

~ISSACHAR 1 (221)

(Is'sa-char) [He Is Wages, that is, a man of wages]

- The ninth son of Jacob and the fifth of Leah's seven children born in Paddan-aram. Leah viewed this son as Yehowah's reward or wages paid for her having allowed a maidservant to bear sons by her husband during a period when she was barren.
- And Leah became pregnant and brought a son to birth and then called his name Reuben, for she said; It is because Yehowah has looked upon my wretchedness, in that now my husband will begin to love me. (**Genesis 29:32**)
- And afterward she bore a daughter and then called her name Dinah. (**Genesis 30:21**)
- The sons by Leah were Jacob's firstborn Reuben and Simeon and Levi and Judah and **Issachar** and Zebulun. (**Genesis 35:23**)
- And the sons by Zilpah, Leah's maidservant, were Gad and Asher. These are Jacob's sons who were born to him in Paddanaram. (**Genesis 35:26**)
- These were the sons of Israel, Reuben, Simeon, Levi and Judah, **Issachar** and Zebulun. (**1 Chronicles 2:1**)
- **Issachar** was perhaps eight years old when his family moved to Canaan in **1761 B.C.E.** After that nothing is known of his life aside from the recorded events in which, as one of the sons of Jacob, he mutually participated.
- And Jacob heard that he had defiled Dinah his daughter. And his sons happened to be with his herd in the field, and Jacob kept silent until they should come in. (**Genesis 34:5**)
- Later Hamor, Shechem's father, went out to Jacob to speak with him. (**Genesis 34:6**)
- And the sons of Jacob came in from the field as soon as they heard of it, and the men became hurt in their feelings and they grew very angry, because he had committed a disgraceful folly against Israel in lying down with Jacob's daughter, whereas

nothing like that ought to be done. ([Genesis 34:7](#))

- And Jacob's sons began to answer Shechem and Hamor his father with deceit and to speak so because he had defiled Dinah their sister. ([Genesis 34:13](#))
- The other sons of Jacob attacked the fatally wounded men and went plundering the city, because they had defiled their sister. ([Genesis 34:27](#))
- And Israel loved Joseph more than all his other sons, because he was the son of his old age, and he had a long, striped shirtlike garment made for him. ([Genesis 37:3](#))
- When his brothers came to see that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they began to hate him, and they were not able to speak peacefully to him. ([Genesis 37:4](#))
- Later on Joseph had a dream and told it to his brothers, and they found further reason to hate him. ([Genesis 37:5](#))
- And he went on to say to them; Listen, please, to this dream that I have dreamed. ([Genesis 37:6](#))
- Well, here we were binding sheaves in the middle of the field when here my sheaf got up and also stood erect and here your sheaves proceeded to encircle and bow down to my sheaf. ([Genesis 37:7](#))
- And his brothers began to say to him; Are you going to be king over us for certain? Or, Are you going to dominate over us for certain? So they found fresh reason to hate him over his dreams and over his words. ([Genesis 37:8](#))
- After that he had still another dream, and he related it to his brothers and said; Here I have had a dream once more, and here the sun and the moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me. ([Genesis 37:9](#))
- Then he related it to his father as well as his brothers, and his father began to rebuke him and say to him; What does this dream that you have dreamed mean? Am I and also your mother and your brothers for certain going to come and bow down to the earth to you? ([Genesis 37:10](#))

