## ~NAPHTALI 2 (679)

(Naph'ta-li) [My Wrestlings]

- ·· Land Inheritance
- ·· From The Time Of Judges To The Exile
- " Isaiah's Prophecy
- ·· Referred To In Visions
- The tribe of Israel named after Naphtali and composed of four tribal families descended from his sons Yahzeel, Guni, Jezer, and Shillem.
- The sons of Naphtali by their families were. Of Jahzeel the family of the Jahzeelites. Of Guni the family of the Gunites. (Numbers 26:48)
- Of Jezer the family of the Jezerites. Of Shillem the family of the Shillemites. (Numbers 26:49)
- About a year after the Israelites left Egypt, the fighting men of this tribe from 20 years old upward numbered 53,400.
- Of the sons of Naphtali, their births according to their families in the house of their fathers by the number of names from twenty years old upward, everyone going out to the army. (Numbers 1:42)
- Those registered of them of the tribe of Naphtali were fifty-three thousand four hundred. (Numbers 1:43)
- While in the wilderness, the tribe of Naphtali, under the leadership of its chieftain Ahira, encamped North of the tabernacle alongside the tribes of Asher and Dan.
- As part of the three-tribe division of the camp of Dan, the tribe of Naphtali, along with Dan and Asher, was last in the order of march and occupied the important position of rear guard.
- Of Naphtali, Ahira the son of Enan. (Numbers 1:15)
- These are the ones called of the assembly, the chieftains of the tribes of their fathers. They are the heads of the thousands of Israel. (Numbers 1:16)

- The three-tribe division of the camp of Dan will be toward the north in their armies, and the chieftain for the sons of Dan is Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai. (Numbers 2:25)
- And his army and the ones registered of them are sixty-two thousand seven hundred. (Numbers 2:26)
- And the ones camping alongside him will be the tribe of Asher, and the chieftain for the sons of Asher is Pagiel the son of Ochran. (Numbers 2:27)
- And his army and the ones registered of them are forty-one thousand five hundred. (Numbers 2:28)
- And the tribe of Naphtali, and the chieftain for the sons of Naphtali is Ahira the son of Enan. (Numbers 2:29)
- And his army and the ones registered of them are fifty-three thousand four hundred. (Numbers 2:30)
- All the registered ones of the camp of Dan are one hundred fiftyseven thousand six hundred. They should set out last, according to their three-tribe divisions. (Numbers 2:31)
- On the twelfth day there was the chieftain for the sons of Naphtali, Ahira the son of Enan. (Numbers 7:78)
- And the three-tribe division of the camp of the sons of Dan pulled away as forming the rear guard for all the camps in their armies, and Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai was over its army.

  (Numbers 10:25)
- And over the army of the tribe of the sons of Asher there was Pagiel the son of Ochran. (Numbers 10:26)
- And over the army of the tribe of the sons of Naphtali there was Ahira the son of Enan. (Numbers 10:27)
- In this manner were the departures of the sons of Israel in their armies when they would pull away. (Numbers 10:28)

- By the time a second census was taken about four decades after the Exodus from Egypt, the number of able-bodied men in the tribe had dropped to 45,400.
- These were the families of Naphtali by their families, and their registered ones were forty-five thousand four hundred. (Numbers 26:50)
- Among the men lost to the tribe was Nahbi, one of the ten spies who had brought back a bad report and discouraged the Israelites from entering the Promised Land.
- Of the tribe of Naphtali, Nahbi the son of Vophsi. (Numbers 13:14)
- These are the names of the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land. And Moses continued to call Hoshea the son of Nun Jehoshua. (Numbers 13:16)
- But the men who went up with him said; We are not able to go up against the people, because they are stronger than we are. (Numbers 13:31)
- And they kept on bringing forth to the sons of Israel a bad report of the land that they had spied out, saying; The land, which we passed through to spy it out, is a land that eats up its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in the midst of it are men of extraordinary size. (Numbers 13:32)
- And there we saw the Nephilim, the sons of Anak, who are from the Nephilim, so that we became in our own eyes like grasshoppers, and the same way we became in their eyes. (Numbers 13:33)
- I Yehowah have spoken if this is not what I shall do to all this evil assembly, those who have gathered together against me: In this wilderness they will come to their end, and there they will die. (Numbers 14:35)
- And the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land and who, when they returned, began making the whole assembly murmur against him, by bringing forth a bad report against the land. (Numbers 14:36)

