

## ~TRIBE (1124)

[Hebrew, *mat-teh'*, rod, *she'vet*, staff, Greek, *phy-le'*]

- Tribes Of Israel
- Tribal Structure
- Tribes Of Spiritual Israel
- Judging The Twelve Tribes Of Israel

• A group of people, comprising a number of families or clans, who are united by race or custom under the same leaders.

• The Hebrew words often rendered, tribe, *mat-teh'* and *she'vet* both mean, rod or staff.

• So they threw down each one his rod, and they became big snakes, but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods. (Exodus 7:12)

• The one holding back his rod is hating his son, but the one loving him is he that does look for him with discipline. (Proverbs 13:24)

• Apparently these words came to signify, tribe, in the sense of a group of persons led by a chief or chieftains carrying a scepter or staff.

• Speak to the sons of Israel and take from them one rod for each paternal house from all their chieftains, by the house of their fathers, twelve rods. You will write the name of each one upon his rod. (Numbers 17:2)

• And Aaron's name you will write upon Levis rod, because there is one rod for the head of the house of their fathers. (Numbers 17:3)

• And you must deposit them in the tent of meeting before the Testimony, where I regularly present myself to you. (Numbers 17:4)

• And what must occur is that the man whom I shall choose, his rod will bud, and I shall certainly make subside from against me the murmurings of the sons of Israel, which they are murmuring against you. (Numbers 17:5)

• So Moses spoke to the sons of Israel, and all their chieftains went giving him a rod for each chieftain, a rod for each chieftain, by

the house of their fathers, twelve rods, and Aaron's rod was in among their rods. (**Numbers 17:6**)

- In most cases where the context shows that either word has the thought of **tribe**, it is used in regard to one of the tribes of Israel, such as the **tribe, *mat-teh'***, of **Gad** or the **tribe, *she'vet*, of the Levites**.
- Furthermore, Moses made a gift to the **tribe** of Gad, the sons of Gad by their families. (**Joshua 13:24**)
- And to the **tribe** of the Levites Moses did not give an inheritance. Yehowah the God of Israel is their inheritance, just as he has promised them. (**Joshua 13:33**)
- However, the **tribe that God redeemed as his inheritance**, mentioned at;
- Remember your assembly that you acquired long ago, the **tribe** that you redeemed as your inheritance, this Mount Zion in which you have resided. (**Psalms 74:2**)
- Evidently refers to the **entire nation of Israel**, speaking of it as a **tribe** or people distinct from other nations and peoples. And the term **tribe** at;
- Do not let the **tribe** of the families of the Kohathites be cut off from among the Levites. (**Numbers 4:18**)
- Seems to be used in a more restrictive sense, as applied to the **Kohathites** who were a subdivision of the **tribe** of Levi. The Egyptian **tribes** of,
- The princes of Zoan have acted foolishly, the princes of Noph have been deceived, the keymen of her **tribes** have caused Egypt to wander about. (**Isaiah 19:13**)
- Must apply to certain categories of people, whether according to region, caste, or something else.
- The **Greek** term ***phy-le'***, rendered, **tribe**, refers to a group of people united by common descent and also to a subdivision thereof, that is, a clan or tribe. The word is often used in the **Christian Greek Scriptures** in regard to the **tribes** of the nation of Israel.

- But from then on they demanded a king, and God gave them Saul son of Kish, a man of the **tribe of Benjamin**, for forty years. (**Acts of Apostles 13:21**)
- I ask, then, God did not reject his people, did he? Never may that happen! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the **tribe of Benjamin**. (**Romans 11:1**)
- Circumcised the eighth day, out of the family stock of Israel, of the **tribe of Benjamin**, a Hebrew born from Hebrews, as respects law, a Pharisee. (**Philippians 3:5**)
- For the man respecting whom these things are said has been a member of **another tribe**, from which no one has officiated at the altar. (**Hebrews 7:13**)
- For it is quite plain that our Lord has sprung up out of Judah, a **tribe** about which Moses spoke nothing concerning priests. (**Hebrews 7:14**)
- But one of the elders says to me; Stop weeping. Look! The Lion that is of the **tribe** of Judah, the root of David, has conquered so as to open the scroll and its seven seals. (**Revelation 5:5**)
- In expressions like out of every **tribe** and tongue and people and nation, or **tribe** seems to mean a group of people related by common descent.
- And they sing a new song, saying; You are worthy to take the scroll and open its seals, because you were slaughtered and with your blood you bought persons for God out of every **tribe** and tongue and people and nation. (**Revelation 5:9**)
- Such expressions, then, are exhaustive, referring to all people, whether viewed according to **tribes** of interrelated individuals, language groups, large segments of mankind, or political divisions.
- After these things I saw, and, look! A great crowd, which no man was able to number, out of all nations and **tribes** and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, dressed in white robes, and there were palm branches in their hands. (**Revelation 7:9**)
- And those of the peoples and **tribes** and tongues and nations will

look at their corpses for three and a half days, and they do not let their corpses be laid in a tomb. (**Revelation 11:9**)

