

The Emblems of the 12 Tribes of Israel

The QUEST for the 12 Tribes of Israel!

Where are the 12 tribes of Israel, today? How may we identify them? Biblical prophecy gives us primary signs and evidence of who and where they are.

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Yeshua the Messiah told the twelve apostles, when He sent them forth to preach the gospel, “But go rather to the *lost sheep* of the house of Israel” (Matt.10:6).

For them to do this, they had to know where the ‘lost sheep’ were located. This was a reference to the departure of the so-called “Lost Ten Tribes” of the northern kingdom of Israel, which was taken into captivity by the Assyrian Empire, in 721-718 B.C. They never returned to the land of promise in Canaan, but became dispersed around the world.

Josephus the ancient historian of the Jews wrote that they were an innumerable multitude in his day, about 70 A.D. Flavius Josephus, in his *Antiquities of the Jews*, wrote that during the time of Ezra, about 457 B.C. – when the king of Persia permitted the Jews to return to Jerusalem – many of them did. But, he relates, “the entire body of the people of Israel remained in that country; wherefore there are but two tribes in Asia and Europe subject to the Romans, *while the TEN TRIBES are BEYOND EUPHRATES till NOW, and are an IMMENSE MULTITUDE, and not to be estimated by numbers*” (Josephus, *Ant.*, XI, 5, 2). What happened to this “immense multitude” of people who were still beyond the Euphrates River in 70 A.D., the time when Josephus lived? Where did they go?

In the book of II Esdras, in the Apocrypha, we read: “These are the ten tribes that in the days of king Hoshea were carried away from their own land into captivity, whom Shalmaneser, king of Assyria, made captives, and carried beyond the river; they were carried off to another country. But they formed this plan among themselves, to leave the heathen population, and *go to a more distant region, where the human race had never lived*, so that there perhaps they might keep their statutes, which they had not kept in their own country. And they went in by the narrow passages of the Euphrates River. . . . But it was a long journey of a year and a half to that country, and that country is called

Arsareth. There they have lived until the last time . . .” (II Esdras 13:40-46, an American Translation by Edgar J. Goodspeed).

Famed Rabbi Moses Maimonides, in 1131 A.D., declared, “I believe the ten tribes to be in various parts of West Europe.”

And Dr. Moses Margoliouth, a Jewish scholar, wrote, “It may not be out of place to state that the Isles afar off mentioned in the 31st chapter of Jeremiah were supposed by the ancients to be Brittainia, Scotia and Hibernia (Ireland) . . . I believe that the old Cornish was a dialect of Hebrew as is Gaelic, Welsh and Breton.”

The apostle James, in his epistle written in 60 A.D., wrote, “James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, *to the twelve tribes which are SCATTERED ABROAD: Greetings*” (James 1:1). To send his epistle to them, he must have had a very good idea of where they were located in his time. But where did they go, and where are they today?

Where Are the “Lost” Tribes?

In searching for the 12 tribes of Israel, on the earth today, we must remember 2 things: #1) all twelve were prophesied to be on the earth in the end of days (Rev.7:1-8). #2) Their identities and chief characteristics are given in the prophecies and words of Jacob and Moses, concerning their attributes and future.

Let’s take a look also at the emblems or symbols of the twelve tribes, as they are given in the book *Symbols of Our Celto-Saxon Heritage*, by W. H. Bennett. We will discuss each tribe with its chief symbols, and then try to affix the identity of each one. We will also consult *The Testaments of the Twelve Patriarchs*, biographies written between 104 and 137 B.C. – probably handed down as oral tradition before that time (see *The Lost book of the Bible and the Forgotten Books of Eden*).

Reuben, the Firstborn

The patriarch Jacob declared of Reuben, “Reuben, thou art my firstborn, my might, and the beginning of my strength, the excellency of dignity, and the excellency of power: unstable as water, thou shalt not excel; because thou wentest up to thy father’s bed; then defiledst thou it: he went up to my couch” (Gen.49:3-4).