- Yes, the men bringing forth the bad report about the land will die by the scourge before Yehowah. (Numbers 14:37)
- After finally crossing the Jordan and sharing in the conquest of Jericho and Ai under Joshua's leadership, Naphtali was one of the tribes standing for the malediction in front of Mount Ebal.
- And they burned the city with fire and everything that was in it. Only the silver and the gold and the articles of copper and iron they gave to the treasure of Yehowah's house. (Joshua 6:24)
- And Rahab the prostitute and the household of her father and all who belonged to her, Joshua preserved alive, and she dwells in the midst of Israel down to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent out to spy on Jericho. (Joshua 6:25)
- Then Joshua burned Ai and reduced it to an indefinitely lasting mound, as a desolation down to this day. (Joshua 8:28)
- It was then that Joshua proceeded to build an altar to Yehowah the God of Israel, in Mount Ebal. (Joshua 8:30)
- just as Moses the servant of Yehowah had commanded the sons of Israel, as it is written in the book of the Law of Moses; An altar of whole stones, upon which no iron tool has been wielded, and they went offering up burnt offerings upon it to Yehowah and sacrificing communion sacrifices. (Joshua 8:31)
- Then he wrote there upon the stones a copy of the Law of Moses that he had written before the sons of Israel. (Joshua 8:32)
- And all Israel and their older men and the officers and their judges were standing on this side and on that side of the Ark in front of the priests, the Levites, carrying the ark of the covenant of Yehowah, the alien resident as well as the native, one half of them in front of Mount Gerizim and the other half of them in front of Mount Ebal, just as Moses the servant of Yehowah had commanded, to bless the people of Israel first of all. (Joshua 8:33)
- And after this he read aloud all the words of the Law, the blessing and the malediction, according to all that is written in the book of the Law. (Joshua 8:34)

- There proved to be not a word of all that Moses had commanded that Joshua did not read aloud in front of all the congregation of Israel, together with the women and the little ones and the alien residents who walked in their midst. (Joshua 8:35)
- And the following are the ones who will stand for the malediction on Mount Ebal, Reuben, Gad and Asher and Zebulun, Dan and Naphtali. (Deuteronomy 27:13)
- When the time came for apportioning the land into tribal inheritances, Pedahel, as divinely appointed representative of the tribe of Naphtali, assisted Joshua and Eleazar the priest in this.
- And Yehowah spoke further to Moses, saying; (Numbers 34:16)
- These are the names of the men who will divide the land to you people for a possession, Eleazar the priest and Joshua the son of Nun. (Numbers 34:17)
- And of the tribe of the sons of Naphtali a chieftain, Pedahel the son of Ammihud. (Numbers 34:28)
- These were the inheritances that Eleazar the priest and Joshua the son of Nun and the heads of the fathers of the tribes of the sons of Israel distributed as a possession by lot in Shiloh before Yehowah, at the entrance of the tent of meeting. So they left off from apportioning the land. (Joshua 19:51)

## " Land Inheritance

- The territory assigned to the tribe of Naphtali was situated in the northern part of the Promised Land.
- Then Moses proceeded to go up from the desert plains of Moab into Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which fronts toward Jericho. And Yehowah went showing him all the land, Gilead as far as Dan. (Deuteronomy 34:1)
- And all Naphtali and the land of Ephraim and Manasseh and all the land of Judah as far as the western sea. (Deuteronomy 34:2)
- On the East it was bounded by the Sea of Galilee and the Jordan River. For some distance the territory of Asher extended along the

West border. The region assigned to Zebulun bounded Naphtali both on the West and South, and Issachar lay to the South.