- And there was granted it to wage war with the holy ones and conquer them, and authority was given it over every **tribe** and people and tongue and nation. (**Revelation 13:7**)
- And I saw another angel flying in midheaven, and he had everlasting Good News to declare as glad tidings to those who dwell on the earth, and to every nation and **tribe** and tongue and people. (**Revelation 14:6**)
- Also the **Greek**, *phy-le'* appears in the expression, **all the tribes of the earth** at;
- Look! He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, and those who pierced him, and all the **tribes of the earth** will beat themselves in grief because of him. Yes, Amen. (**Revelation 1:7**)
- Which evidently means **all people on earth**, for the verse also says, **every eye will see him**.
- And then the sign of the Son of man will appear in heaven, and then all the **tribes** of the earth will beat themselves in lamentation, and they will see the Son of man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. (**Matthew 24:30**)

## • Tribes Of Israel

- The **tribal** arrangement in Israel was based on descent from the 12 sons of Jacob.
- 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**)
- So she called his name Joseph, saying; Yehowah is adding another son to me. (**Genesis 30:24**)
- Then they pulled away from Bethel. And while there was yet a good stretch of land before coming to Ephrath, Rachel proceeded to give birth, and it was going hard with her in making the

delivery. (**Genesis 35:16**)

- But so it was that while she had difficulty in making the delivery the midwife said to her; Do not be afraid, for you will have this son also. (**Genesis 35:17**)
- And the result was that as her soul was going out, because she died, she called his name Benoni, but his father called him Benjamin. (**Genesis 35:18**)
- These twelve family heads, *Greek, do'de-ka pa-tri-ar'khas* produced, **the twelve tribes of Israel.**
- 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**)
- Assemble yourselves and listen, you sons of Jacob, yes, listen to Israel your father. (**Genesis 49:2**)
- Reuben, you are my firstborn, my vigor and the beginning of my generative power, the excellence of dignity and the excellence of strength. (**Genesis 49:3**)
- With reckless license like waters, do not you excel, because you have gone up to your fathers bed. At that time you profaned my lounge. He went up to it! (**Genesis 49:4**)
- Simeon and Levi are brothers. Instruments of violence are their slaughter weapons. (**Genesis 49:5**)
- Into their intimate group do not come, O my soul. With their congregation do not become united, O my disposition, because in their anger they killed men, and in their arbitrariness they hamstrung bulls. (**Genesis 49:6**)
- Cursed be their anger, because it is cruel, and their fury, because it acts harshly. Let me parcel them out in Jacob and let me scatter them in Israel. (**Genesis 49:7**)
- As for you, Judah, your brothers will laud you. Your hand will be on the back of the neck of your enemies. The sons of your father will prostrate themselves to you. (**Genesis 49:8**)

- **A lion cub Judah is. From the prey, my son, you will certainly go up. He bowed down, he stretched himself out like a lion and, like a lion, who dares rouse him? ([Genesis 49:9](#))**
- **The scepter will not turn aside from Judah, neither the commander's staff from between his feet, until Shiloh comes, and to him the obedience of the peoples will belong. ([Genesis 49:10](#))**
- **Tying his full-grown ass to a vine and the descendant of his own she-ass to a choice vine, he will certainly wash his clothing in wine and his garment in the blood of grapes. ([Genesis 49:11](#))**
- **Dark red are his eyes from wine, and the whiteness of his teeth is from milk. ([Genesis 49:12](#))**
- **Zebulun will reside by the seashore, and he will be by the shore where the ships lie anchored, and his remote side will be toward Sidon. ([Genesis 49:13](#))**
- **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](#))**
- **Dan will judge his people as one of the **tribes** of Israel. ([Genesis 49:16](#))**
- **Let Dan prove to be a serpent by the roadside, a horned snake at the wayside, that bites the heels of the horse so that its rider falls backward. ([Genesis 49:17](#))**
- **I shall indeed wait for salvation from you, O Yehowah. ([Genesis 49:18](#))**
- **As for Gad, a marauder band will raid him, but he will raid the extreme rear. ([Genesis 49:19](#))**
- **Out of Asher his bread will be fat, and he will give the dainties of a king. ([Genesis 49:20](#))**
- **Naphtali is a slender hind. He is giving words of elegance.**