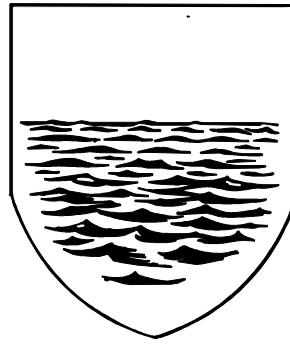
Moses said of him, “May Reuben live, and not die out, even though his numbers are few” (Deut.33:6, NRSV).

Reuben had a problem. It revolved around sex. “And it happened, when Israel dwelt in that land, that Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father’s concubine; and Israel heard about it” (Gen.35:22). This was a vile act of treachery, and may have been partly done out of anger at his father’s supposed neglect of Leah, Reuben’s mother, or his

love of Rachel. Rachel had died, but her maid was Bilhah. By sleeping with her, Reuben brought reproach upon her, hoping Jacob would turn back to his primary wife Leah.



12. Primary Emblem



13. Secondary Emblem

THE TRIBE OF REUBEN

Whatever the reasons, Reuben almost died as a result of God’s punishment upon him. The Testament of Reuben tells us that before his death, he warned his offspring to beware of “the sins of youth and fornication, wherein I was poured out, and defiled the bed of my father Jacob” (chapter 1:6). Reuben went on, “And I tell you that he smote me with a sore plague in my loins for seven months; and had not my father Jacob prayed for me to the Lord, the Lord would have destroyed me. For I was thirty years old when I wrought the evil thing before the Lord, and for seven months I was sick unto death. And after this I repented with set purpose of my soul” (vs.7-8). Reuben went on to warn his descendents to beware of the “seven spirits of deceit,” the first of which was “the spirit of fornication.”

The prophetess Deborah alluded to Reuben’s weakness in leadership. She declared, of the great battle when Israel fought king Jabin and the Canaanites, of Reuben, “Among the clans of Reuben there were great searchings of heart. Gilead stayed beyond the Jordan” (Judges 5:16, NRSV). Moffatt translates it: “But in the shires of Reuben were divisions and debates. Why did you lounge by shepherd’s cotes, with only an ear for pastoral notes?” While the other tribes of Israel came to fight the vicious Canaanite invaders, apparently Reuben couldn’t make up its mind – it wallowed in philosophy, mused on ‘to be or not to be’ taking part, and justified its inaction with indecisive debate. As their forefather Jacob put it, Reuben was “unstable as water” (Gen.49:4). Or as the NIV has it: “Turbulent as the waters, you will no longer excel.”

Because of his sin, he lost the promise of the birthright and primogenacy among the tribes. Reuben, among today’s nations, is mostly represented by the nation of France. Like Reuben, of old, France tends to sexually preoccupied, and is “unstable as water,” and yet is a leader among the nations in decorum, elegance, and excellency.

France once competed with Great Britain for the domination of North America. But she did not have the endurance and staying power. Later Napoleon Bonaparte, of

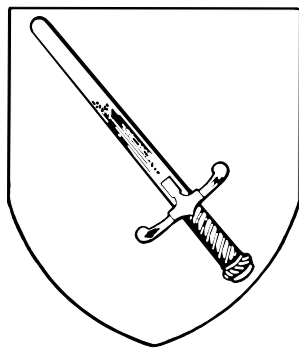
France, sold “its birthright,” the Louisiana Purchase, a huge territory stretching from the Mississippi River all the way to the Rocky Mountains, and northward to Canada, to the fledgling United States for a paltry \$15 million dollars to help finance his European wars. Thereby France gave up control of vast stretches of virgin, forested, fertile territory, greatly increasing the economic resources and potential power of the United States.

France’s pride and arrogance and lofty grandeur was epitomized by the face of Charles de Gaulle, her President after World War II. Today, her weakness and debility is shown in her appeasement of Muslim nations, and her nasty anti-Semitism and anti-Israeli rhetoric, even in the face of clearly terrorist brutality and barbarity.

Simeon

In the Testament of Simeon, the second son of Jacob and Leah, it is revealed that he was the instigator of the plot against his brother Joseph, whom he envied. He became a very strong man, and shrank from no achievement, but he was very jealous of Joseph, whom Jacob loved the most, so he set his mind to destroy him. He also repented, later, and warned his offspring to “beware of the spirit of deceit and envy. For envy ruleth over the whole mind of a man . . .” (1:16-17). Simeon afflicted his soul with fasting, and learned that deliverance from envy comes from the fear of God (v.18). He warned his children, “Beware, therefore, my children, of all jealousy and envy, and walk in singleness of heart, that God may give you also grace and glory, and blessing upon your heads, even as ye saw in Joseph’s case” (2:5). “Do ye also, my children, love each one his brother with a good heart, and the spirit of envy will withdraw from you” (v.7).