- **And his brothers grew jealous of him, but his father observed the saying; (Genesis 37:11)**
- **His brothers now went to feed the flock of their father close by Shechem. (Genesis 37:12)**
- **After a while Israel said to Joseph; Your brothers are tending flocks close by Shechem, are they not? Come, and let me send you to them. At this he said to him; Here I am! (Genesis 37:13)**
- **So he said to him; Go, please. See whether your brothers are safe and sound and whether the flock is safe and sound, and bring me back word. With that he sent him away from the low plain of Hebron, and he went on toward Shechem. (Genesis 37:14)**
- **Later a man found him and here he was wandering in a field. Then the man inquired of him, saying; What are you looking for? (Genesis 37:15)**
- **To this he said; It is my brothers I am looking for. Tell me, please, Where are they tending flocks? (Genesis 37:16)**
- **And the man continued; They have pulled away from here, because I heard them saying; Let us go to Dothan. So Joseph kept on after his brothers and found them at Dothan. (Genesis 37:17)**
- **Well, they caught sight of him from a distance, and before he could get close by them they began plotting cunningly against him to put him to death. (Genesis 37:18)**
- **So they said to one another; Look! Here comes that dreamer. (Genesis 37:19)**
- **And now come and let us kill him and pitch him into one of the water-pits, and we must say a vicious wild beast devoured him. Then let us see what will become of his dreams. (Genesis 37:20)**
- **When Reuben heard this he tried to deliver him out of their hand. So he said; Let us not strike his soul fatally. (Genesis 37:21)**
- **And Reuben went on to say to them; Do not spill blood. Pitch**

- him into this water-pit which is in the wilderness and do not lay a violent hand upon him. His purpose was to deliver him out of their hand in order to return him to his father. ([Genesis 37:22](#))
- So it came about that as soon as Joseph came to his brothers, they went stripping Joseph of his long garment, even the long striped garment that was upon him. ([Genesis 37:23](#))
 - After which they took him and pitched him into the water-pit. At the time the pit was empty, there was no water in it. ([Genesis 37:24](#))
 - Then they sat down to eat bread. When they raised their eyes and took a look, why, here was a caravan of Ishmaelites that was coming from Gilead, and their camels were carrying labdanum and balsam and resinous bark, on their way to take it down to Egypt. ([Genesis 37:25](#))
 - At this Judah said to his brothers; What profit would there be in case we killed our brother and did cover over his blood? ([Genesis 37:26](#))
 - Come and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and do not let our hand be upon him. After all, he is our brother, our flesh. So they listened to their brother. ([Genesis 37:27](#))
 - Eventually Jacob got to see that there were cereals in Egypt. Then Jacob said to his sons; Why do you keep looking at one another? ([Genesis 42:1](#))
 - And he added; Here I have heard that there are cereals in Egypt. Go down there and buy for us from there, that we may keep alive and not die off. ([Genesis 42:2](#))
 - Accordingly ten brothers of Joseph went down to buy grain from Egypt. ([Genesis 42:3](#))
 - And he proceeded to kiss all his brothers and to weep over them, and after that his brothers spoke with him. ([Genesis 45:15](#))
 - In **1728 B.C.E**, when **Issachar** was about 41 years old, he moved to Egypt together with his sons Tola, Puvah or Puah, Iob or Jashub, and Shimron as part of the seventy souls of Jacob's household.

- And the sons of **Issachar** were Tola and Puvah and Iob and Shimron. (**Genesis 46:13**)
- And Joseph's sons who were born to him in Egypt were two souls. All the souls of the house of Jacob who came into Egypt were seventy. (**Genesis 46:27**)
- Now these are the names of Israel's sons who came into Egypt with Jacob, each man and his household came. (**Exodus 1:1**)
- Reuben, Simeon, Levi and Judah. (**Exodus 1:2**)
- **Issachar**, Zebulun and Benjamin. (**Exodus 1:3**)
- Now the sons of **Issachar** were Tola and Puah, Jashub and Shimron, four. (**1 Chronicles 7:1**)
- When Jacob was on his deathbed, **Issachar** was the 5th of the 12 sons to receive his father's blessing.
- **Issachar** is a strong-boned ass, lying down between the two saddlebags. (**Genesis 49:14**)
- And he will see that the resting-place is good and that the land is pleasant, and he will bend down his shoulder to bear burdens and he will become subject to slavish forced labor. (**Genesis 49:15**)
- In pronouncing this blessing, not only was Jacob pointing out certain individual characteristics and events in the personal life of **Issachar** but, as with the blessings bestowed on his brothers, Jacob was also foretelling tribal traits and conduct that would be displayed in the future by **Issachar's** descendants, in the final part of the days.
- Later on Jacob called his sons and said; Gather yourselves together that I may tell you what will happen to you in the final part of the days. (**Genesis 49:1**)