- It was for the sons of Naphtali that the sixth lot came out, for the sons of Naphtali by their families. (Joshua 19:32)
- And their boundary came to be from Heleph, from the big tree in Zaanannim, and Adami-nekeb and Jabneel as far as Lakkum, and its terminations came to be at the Jordan. (Joshua 19:33)
- And the boundary went back westward to Aznoth-tabor and went out from there to Hukkok and reached to Zebulun on the south, and to Asher it reached on the west and to Judah at the Jordan toward the rising of the sun. (Joshua 19:34)
- The reference to Naphtali's boundary reaching to Judah at the Jordan.
- And the boundary went back westward to Aznoth-tabor and went out from there to Hukkok and reached to Zebulun on the south, and to Asher it reached on the west and to Judah at the Jordan toward the rising of the sun. (Joshua 19:34)
- Evidently does not mean that it extended to the territory of the tribe of Judah, situated a considerable distance South of Naphtali. In this case Judah probably refers to the region East of the Jordan occupied by the family of Jair. Although reckoned as a Manassite by reason of his maternal ancestry.
- And Jair the son of Manasseh marched and went capturing their tent villages, and he began to call them Havvoth-jair. (Numbers 32:41)
- Further, Moses made a gift to the half tribe of Manasseh, and it came to be that of the half tribe of the sons of Manasseh by their families. (Joshua 13:29)
- And their territory came to be from Mahanaim all of Bashan, all the royal realm of Og the king of Bashan, and all the tent villages of Jair that are in Bashan, sixty towns. (Joshua 13:30)
- Jair, through his father, was a descendant of Judah.
- The sons of Perez were Hezron and Hamul. (1 Chronicles 2:5)

- And afterward Hezron had relations with the daughter of Machir the father of Gilead. And he himself took her when he was sixty years old, but she bore Segub to him. (1 Chronicles 2:21)
- Segub, in turn, became father to Jair, who came to have twentythree cities in the land of Gilead. (1 Chronicles 2:22)
- So the region given to the family of Jair might appropriately be called Judah on the basis of Jair's paternal ancestry.
- Included in the territory of Naphtali were 19 fortified cities and their settlements.
- And the fortified cities were Ziddim, Zer and Hammath, Rakkath and Chinnereth. (Joshua 19:35)
- And Adamah and Ramah and Hazor. (Joshua 19:36)
- And Kedesh and Edrei and En-hazor. (Joshua 19:37)
- And Yiron and Migdal-el, Horem and Beth-anath and Bethshemesh, nineteen cities and their settlements. (Joshua 19:38)
- This was the inheritance of the tribe of the sons of Naphtali by their families, the cities and their settlements. (Joshua 19:39)
- One of these cities, Kedesh, was given to the Levites and assigned a sacred status as a city of refuge.
- Accordingly they gave a sacred status to Kedesh in Galilee in the mountainous region of Naphtali, and Shechem in the mountainous region of Ephraim, and Kiriath-arba, that is to say; Hebron, in the mountainous region of Judah. (Joshua 20:7)
- These became the cities appointed for all the sons of Israel and for the alien resident who resides as an alien in their midst, for anyone to flee there who fatally strikes a soul unintentionally, that he may not die by the hand of the avenger of blood until his standing before the assembly. (Joshua 20:9)
- Two other cities, Hammath, Hammoth-dor or Hammon, and Kartan; or Kiriathaim, were likewise designated for the Levites.