Simeon, because of his nature and sins, was to be scattered among the tribes of Israel, and not to have a separate inheritance among the nations. Simeon was involved in the massacre of the men of Shechem (Gen.34:25). His tribe came to be the weakest of all the tribes and was largely absorbed into Judah, as well as the other tribes.



14. Primary Emblem



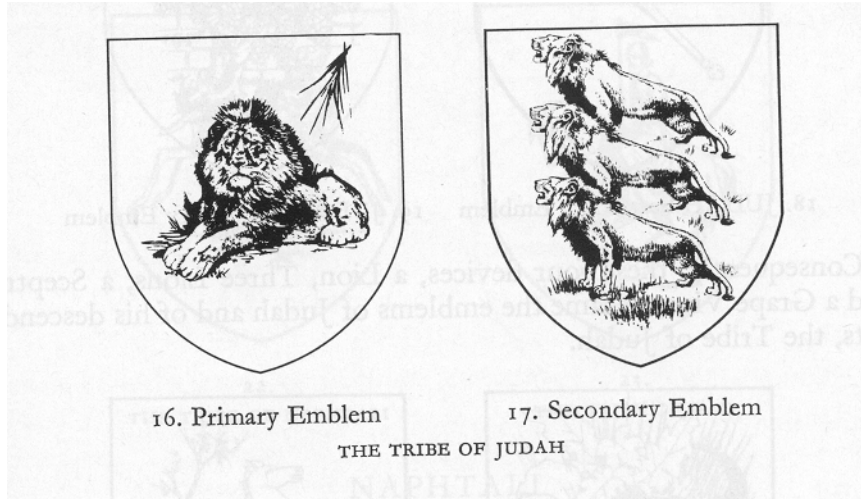
15. Secondary Emblem

THE TRIBE OF SIMEON

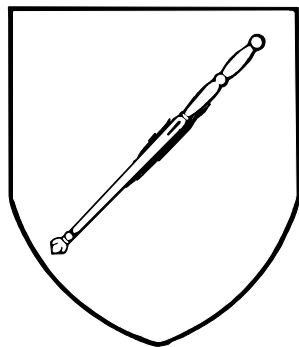
Jacob prophesied of Simeon: “Simeon and Levi are brethren; instruments of cruelty are in their habitations . . . for in their anger they slew a man, and in their self will

they dug down a wall. Cursed be their anger, for it was fierce; and their wrath, for it was cruel: I will divide them in Jacob, and scatter them in Israel” (Gen.49:5-7).

The Tribe of Judah



Jacob declared, “Judah, thou art he whom thy brethren shall praise: thy hand shall be in the neck of thine enemies; thy father’s children shall bow down before thee. Judah is a lion’s whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up? The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be. Binding his foal unto the vine, and his ass’s colt unto the choice vine; he washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes: His eyes shall be red with wine, and his teeth white with milk” (Gen.49:8-12).



18. JUDAH Secondary Emblem



19. JUDAH Secondary Emblem

The tribe of Judah was an outstanding tribe, showing leadership and boldness, courage and sagacity. It was Judah who pled with Joseph to release Benjamin, lest Jacob die from heartbreak, even though Judah did not know that Joseph was testing the brothers, by placing money in Benjamin’s sack, and then accusing him of theft. Judah

laid his life on the line for his brother Benjamin, moving Joseph to tears, and to reveal to his brothers his true identity (Gen.44, 45:1-3).

Moses prophesied of Judah, “Hear, LORD, the voice of Judah, and bring him to his people; let his hands be sufficient for him, and may You be a help against his enemies” (Deut.33:7).

