} and there were select troops who "could sling a stone at a hair and not miss" ^{Judges 20:15-16}.

When the Kingdom divided into Israel (the Northern Kingdom) and Judah (the Southern Kingdom), Jerusalem and much of the territory of Benjamin became aligned with the tribe of Judah and the first king of the Southern Kingdom: King Rehoboam, the son of Solomon. ^{2 Chronicles 11:5-17}

Noteworthy Tribal Members: Ehud ^{Judges 3:12-30}, King Saul ^{1 Samuel 9:1-2}, Queen Esther ^{Esther 2:5-7} and Saul/Paul ^{Philippians 3:1-7}.

★ Manasseh (forget) (Asenath Genesis 41:51,48:5)

Jacob's Blessing Genesis 48:5,8-20: "Now then, your two sons born to you in Egypt before I came to you here will be reckoned as mine; Ephraim and Manasseh will be mine, just as Reuben and Simeon are mine. ... When Israel saw the sons of Joseph, he asked, "Who are these?" "They are the sons God has given me here," Joseph said to his father. Then Israel said, "Bring them to me so I may bless them." Now Israel's eyes were failing because of old age, and he could hardly see. So Joseph brought his sons close to him, and his father kissed them and embraced them. Israel said to Joseph, "I never expected to see your face again, and now God has allowed me to see your children too." Then Joseph removed them from Israel's knees and bowed down with his face to the ground. And Joseph took both of them. Ephraim on his right toward Israel's left hand and Manasseh on his left toward Israel's right hand, and brought them close to him. But Israel reached out his right hand and put it on Ephraim's head, though he was the younger, and crossing his arms, he put his left hand on Manasseh's head, even though Manasseh was the firstborn. Then he blessed Joseph and said, "May the God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked faithfully, the God who has been my shepherd all my life to this day, the Angel who has delivered me from all harm - may he bless these boys. May they be called by my name and the names of my fathers Abraham and Isaac, and may they increase greatly on the earth." When Joseph saw his father placing his right hand on Ephraim's head he was displeased; so he took hold of his father's hand to move it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head. Joseph said to him, "No, my father, this one is the firstborn; put your right hand on his head." But his father refused and said, "I know, my son, I know. He too will become a people, and he too will become great. Nevertheless, his younger brother will be greater than he, and his descendants will become a group of nations." He blessed them that day and said, "In your name will Israel pronounce this blessing: 'May God make you like Ephraim and Manasseh.' " So he put Ephraim ahead of Manasseh.

Moses' Blessing Deuteronomy 33:13-17: Contained in Moses' blessing of Joseph.

Negatives: Manasseh was blessed by his grandfather Jacob as his son ^{Genesis 48:5}. However, in his blessing (and for no stated reason), Jacob gave Manasseh's birthright to Ephraim. ^{Genesis 48:13-20}

A half tribe of Manasseh was part of the two and a half tribes who were more concerned about good grazing land on the east side of the Jordan River than on entering the Promised Land. Joshua 1:12-15

Positives: Manasseh received the largest inheritance in area, with two plots of land: one west of the Jordan River Joshua 16:7-11 and one east of the Jordan River Joshua 13:24-28.

The men of Manasseh had a reputation as men of valor: Gideon ^{Judges 6:11-21}, Jephthah ^{Judges 11:1-33} and some of the tribe supported David at Ziklag ^{1 Chronicles 12:19-22} and at Hebron ^{1 Chronicles 12:31}.

Noteworthy Tribal Members: the Daughters of Zelophehad Numbers 27:1-7, Gideon Judges 6:1-8:32, Abimelech Judges 9:1-55, Jair Judges 10:3-5 and Jephthah Judges 11:1-12:7.

⋩ Ephraim (twice fruitful) (Asenath ^{Genesis 41:52,48:5})

Jacob's Blessing Genesis 48:5,8-20: See Jacob's blessing of Manasseh.

Moses' Blessing Deuteronomy 33:13-17: Contained in Moses' blessing of Joseph.

Negatives: Ephraim was the 2nd most idolatrous tribe in the Northern Kingdom (Israel) Hosea 4:17,13:1,12, so they were not explicitly listed in the sealed tribes Revelation 7:3-8 during the Tribulation Daniel 9:27.

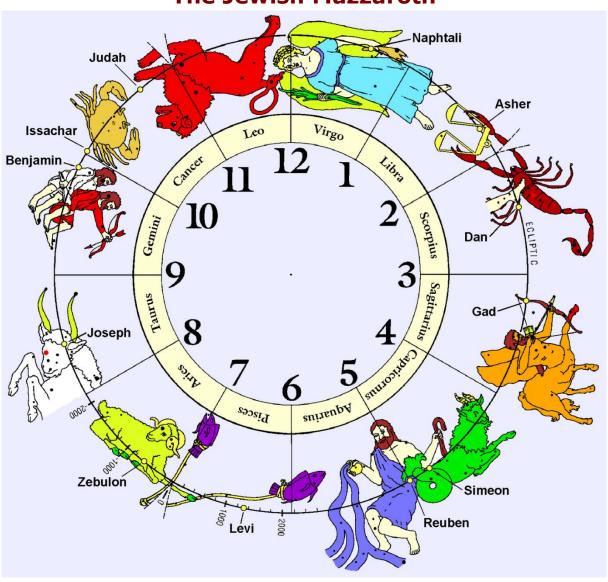
Positives: Jacob blessed his grandson Ephraim as his son ^{Genesis 48:5}. In addition, the blessing Jacob gave to Ephraim elevated him in prominence above his older brother, Manasseh. ^{Genesis 48:13-20}

The tribe of Ephraim was one of the four camp leaders during the wilderness wanderings. Numbers 2:18

Ephraim was the leading tribe in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. $^{\rm Jeremiah~31:9,20}$

Noteworthy Tribal Members: Joshua Numbers 13:8,16, Deborah Judges 4:4-5:31 and Abdon Judges 12:13-15.

The Jewish Mazzaroth



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