- And the fortified cities were Ziddim, Zer and Hammath, Rakkath and Chinnereth. (Joshua 19:35)
- And for the sons of Gershon there were by lot thirteen cities out of the families of the tribe of Issachar and out of the tribe of Asher and out of the tribe of Manasseh in Bashan. (Joshua 21:6)
- And out of the tribe of Naphtali, the city of refuge for the manslayer, namely, Kedesh in Galilee, and its pasture ground, and Hammoth-dor and its pasture ground, and Kartan and its pasture ground, three cities. (Joshua 21:32)
- And to the sons of Gershom by their families they gave from the tribe of Issachar and from the tribe of Asher and from the tribe of Naphtali and from the tribe of Manasseh in Bashan, thirteen cities. (1 Chronicles 6:62)
- And from the tribe of Naphtali, Kedesh in Galilee with its pasture grounds and Hammon with its pasture grounds and Kiriathaim with its pasture grounds. (1 Chronicles 6:76)
- From Beth-shemesh and Beth-anath, two other cities of Naphtali, the Canaanites were not driven out but were subjected to forced labor.
- Naphtali did not drive out the inhabitants of Beth-shemesh and the inhabitants of Beth-anath, but they continued to dwell in among the Canaanites inhabiting the land, and the inhabitants of Beth-shemesh and of Beth-anath became theirs for forced labor. (Judges 1:33)
- The land once occupied by the tribe of Naphtali, though mountainous
- Accordingly they gave a sacred status to Kedesh in Galilee in the mountainous region of Naphtali, and Shechem in the mountainous region of Ephraim, and Kiriath-arba, that is to say; Hebron, in the mountainous region of Judah. (Joshua 20:7)
- Is fruitful. Especially fertile are the triangular plain of Gennesaret, on the Northwest side of the Sea of Galilee and the Hula region. Moses blessing directed to Naphtali perhaps alludes to the land inheritance of the tribe.

- And as to Naphtali he said; Naphtali is satisfied with the approval and full of the blessing of Yehowah. Do take possession of the west and south. (Deuteronomy 33:23)
- West may also be rendered, sea, AS FOOTHOUSE OF lake RS and therefore could denote the Sea of Galilee, and south perhaps designates the southernmost territory of Naphtali bordering on that sea.
- There is also a possibility that the text, though alluding to the Sea of Galilee, should read; The sea and its fish are his possession. NW Footnote
- ·· From The Time Of Judges To The Exile
- In his deathbed prophecy Jacob had referred to Naphtali as a slender hind.
- Naphtali is a slender hind. He is giving words of elegance. (Genesis 49:21)
- This may have alluded to the tribes swiftness and skillfulness in warfare, and the history of the tribe appears to bear this out. Ten thousand men from Naphtali and Zebulun courageously responded to Barak's call to battle against the well-equipped forces under the command of Sisera and, thereafter, were blessed with victory. Barak himself evidently was of the tribe of Naphtali, as Kedesh in Naphtali was apparently his home.
- And she proceeded to send and call Barak the son of Abinoam out of Kedesh-naphtali and to say to him; Has not Yehowah the God of Israel given the command? Go and you must spread yourself out on Mount Tabor, and you must take with you ten thousand men out of the sons of Naphtali and out of the sons of Zebulun. (Judges 4:6)
- And I shall certainly draw to you at the torrent valley of Kishon Sisera the chief of Jabin's army and his war chariots and his crowd, and I shall indeed give him into your hand. (Judges 4:7)
- At this Barak said to her; If you will go with me, I also shall certainly go, but if you will not go with me, I shall not go. (Judges 4:8)
- To this she said; Without fail I shall go with you. Just the same,

the beautifying thing will not become yours on the way that you are going, for it will be into the hand of a woman that Yehowah will sell Sisera. With that Deborah got up and went with Barak to Kedesh. (Judges 4:9)

- And Barak began to call Zebulun and Naphtali together to Kedesh, and ten thousand men went on up following his steps, and Deborah went on up with him. (Judges 4:10)
- Incidentally Heber the Kenite had separated from the Kenites, the sons of Hobab, whose son-in-law Moses was, and he had his tent pitched near the big tree in Zaanannim, which is at Kedesh. (Judges 4:11)
- Then they reported to Sisera that Barak the son of Abinoam had gone up to Mount Tabor. (Judges 4:12)
- At once Sisera called together all his war chariots, the nine hundred war chariots with iron scythes, and all the people that were with him, out of Harosheth of the nations to the torrent valley of Kishon. (Judges 4:13)
- Deborah now said to Barak; Get up, for this is the day that Yehowah will certainly give Sisera into your hand. Is it not Yehowah that has gone out before you? And Barak went descending from Mount Tabor with ten thousand men behind him. (Judges 4:14)
- And Yehowah began to throw Sisera and all his war chariots and all the camp into confusion by the edge of the sword before Barak. Finally Sisera got down off the chariot and took to flight on foot. (Judges 4:15)
- Zebulun was a people that scorned their souls to the point of death, Naphtali also, on the heights of the field. (Judges 5:18)
- The tribe of Naphtali also gave support to Judge Gideon in the fight against the Midianites.
- And Yehowah's spirit enveloped Gideon so that he went blowing the horn, and the Abi-ezrites got to be called together after him. (Judges 6:34)
- And he sent out messengers through all of Manasseh, and they

too got to be called together after him. He also sent out messengers through Asher and Zebulun and Naphtali, and they came on up to meet him. (Judges 6:35)