**(Genesis 49:21)**

- Offshoot of a fruit bearing tree, Joseph is the offshoot of a fruit bearing tree by the fountain, that propels its branches up over a wall. **(Genesis 49:22)**
- But the archers kept harassing him and shot at him and kept harboring animosity against him. **(Genesis 49:23)**
- And yet his bow was dwelling in a permanent place, and the strength of his hands was supple. From the hands of the powerful one of Jacob, from there is the shepherd, the stone of Israel. **(Genesis 49:24)**
- He is from the God of your father, and he will help you, and he is with the Almighty, and he will bless you with the blessings of the heavens above, with the blessings of the watery deep lying down below, with the blessings of the breasts and womb. **(Genesis 49:25)**
- The blessings of your father will indeed be superior to the blessings of the eternal mountains, to the ornament of the indefinitely lasting hills. They will continue upon the head of Joseph, even upon the crown of the head of the one singled out from his brothers. **(Genesis 49:26)**
- Benjamin will keep on tearing like a wolf. In the morning he will eat the animal seized and at evening he will divide spoil. **(Genesis 49:27)**
- All these are the twelve **tribes** of Israel, and this is what their father spoke to them when he was blessing them. He blessed them each one according to his own blessing. **(Genesis 49:28)**
- He also gave him a covenant of circumcision, and thus he became the father of Isaac and circumcised him on the eighth day, and Isaac of Jacob, and Jacob of the twelve family heads. **(Acts of Apostles 7:8)**
- However, Jacob blessed Joseph's two sons, Manasseh the older and Ephraim the younger, and said; Ephraim and Manasseh will become mine like, his actual sons, Reuben and Simeon.
- And now your two sons who were born to you in the land of

**Egypt before I came here to you into Egypt, they are mine. Ephraim and Manasseh will become mine like Reuben and Simeon. (Genesis 48:5)**

- **Joseph now took the two of them, Ephraim by his right hand to Israel's left, and Manasseh by his left hand to Israel's right, and brought them close to him. (Genesis 48:13)**
- **However, Israel put out his right hand and placed it on Ephraim's head, although he was the younger, and his left hand upon Manasseh's head. He purposely laid his hands so, since Manasseh was the firstborn. (Genesis 48:14)**
- **And he proceeded to bless Joseph and to say; The true God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked; The true God who has been shepherding me during all my existence until this day. (Genesis 48:15)**
- **The angel who has been recovering me from all calamity, bless the boys. And let my name be called upon them and the name of my fathers, Abraham and Isaac. And let them increase to a multitude in the midst of the earth. (Genesis 48:16)**
- **When Joseph saw that his father kept his right hand placed on Ephraim's head, it was displeasing to him, and he tried to take hold of his father's hand to remove it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head. (Genesis 48:17)**
- **Hence Joseph said to his father; Not so, my father, because this is the firstborn. Put your right hand on his head. (Genesis 48:18)**
- **But his father kept refusing and said; I know it, my son, I know it. He too will become a people and he too will become great. But, just the same, his younger brother will become greater than he will, and his offspring will become the full equivalent of nations. (Genesis 48:19)**
- **And he continued to bless them on that day, saying; By means of you let Israel repeatedly pronounce blessing, saying; May God constitute you like Ephraim and like Manasseh. Thus he kept putting Ephraim before Manasseh. (Genesis 48:20)**
- **When the various tribes received their land inheritance in the Promised Land (Joshua Chapters 13-19), there was no tribe of Joseph.**



**Instead, the sons of Joseph, Manasseh and Ephraim, were counted as distinct tribes in Israel.**

- **As Yehowah had arranged, though, this did not increase the tribes of Israel receiving an inheritance to 13, because the Levites got no land inheritance. Yehowah had chosen the **tribe** of Levi.**
- **Only the **tribe** of Levi you must not register, and the sum of them you must not take in among the sons of Israel. (**Numbers 1:49**)**
- **In place of the firstborn of the other **tribes** to minister at the sanctuary.**
- **And Yehowah spoke further to Moses, saying; (**Exodus 13:1**)**
- **Sanctify to me every male firstborn that opens each womb among the sons of Israel, among men and beasts. It is mine. (**Exodus 13:2**)**
- **Bring the tribe of Levi near, and you must stand them before Aaron the priest, and they must minister to him. (**Numbers 3:6**)**
- **And they must keep their obligation to him and their obligation to all the assembly before the tent of meeting in discharging the service of the tabernacle. (**Numbers 3:7**)**
- **And they must take care of all the utensils of the tent of meeting, even the obligation of the sons of Israel in discharging the service of the tabernacle. (**Numbers 3:8**)**
- **And you must give the Levites to Aaron and his sons. They are given ones, given to him from the sons of Israel. (**Numbers 3:9**)**
- **And you should appoint Aaron and his sons, and they must take care of their priesthood, and any stranger coming near should be put to death. (**Numbers 3:10**)**
- **And Yehowah continued to speak to Moses, saying; (**Numbers 3:11**)**
- **As for me, look! I do take the Levites from among the sons of Israel in place of all the firstborn opening the womb of the sons of Israel, and the Levites must become mine. (**Numbers 3:12**)**