Judah was swift in his youth, obedient to his father in everything (Testament of Judah 1:4), and honored his mother and her sister Rachel. He relates in his testament, “my father blessed me, saying, Thou shalt be a king, prospering in all things” (v.6). Judah became a fearsome warrior. His counsel to his children was, “hearken to Judah your father, and keep my sayings to perform all the ordinances of the Lord, and to obey the commands of God” (3:1). He warned them to avoid drunkenness, which leads to filthy thoughts and fornication, “for wine turneth the mind away from the truth, and inspires the passion of lust, and leadeth the eyes into error” (v.10).

It is well known who the sons of Judah, the Jewish people, are today, for they have preserved the oracles of God, the Scriptures of the Old Testament, and the Torah – even though they have not always obeyed them (Rom.3:1-3). However, some claim that the modern Jews are really impostors – sons of Esau. Nothing could be further from the truth! Read our articles, “Who Were the Khazars?” and “Who Is Really a Jew?”

The Tribe of DAN

Moses wrote of the tribe of Dan, “Dan is a lion’s whelp; he shall leap from Bashan” (Deut.33:22). In the book of Judges, we read, “Why did Dan remain on ships?” (Judg.5:17). Dan was a sea-faring people, and also a war-making tribe, traveling, conquering, and leaving his name behind him in naming villages and locations (Judges 18:7-10).



20. Primary Emblem



21. Secondary Emblem

THE TRIBE OF DAN

Jacob prophesied of Dan: “Dan shall be a serpent by the way, an adder in the path, that biteth the horse heels, so that his rider shall fall backward. I have waited for thy salvation, O LORD” (Gen.49:16-18).

Like a serpent, Dan left “tracks” wherever he went. We can trace his migrations through the place-names of rivers and cities throughout Europe, as he journeyed to the north and west. He passed through the Dardanelles, past the *Dneiper* and *Don* Rivers, the *Danube*, and settled in *Denmark*, settled in *London*, and moved into Ireland, the land of the “Tuatha de *Danaan*,” or “Tribe of Dan.” Read our article, “The Tuatha de Danaan – the Tribe of Dan Revealed.”

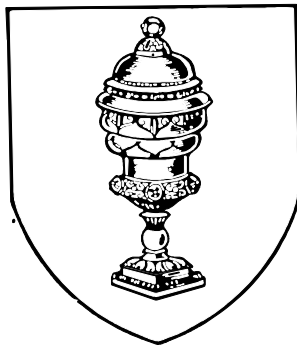
Dan warned his children, upon his deathbed, “And now, my children, behold I am dying, and I tell you of a truth, unless ye keep yourselves from the spirit of lying and of anger, and love truth and longsuffering, ye shall perish. For anger is blindness, and does not suffer one to see the face of any man with truth” (Testament of Dan, 1:10-11).

“Nevertheless, Dan prophesied unto them that they should forget their God, and should be alienated from the land of their inheritance and from the race of Israel, and from the family of their seed” (2:27). Dan became an idolatrous nation, and even today is mired in the idolatry of Roman Catholicism so that they will have to “wait” for God’s salvation (Gen.49:18). The tribe of Dan are largely the Irish people, today – mighty warriors and fighters, and have been a thorn in the side of the British, their brother Joseph.

Asher and Issachar

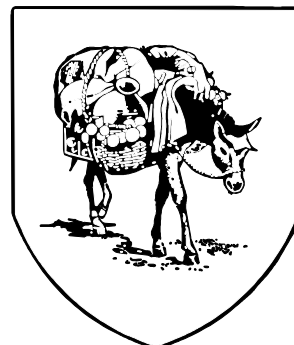
Jacob declared: “Out of Asher, his bread shall be fat, and he shall yield royal dainties” (Gen.49:20). Moses prophesied of him, “Asher is most blessed of sons; let him be favored by his brothers, and let him dip his foot in oil” (Gen.33:24).

Asher’s inheritance was along the seashore, from Carmel northward. They possess the maritime portion of the rich plain of Esdraelon. Today, the tribe of Asher is largely believed to have settled in Belgium, on the maritime region of western Europe. The Belgians are world famous for their delicacies, rolls and delicious pastries, and Belgian lace.



24.

THE TRIBE OF ASHER



25.