- Meantime the men of Israel were called together from Naphtali and Asher and all of Manasseh, and they went chasing after Midian. (Judges 7:23)
- And Gideon sent messengers into all the mountainous region of Ephraim, saying; Go down to meet Midian and capture ahead of them the waters as far as Beth-barah and the Jordan. So all the men of Ephraim were called together, and they got to capture the waters as far as Beth-barah and the Jordan. (Judges 7:24)
- Years later 1,000 chiefs and 37,000 other warriors of the tribe of Naphtali came to Hebron to make David king over all Israel. From as far as Issachar, Zebulun, and Naphtali, food was brought for the feasting done in connection with that event.
- And these were the numbers of the heads of those equipped for the army that came to David at Hebron to turn the kingship of Saul over to him according to Yehowah's order. (1 Chronicles 12:23)
- And of Naphtali there were a thousand chiefs, and with them with the large shield and the spear there were thirty-seven thousand. (1 Chronicles 12:34)
- All these were men of war, flocking together in battle line, with a complete heart they came to Hebron to make David king over all Israel, and also all the remainder of Israel were of one heart for making David king. (1 Chronicles 12:38)
- And they continued there with David three days, eating and drinking, for their brothers had made preparation for them. (1 Chronicles 12:39)
- And also those near to them, as far as Issachar and Zebulun and Naphtali, were bringing food upon asses and upon camels and upon mules and upon cattle, eatables of flour, cakes of pressed figs and cakes of raisins and wine and oil and cattle and sheep in great quantity, for there was rejoicing in Israel. (1 Chronicles 12:40)

- Under the leadership of King David, the tribe of Naphtali appears to have had a notable part in subduing the enemies of Israel. [Psalms 68:Sup, 1,27]
- Some decades after the division of the kingdom of Israel, Naphtali experienced harassment from Syrian King Ben-hadad I.
- Accordingly Ben-hadad listened to King Asa and sent the chiefs of the military forces that were his against the cities of Israel and went striking down Ijon and Dan and Abel-beth-maacah and all Chinnereth, as far as all the land of Naphtali. (1 Kings 15:20)
- So Ben-hadad listened to King Asa and sent the chiefs of the military forces that were his against the cities of Israel, so that they struck Ijon and Dan and Abel-maim and all the storage places of the cities of Naphtali.
- About two centuries later, during Pekah's reign, inhabitants of Naphtali were taken into Assyrian exile by Tiglath-pileser III.
- In the days of Pekah the king of Israel, Tiglath-pileser the king of Assyria came in and proceeded to take Ijon and Abel-beth-maacah and Janoah and Kedesh and Hazor and Gilead and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali, and to carry them into exile in Assyria. (2 Kings 15:29)
- Nearly a century after the overthrow of the northern kingdom, Judean King Josiah boldly extended his destruction of appendages of idolatry as far North as the devastated places of Assyrian-dominated Naphtali.
- Eight years old was Josiah when he began to reign, and for thirty-one years he reigned in Jerusalem. (2 Chronicles 34:1)
- And he proceeded to do what was right in Yehowah's eyes and walk in the ways of David his forefather, and he did not turn aside to the right or to the left. (2 Chronicles 34:2)
- And in the eighth year of his reigning, while he was still a boy, he started to search for the God of David his forefather, and in the twelfth year he started to cleanse Judah and Jerusalem from the high places and the sacred poles and the graven images and the molten statues. (2 Chronicles 34:3)