- For every firstborn is mine. In the day that I struck every firstborn in the land of Egypt I sanctified to myself every firstborn in Israel from man to beast. They should become mine. I am Yehowah. (**Numbers 3:13**)
- And you must take the Levites for me, I am Yehowah, in place of all the firstborn among the sons of Israel, and the domestic animals of the Levites in place of all the firstborn among the domestic animals of the sons of Israel. (**Numbers 3:41**)
- At that particular time Yehowah separated the **tribe** of Levi to carry the ark of Yehowah's covenant, to stand before Yehowah for ministering to him and to bless in his name until this day. (**Deuteronomy 10:8**)
- That is why Levi has come to have no share and inheritance with his brothers. Yehowah is his inheritance, just as Yehowah your God had said to him. (**Deuteronomy 10:9**)
- No share or inheritance with Israel should come to belong to the priests, the Levites, the entire **tribe** of Levi. The offerings made by fire of Yehowah, even his inheritance, they should eat. (**Deuteronomy 18:1**)
- Consequently, there were 12 non-Levite **tribes** in Israel.
- And now take for yourselves twelve men from the **tribes** of Israel, one man for each tribe. (**Joshua 3:12**)
- And it must occur that at the instant that the soles of the feet of the priests carrying the ark of Yehowah, the Lord of the whole earth, rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan will be cut off, the waters descending from above, and they will stand still as one dam. (**Joshua 3:13**)
- Then he entered his house and took the slaughtering knife and laid hold of his concubine and cut her up according to her bones into twelve pieces and sent her into every territory of Israel. (**Judges 19:29**)
- Ahijah now took hold of the new garment that was on him and ripped it into twelve pieces. (**1 Kings 11:30**)
- And he went on to say to Jeroboam; Take for yourself ten pieces,

for this is what Yehowah the God of Israel has said; Here I am ripping the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon, and I shall certainly give you ten **tribes**. (**1 Kings 11:31**)

- And the one **tribe** is what will continue his for the sake of my servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem, the city that I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel. (**1 Kings 11:32**)
- Whereas our twelve **tribes** are hoping to attain to the fulfillment of this promise by intensely rendering him sacred service night and day. Concerning this hope I am accused by Jews, O king. (**Acts of Apostles 26:7**)

**See Also BOUNDARY**

**See Also LEVITES**

- When Moses blessed the **tribes**
- Let Reuben live and not die off, and let his men not become few. (**Deuteronomy 33:6**)
- And this was Judah's blessing, as he went on to say; Hear, O Yehowah, the voice of Judah, and may you bring him to his people. His arms have contended for what is his. And may you prove yourself a helper from his adversaries. (**Deuteronomy 33:7**)
- And as to Levi he said; Your Thummim and your Urim belong to the man loyal to you, whom you put to the test at Massah. You began to contend with him by the waters of Meribah. (**Deuteronomy 33:8**)
- The man who said to his father and his mother, I have not seen him. Even his brothers he did not acknowledge, and his sons he did not know. For they kept your saying; and your covenant they continued to observe. (**Deuteronomy 33:9**)
- Let them instruct Jacob in your judicial decisions and Israel in your law. Let them render up incense before your nostrils and a whole offering on your altar. (**Deuteronomy 33:10**)
- Bless, O Yehowah, his vital energy, and may you show pleasure in the activity of his hands. Wound severely in their hips those who rise up against him, and those who intensely hate him, that

they may not rise up. (**Deuteronomy 33:11**)

- **As to Benjamin he said; Let the beloved one of Yehowah reside in security by him, while he shelters him the whole day, and he must reside between his shoulders. (**Deuteronomy 33:12**)**
- **And as to Joseph he said; May his land be continually blessed from Yehowah with the choice things of heaven, with dew, and with the watery deep lying down below. (**Deuteronomy 33:13**)**
- **And with the choice things, the products of the sun, and with the choice things, the yield of the lunar months. (**Deuteronomy 33:14**)**
- **And with the choicest from the mountains of the east, and with the choice things of the indefinitely lasting hills. (**Deuteronomy 33:15**)**
- **And with the choice things of the earth and its fullness, and with the approval of the One residing in the thornbush. May they come upon the head of Joseph and upon the crown of the head of the one singled out from his brothers. (**Deuteronomy 33:16**)**
- **As the firstborn of a bull his splendor is, and his horns are the horns of a wild bull. With them he will push peoples all together to the ends of the earth, and they are the tens of thousands of Ephraim, and they are the thousands of Manasseh. (**Deuteronomy 33:17**)**
- **And as to Zebulun he said; Rejoice, O Zebulun, in your going out, and, Issachar, in your tents. (**Deuteronomy 33:18**)**
- **Peoples to the mountain they will call. There they will sacrifice the sacrifices of righteousness. For they will suck the abounding wealth of the seas and the hidden hoards of the sand. (**Deuteronomy 33:19**)**
- **And as to Gad he said; Blessed is the one widening the borders of Gad. As a lion he must reside, and he must tear the arm, yes, the crown of the head. (**Deuteronomy 33:20**)**
- **And he will pick out the first part for himself, for there the allotment of a statute-giver is reserved. And the heads of the people will gather themselves together. The righteousness of**