THE TRIBE OF ISSACHAR

Jacob said of Issachar: “Issachar is a strong ass couching down between two burdens: And he saw that rest was good, and the land that it was pleasant; and bowed his shoulder to bear, and became a servant unto tribute” (Gen.49:14-15). Moses declared of him, “Rejoice . . . Issachar in your tents! . . . For they shall partake of the abundance of the seas and of treasures hidden in the sand” (Deut.33:18-19).

“Issachar” means “there is a reward.” His allotment lay above that of Manasseh – to the north. It was rich and fertile land, extending to Mount Tabor. Issachar was a very good son. He wrote in his testament, “And my father blessed me, for he saw that I walked in rectitude before him. And I was not a busybody in my doings, nor envious and malicious against my neighbor. I never slandered anyone, nor did I censure the life of any man, walking as I did in singleness of eye” (1:25-27). “The single-minded man coveteth not gold, he overreacheth not his neighbor, he longeth not after manifold dainties, he delighteth not in varied apparel. He doth not desire to live a long life, but only waiteth for the will of God” (v.33-34). Issachar counseled his children, who would come after him, “Keep, therefore, my children, the law of God, and get singleness, and walk in guilelessness, not playing the busybody with the business of your neighbor, but love the Lord and your neighbor, have compassion on the poor and weak” (1:38).

Issachar historically appears to be the nation of Finland, “couched down” between Soviet Russia, and the other Scandinavian countries. In the 1000s, Sweden and Russia began a struggle for the control of Finland. Both nations wanted to extend their boundaries. During the 1100s and 1200s, Sweden gradually conquered all Finland. From the 1500s through the 1700s, Sweden and Russia fought several wars over Finland. Russia occupied all Finland from 1741 to 1743 after the Great Northern War (1700-1721). Sweden and Russia fought over Finland again from 1788-1780. Russia invaded again in 1808 and conquered it in 1809 and annexed it. Finland declared its freedom in 1917, when the Communist revolution overthrew the Russian government. Russia invaded the country twice during World War II. The Fins fought bravely against Russian forces, however, during World War II, and preserved their independence.

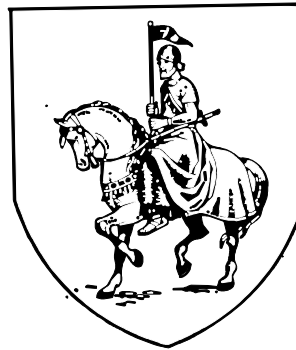
Naphtali and Gad

Jacob declared, “Naphtali is a deer let loose: he uses beautiful words” (Gen.49:21, NRSV). Moses said of him, “O Naphtali, satisfied with favor, and full of the blessing of the LORD, possess the west and the south” (Deut.33:23). Naphtali’s northern boundary was the northern boundary of ancient Israel. They dwelt in the north. His name means “wrestling.”

W. H. Bennett writes, “*Swedin* is part of the area of northern Europe called *Scandinavia*. So, by their use of these two names, the people of *Swedin* identify themselves as a part of the Israel people.



22.
THE TRIBE OF NAPHTALI



23.
THE TRIBE OF GAD

Naphtali says in his testament that he was greatly loved by Rachel, because he was born upon her lap. He was swift upon his feet like a deer, and Jacob appointed him for delivering all messages (1:13). Naphtali warned his children and progeny, “Do ye therefore charge your children that they be united to Levi and to Judah; for through them shall salvation arise unto Israel, and to gather together the righteous from amongst the Gentiles. If ye work that which is good, my children, both men and angels shall bless you; and God shall be glorified among the Gentiles through you, and the devil shall flee from you, and the wild beasts shall fear you, and the Lord shall love you, and the angels shall cleave to you” (v.26).

Today, Naphtali is believed to be largely Sweden. The Swedish are famous for the Nobel Prizes, goodly words. Alfred Bernhard Nobel, a Swedish chemist who invented dynamite, founded the Nobel prizes, which are awarded each year in six different categories to persons who have made valuable contributions to the “good of humanity.” The Swedes dwell to the west (of Europe), and southern portion of the Scandinavian peninsula.