- Further, they pulled down before him the altars of the Baals, and the incense stands that were up above he cut down from off them, and the sacred poles and the graven images and the molten statues he broke in pieces and reduced to powder, and then sprinkled it upon the surface of the burial places of those that used to sacrifice to them. (2 Chronicles 34:4)
- And the bones of priests he burned upon their altars. Thus he cleansed Judah and Jerusalem. (2 Chronicles 34:5)
- Also, in the cities of Manasseh and Ephraim and Simeon and clear to Naphtali, in their devastated places all around. (2 Chronicles 34:6)
- He even went pulling down the altars and the sacred poles, and the graven images he crushed and reduced to powder, and all the incense stands he cut down in all the land of Israel, after which he returned to Jerusalem. (2 Chronicles 34:7)

## " Isaiah's Prophecy

- The humiliation suffered at the hands of the Assyrians may well be referred to at;
- However, the obscureness will not be as when the land had stress, as at the former time when one treated with contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali and when at the later time one caused it to be honored, the way by the sea, in the region of the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. (Isaiah 9:1)
- The obscureness will not be as when the land had stress, as at the former time when one treated with contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali.
- Next Isaiah indicates that at a later time honor would be bestowed on what had been treated with contempt, the way by the sea, in the region of the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.
- He continues;
- However, the obscureness will not be as when the land had stress, as at the former time when one treated with contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali and when at the later time one caused it to be honored, the way by the sea, in the

region of the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. (Isaiah 9:1)

- The people that were walking in the darkness have seen a great light. As for those dwelling in the land of deep shadow, light itself has shone upon them. (Isaiah 9:2)
- These very words were quoted by;
- Further, after leaving Nazareth, he came and took up residence in Capernaum beside the sea in the districts of Zebulun and Naphtali. (Matthew 4:13)
- That there might be fulfilled what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet, saying; (Matthew 4:14)
- O land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, along the road of the sea, on the other side of the Jordan, Galilee of the nations! (Matthew 4:15)
- The people sitting in darkness saw a great light, and as for those sitting in a region of deathly shadow, light rose upon them.

  (Matthew 4:16)
- From that time on Jesus commenced preaching and saying; Repent, you people, for the kingdom of the heavens has drawn near. (Matthew 4:17)
- And applied to Christ Jesus, the light of the world, and to his activity.
- Therefore Jesus spoke again to them, saying; I am the light of the world. He that follows me will by no means walk in darkness, but will possess the light of life. (John 8:12)
- Since Jesus made Capernaum in Naphtali's territory his own city.
- Further, after leaving Nazareth, he came and took up residence in Capernaum beside the sea in the districts of Zebulun and Naphtali. (Matthew 4:13)
- So, boarding the boat, he proceeded across and went into his own city. (Matthew 9:1)

- He could in a sense be regarded as belonging to Naphtali. Therefore also Jacob's prophetic words concerning Naphtali, He is giving words of elegance, could reasonably apply to Jesus.
- Naphtali is a slender hind. He is giving words of elegance. (Genesis 49:21)
- The Son of God truly gave, words of elegance, prompting even officers sent to arrest him to exclaim; Never has another man spoken like this.
- The officers replied; Never has another man spoken like this. (John 7:46)

## ·· Referred To In Visions

- In Ezekiel's vision, Naphtali's land assignment lay between Asher and Manasseh
- And on the boundary of Asher, from the eastern border even to the western border, Naphtali one. (Ezekiel 48:3)
- And on the boundary of Naphtali, from the eastern border to the western border, Manasseh one. (Ezekiel 48:4)
- And one of the gates of the city, Yehowah Himself Is There, was named after Naphtali.
- The western border will be four thousand five hundred cubits, there being three gates, the gate of Gad, one, the gate of Asher, one, the gate of Naphtali, one. (Ezekiel 48:34)
- Round about there will be eighteen thousand cubits, and the name of the city from that day on will be, Yehowah Himself Is There. (Ezekiel 48:35)
- Also in vision, the apostle John heard that 12,000 had been sealed out of the, spiritual tribe of Naphtali.
- And I heard the number of those who were sealed, a hundred and forty-four thousand, sealed out of every tribe of the sons of Israel. (Revelation 7:4)
- Out of the tribe of Asher twelve thousand. Out of the tribe of

Naphtali twelve thousand. Out of the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand. (Revelation 7:6)