Yehowah will he certainly execute and his judicial decisions with Israel. ([Deuteronomy 33:21](#))

- And as to Dan he said; Dan is a lion cub. He will leap out from Bashan. ([Deuteronomy 33:22](#))
- 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](#))
- And as to Asher he said; Blessed with sons is Asher. Let him become one approved by his brothers, and one dipping his foot in oil. ([Deuteronomy 33:24](#))
- Simeon was not mentioned by name, perhaps because the **tribe** was greatly reduced in size and its land portion was to be enclosed in the territory of Judah.
- In Ezekiel's vision of the holy contribution and the 12 **tribes**, the tribes listed are the same as those who received a land inheritance as given in the book of Joshua.
- And these are the names of the **tribes**. From the northern extremity, on the side by the way of Hethlon to the entering in to Hamath, Hazar-enan, the boundary of Damascus northward, on the side of Hamath, and it must prove to have an eastern border and the western, Dan one portion. ([Ezekiel 48:1](#))
- And on the boundary of Dan, from the eastern border to the western border, Asher one. ([Ezekiel 48:2](#))
- 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 on the boundary of Manasseh, from the eastern border to the western border, Ephraim one. ([Ezekiel 48:5](#))
- And on the boundary of Ephraim, from the eastern border even to the western border, Reuben one. ([Ezekiel 48:6](#))
- And on the boundary of Reuben, from the eastern border to the

western border, Judah one. ([Ezekiel 48:7](#))

- And on the boundary of Judah, from the eastern border to the western border, the contribution that you people should contribute should prove to be twenty-five thousand cubits in width, and the length according to one of the portions from the eastern border to the western border. And the sanctuary must prove to be in the midst of it. ([Ezekiel 48:8](#))
- And as regards the rest of the **tribes**, from the eastern border to the western border, Benjamin one portion. ([Ezekiel 48:23](#))
- And by the boundary of Benjamin, from the eastern border to the western border, Simeon one. ([Ezekiel 48:24](#))
- And by the boundary of Simeon, from the eastern border to the western border, Issachar one. ([Ezekiel 48:25](#))
- And by the boundary of Issachar, from the eastern border to the western border, Zebulun one. ([Ezekiel 48:26](#))
- And by the boundary of Zebulun, from the eastern border to the western border, Gad one. ([Ezekiel 48:27](#))
- And by the boundary of Gad, to the southern border, it will be southward, and the boundary must prove to be from Tamar to the waters of Meribath-kadesh, to the torrent valley, as far as the Great Sea. ([Ezekiel 48:28](#))
- The **tribe** of Levi was located within the holy contribution in Ezekiel's vision.
- As regards the contribution that you should contribute to Yehowah, the length will be twenty-five thousand cubits and the width ten thousand. ([Ezekiel 48:9](#))
- And as to these there should prove to be the holy contribution for the priests, to the north twenty-five thousand cubits, and to the west a width of ten thousand, and to the east a width of ten thousand, and to the south a length of twenty-five thousand. And the sanctuary of Yehowah must prove to be in the midst of it. ([Ezekiel 48:10](#))
- It will be for the priests, those who are sanctified from the sons

of Zadok, who took care of the obligation toward me, who did not wander away when the sons of Israel wandered away, just as the Levites wandered away. ([Ezekiel 48:11](#))

- And they must come to have a contribution from the contribution of the land as something most holy, on the boundary of the Levites. ([Ezekiel 48:12](#))
- And the Levites should have, right next to the territory of the priests, twenty-five thousand cubits in length, and in width ten thousand, the whole length being twenty-five thousand and width being ten thousand. ([Ezekiel 48:13](#))
- And they should not sell any of it, nor should one make an exchange, nor should one cause the choicest of the land to pass away from them, for it is something holy to Yehowah. ([Ezekiel 48:14](#))
- And as regards the possession of the Levites and the possession of the city, in between what belongs to the chieftain it should prove to be. Between the boundary of Judah and the boundary of Benjamin it should come to belong to the chieftain. ([Ezekiel 48:22](#))

## •• Tribal Structure

- Much of the organization of the Israelites revolved around the tribal structure. Both their order of marching and encampment in the wilderness were according to **tribes**.
- Yehowah now spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying; ([Numbers 2:1](#))
- The sons of Israel should encamp, each man by his three-**tribe** division, by the signs for the house of their fathers. Round about in front of the tent of meeting they should encamp. ([Numbers 2:2](#))
- And those camping eastward toward the sunrising will be the **three-tribe** division of the camp of Judah in their armies, and the chieftain for the sons of Judah is Nahshon the son of Amminadab. ([Numbers 2:3](#))
- And his army and the ones registered of them are seventy-four thousand six hundred. ([Numbers 2:4](#))

- And those camping alongside him will be the **tribe** of Issachar, and the chieftain for the sons of Issachar is Nethanel the son of Zuar. (**Numbers 2:5**)
- And his army and his registered ones are fifty-four thousand four hundred. (**Numbers 2:6**)
- And the **tribe** of Zebulun, and the chieftain for the sons of Zebulun is Eliab the son of Helon. (**Numbers 2:7**)
- And his army and his registered ones are fifty-seven thousand four hundred. (**Numbers 2:8**)
- All the registered ones of the camp of Judah are one hundred eighty-six thousand four hundred in their armies. They should set out first. (**Numbers 2:9**)
- The three-**tribe** division of the camp of Reuben will be toward the south in their armies, and the chieftain for the sons of Reuben is Elizur the son of Shedeur. (**Numbers 2:10**)
- And his army and his registered ones are forty-six thousand five hundred. (**Numbers 2:11**)
- And those camping alongside him will be the **tribe** of Simeon, and the chieftain for the sons of Simeon is Shelumiel the son of Zurishaddai. (**Numbers 2:12**)
- And his army and the ones registered of them are fifty-nine thousand three hundred. (**Numbers 2:13**)
- And the **tribe** of Gad, and the chieftain for the sons of Gad is Eliasaph the son of Reuel. (**Numbers 2:14**)
- And his army and the ones registered of them are forty-five thousand six hundred and fifty. (**Numbers 2:15**)
- All the registered ones of the camp of Reuben are one hundred and fifty-one thousand four hundred and fifty in their armies, and they should set out second. (**Numbers 2:16**)
- When the tent of meeting must set out, the camp of the Levites will be in the middle of the camps. Just as they should encamp,



so they should set out, each one at his place, according to their **three-tribe** divisions. (**Numbers 2:17**)

- The **three-tribe** division of the camp of Ephraim in their armies will be toward the west, and the chieftain for the sons of Ephraim is Elishama the son of Ammihud. (**Numbers 2:18**)
- And his army and the ones registered of them are forty thousand five hundred. (**Numbers 2:19**)
- And alongside him will be the **tribe** of Manasseh, and the chieftain for the sons of Manasseh is Gamaliel the son of Pedahzur. (**Numbers 2:20**)
- And his army and the ones registered of them are thirty-two thousand two hundred. (**Numbers 2:21**)
- And the **tribe** of Benjamin, and the chieftain for the sons of Benjamin is Abidan the son of Gideoni. (**Numbers 2:22**)
- And his army and the ones registered of them are thirty-five thousand four hundred. (**Numbers 2:23**)
- All the registered ones of the camp of Ephraim are one hundred and eight thousand one hundred in their armies, and they should set out third. (**Numbers 2:24**)
- 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 Ochan. (**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 fifty-seven thousand six hundred. They should set out last, according to their three-**tribe** divisions. (**Numbers 2:31**)
- And you men must blow a fluctuating blast, and the camps of those camping to the east must pull away. (**Numbers 10:5**)
- And they began pulling away for the first time, according to the order of Yehowah by means of Moses. (**Numbers 10:13**)
- So the **three-tribe** division of the camp of the sons of Judah pulled away first of all in their armies, and Nahshon the son of Amminadab was over its army. (**Numbers 10:14**)
- And over the army of the **tribe** of the sons of Issachar there was Nethanel the son of Zuar. (**Numbers 10:15**)
- And over the army of the **tribe** of the sons of Zebulun there was Eliab the son of Helon. (**Numbers 10:16**)
- And the tabernacle was taken down, and the sons of Gershon and the sons of Merari as carriers of the tabernacle pulled away. (**Numbers 10:17**)
- And the **three-tribe** division of the camp of Reuben pulled away in their armies, and Elizur the son of Shedeur was over its army. (**Numbers 10:18**)
- And over the army of the **tribe** of the sons of Simeon there was Shelumiel the son of Zurishaddai. (**Numbers 10:19**)
- And over the army of the **tribe** of the sons of Gad there was Eliasaph the son of Deuel. (**Numbers 10:20**)
- And the Kohathites as carriers of the sanctuary pulled away, as they will have set up the tabernacle by the time of their coming. (**Numbers 10:21**)
- And the **three-tribe** division of the camp of the sons of Ephraim pulled away in their armies, and Elishama the son of Ammihud was over its army. (**Numbers 10:22**)

- And over the army of the **tribe** of the sons of Manasseh there was Gamaliel the son of Pedahzur. (**Numbers 10:23**)
- And over the army of the **tribe** of the sons of Benjamin there was Abidan the son of Gideon. (**Numbers 10:24**)
- 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**)
- And no inheritance of the sons of Israel should circulate from **tribe** to tribe, because the sons of Israel should cleave each one to the inheritance of the tribe of his forefathers. (**Numbers 36:7**)
- And every daughter getting possession of an inheritance out of the **tribes** of the sons of Israel, to one of the family of the tribe of her father she should become a wife, in order, that the sons of Israel may get possession each one of the inheritance of his forefathers. (**Numbers 36:8**)
- And no inheritance should circulate from one **tribe** to another **tribe**, because the **tribes** of the sons of Israel should cleave each to its own inheritance. (**Numbers 36:9**)
- 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**)
- The dividing up of the nation according to family heads was further carried out within each **tribe**. Though the tribe was the basic and most important division of the nation, each tribe was subdivided

into large **families**, with **family** used in a broad sense, based on descent from paternal heads.

- And the sons of Merari by their **families** were Mahli and Mushi. These were the **families** of the Levites according to the house of their fathers. (**Numbers 3:20**)
- And the chieftain of the **paternal house** for the Gershonites was Eliasaph the son of Lael. (**Numbers 3:24**)
- For the **tribe** of the sons of the Reubenites by the house of their fathers and the tribe of the sons of the Gadites by the house of their fathers have already taken, and the **half tribe** of Manasseh have already taken their inheritance. (**Numbers 34:14**)
- Within each **family** there were many individual households. This arrangement, patterned after the **tribal** structure, is well illustrated in;
- Then Joshua rose early in the morning and had Israel come near, **tribe** by **tribe** of it, and the tribe of Judah got to be picked. (**Joshua 7:16**)
- Next he had the families of Judah come near and picked the family of the Zerahites, after which he had the family of the Zerahites come near, able-bodied man by able-bodied man, and Zabdi got to be picked. (**Joshua 7:17**)
- Finally he had his household come near, able-bodied man by able-bodied man, and Achan the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the **tribe** of Judah, got to be picked. (**Joshua 7:18**)
- At this Saul answered and said; Am I not a Benjaminite of the smallest of the **tribes** of Israel, and my family the most insignificant of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? So why have you spoken to me a thing like this? (**1 Samuel 9:21**)
- Then Joshua rose early in the morning and had Israel come near, **tribe** by **tribe** of it, and the tribe of Judah got to be picked. (**Joshua 7:16**)
- Next he had the families of Judah come near and picked the family of the Zerahites, after which he had the family of the Zerahites come near, able-bodied man by able-bodied man, and

Zabdi got to be picked. ([Joshua 7:17](#))

- Finally he had his household come near, able-bodied man by able-bodied man, and Achan the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the **tribe** of Judah, got to be picked. ([Joshua 7:18](#))
- Accordingly Samuel had all the **tribes** of Israel draw near, and the **tribe** of Benjamin came to be picked. ([1 Samuel 10:20](#))
- Then he had the **tribe** of Benjamin draw near by its families, and the family of the Matrites came to be picked. Finally Saul the son of Kish came to be picked. And they went looking for him, and he was not to be found. ([1 Samuel 10:21](#))

## • Tribes Of Spiritual Israel

- 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 Judah twelve thousand sealed, out of the **tribe** of Reuben twelve thousand, out of the **tribe** of Gad twelve thousand. ([Revelation 7:5](#))
- 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](#))
- Out of the **tribe** of Simeon twelve thousand, out of the **tribe** of Levi twelve thousand, out of the **tribe** of Issachar twelve thousand. ([Revelation 7:7](#))
- Out of the **tribe** of Zebulun twelve thousand, out of the **tribe** of Joseph twelve thousand, out of the **tribe** of Benjamin twelve thousand sealed. ([Revelation 7:8](#))
- Divides the 144,000 members of Spiritual Israel into 12 **tribes** of 12,000 each. The list differs slightly from the lists of Jacob's sons, including Levi, who were the **tribal** heads of natural Israel.
- All these are the twelve **tribes** of Israel, and this is what their father spoke to them when he was blessing them. He blessed them each one according to his own blessing. ([Genesis 49:28](#))

- The following may be the reason for the difference.

### **See Also ISRAEL OF GOD**

- Jacob's firstborn son Reuben lost his right as firstborn by his misconduct.
- Reuben, you are my firstborn, my vigor and the beginning of my generative power, the excellence of dignity and the excellence of strength. ([Genesis 49:3](#))
- With reckless license like waters, do not you excel, because you have gone up to your fathers bed. At that time you profaned my lounge. He went up to it! ([Genesis 49:4](#))
- And the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel, for he was the firstborn, but for his profaning the lounge of his father his right as firstborn was given to the sons of Joseph the son of Israel, so that he was not to be enrolled genealogically for the right of the firstborn. ([1 Chronicles 5:1](#))
- For Judah himself proved to be superior among his brothers, and the one for leader was from him, but the right as firstborn was Joseph's. ([1 Chronicles 5:2](#))
- Joseph, the firstborn son of Jacob through his second, but favorite, wife Rachel, gained the privileges of firstborn son, including the right to have two parts, or portions, in Israel.
- After that Israel said to Joseph; Look, I am dying, but God will certainly continue with you people and return you to the land of your forefathers. ([Genesis 48:21](#))
- As for me, I do give you one shoulder of land more than to your brothers, which I took from the hand of the Amorites by my sword and by my bow. ([Genesis 48:22](#))
- In the Revelation list Joseph evidently stands for Ephraim. And Manasseh represents Joseph's second portion in Spiritual Israel. The **tribe** of Levi is listed, to make room for Levi without increasing the number of tribes, no tribe of Dan is included in;
- 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 Judah twelve thousand sealed. Out of the **tribe** of Reuben twelve thousand. Out of the **tribe** of Gad twelve thousand. (**Revelation 7:5**)
- 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**)
- Out of the **tribe** of Simeon twelve thousand. Out of the **tribe** of Levi twelve thousand. Out of the **tribe** of Issachar twelve thousand. (**Revelation 7:7**)
- Out of the **tribe** of Zebulun twelve thousand. Out of the **tribe** of Joseph twelve thousand. Out of the **tribe** of Benjamin twelve thousand sealed. (**Revelation 7:8**)
- But apparently not because of any unsuitability on Dans part. The inclusion of Levi would also serve to show that there is no special priestly **tribe** in Spiritual Israel, the entire spiritual nation being a royal priesthood.
- But you are, a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for special possession, that you should declare abroad the excellencies, of the one that called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. (**1 Peter 2:9**)

## • Judging The Twelve Tribes Of Israel

- Jesus told the apostles that in the **re-creation** they would sit upon twelve thrones, **judging the twelve tribes of Israel**.
- Jesus said to them; Truly I say to you, in the re-creation, when the Son of man sits down upon his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also yourselves sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve **tribes** of Israel. (**Matthew 19:28**)
- And he expressed a similar thought when he made a covenant with his faithful apostles for a Kingdom.
- However, you are the ones that have stuck with me in my trials. (**Luke 22:28**)

- And I make a covenant with you, just as my Father has made a covenant with me, for a kingdom. (Luke 22:29)
- That you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones to judge the twelve tribes of Israel. (Luke 22:30)
- It is not reasonable that Jesus meant that they would judge the 12 tribes of Spiritual Israel later mentioned in Revelation, for the apostles were to be part of that group.
- Certainly, therefore, you are no longer strangers and alien residents, but you are fellow citizens of the holy ones and are members of the household of God. (Ephesians 2:19)
- And you have been built up upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, while Christ Jesus himself is the foundation cornerstone. (Ephesians 2:20)
- In union with him the whole building, being harmoniously joined together, is growing into a holy temple for Yehowah. (Ephesians 2:21)
- In union with him you, too, are being built up together into a place for God to inhabit by spirit. (Ephesians 2:22)
- To the one that conquers I will grant to sit down with me on my throne, even as I conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. (Revelation 3:21)
- Those called to be holy ones are said to judge, not themselves, but, the world.
- Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through God's will, and Sosthenes our brother. (1 Corinthians 1:1)
- To the congregation of God that is in Corinth, to you who have been sanctified in union with Christ Jesus, called to be holy ones, together with all who everywhere are calling upon the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours. (1 Corinthians 1:2)
- Or do you not know that the holy ones will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you unfit to try very trivial matters? (1 Corinthians 6:2)



- **Those reigning with Christ form a kingdom of priests.**
- **But you are, a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for special possession, that you should declare abroad the excellencies, of the one that called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. (1 Peter 2:9)**
- **And you made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God, and they are to rule as kings over the earth.**
- **And you made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God, and they are to rule as kings over the earth. (Revelation 5:10)**
- **Consequently, the twelve tribes of Israel mentioned at;**
- **Jesus said to them; Truly I say to you, in the re-creation, when the Son of man sits down upon his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also yourselves sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. (Matthew 19:28)**
- **That you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones to judge the twelve tribes of Israel. (Luke 22:30)**
- **Evidently represent the world of mankind who are outside that royal priestly class and whom those sitting on heavenly thrones will judge.**
- **And I saw thrones, and there were those who sat down on them, and power of judging was given them. Yes, I saw the souls of those executed with the ax for the witness they bore to Jesus and for speaking about God, and those who had worshiped neither the wild beast nor its image and who had not received the mark upon their forehead and upon their hand. And they came to life and ruled as kings with the Christ for a thousand years. (Revelation 20:4)**

**See Also CREATION [Re-Creation]**