Gad

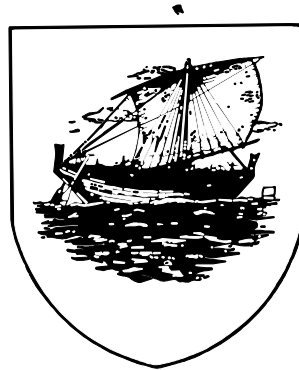
Jacob said of Gad [which means “a troop”], “Gad, a troop shall overcome him: but he shall overcome at the last” (Gen.49:19). Moses wrote: “Blessed is he who enlarges Gad; he dwells as a lion, and tears the arm and the crown of his head. He provides the first part for himself, because a lawgiver’s portion was reserved there. He came with the heads of the people; he administered the justice of the LORD, and His judgments with Israel” (Deut.33:20-21).

In his testament, Gad exhorts his descendants to beware of hatred. He himself had hated Joseph with a passion because of an incident that occurred while he was a shepherd and had killed a bear to deliver a lamb from its mouth. But he then thought the lamb would not be able to live, so he slew it and they ate it. Joseph reported this back to Jacob, saying they had slain the best of the flock, making Jacob very angry with Gad and his brothers. Gad harbored this resentment and hatred until he repented and confessed his

sins. He warned his children, “Hearken to the words of truth to work righteousness, and all the laws of the Most High, and go not astray through the spirit of hatred, for it is evil in all the doings of men” (1:15). He added, “For the spirit of hatred worketh together with Satan, through hastiness of spirits, in all things to men’s death; but the spirit of love worketh together with the law of God in long-suffering unto the salvation of men. Hatred, therefore, is evil, for it constantly mateth with lying, speaking against the truth; and it maketh small things to be great, and causeth the light to be darkness, and calleth the sweet bitter, and teacheth slander, and kindleth wrath, and stirreth up war, and violence and all covetousness; it filleth the heart with evils and devilish poison. These things, therefore, I say to you from experience, my children, that ye may drive forth hatred, which is of the devil, and cleave to the love of God” (1:24-26).

Who is Gad today? Many believe that Gad is Switzerland, a people who have refused to be conquered by other European powers, who have steadfastly build a strong, powerful state so as to be able to defend themselves against any enemy. Even Germany did not attack Switzerland during World War II, knowing how strong a defense they could maintain. The tribe of Gad may also have left its name in the Spanish city of Cadiz.

The Tribe of Zebulun



250. **The Tribe of Zebulun**

Jacob declared, “Zebulun shall dwell at the haven of the sea; and he shall be for an haven of ships; and his border shall be unto Zidon” (Gen.49:13) Moses wrote, “Rejoice, Zebulun, in your going out . . . For they shall partake of the abundance of the seas and of treasures hidden in the sand”” (Deut.33:18).

Zebulun is identified with the people of Holland, the Netherlands. It is truly a haven for ships, with the port of Amsterdam and the Rotterdam being among the greatest shipping ports of the world. Holland has reclaimed territory from the North Sea, by building dikes to hold back the waters. The Dutch have been a very strong maritime nation throughout history.

For many hundreds of years the Lion was the traditional symbol of that part of the Netherlands called Holland, commonly referred to as the “Lion of Judah.” In ancient Israel, the emblem of Zebulon was a ship. But Zebulon was also one of the three tribes forming the brigade or camp of Judah, which also placed them under the emblem of Judah, the Lion. An old emblem of Holland, like that of Zebulon, was that of a ship – the old “Ship of State emblem of Holland, dated 1579, where we see a Ship, the emblem of the tribe of Zebulon, with a flag at the masthead on which appears the uncrowned Lion of the Brigade or Camp of Judah” (Bennett, p.151).

Deborah, in the war against Sisera during the time of the Judges, had special praise for Zebulon, singing, “Zebulon is a people who jeopardized their lives to the point of death, Naphtali also on the heights of the battlefield” (Judges 5:18). The Tanakh has it, “Zebulon is a people that mocked at death.”

It is interesting to note that the people of Holland also jeopardized their lives to the point of death by harboring and protecting the Jews during the Nazi holocaust, hiding them from the Nazi occupying forces during World War II. The Dutch are noted for their bravery. The story of Corrie TenBoom and her family during the Nazi holocaust, and their courage in protecting Jews, is a wonderful tribute to Christian love and sacrifice.

In Judges 5:14 we also read, “and out of Zebulon they that handle the pen of the writer.” The Hebrew literally means “draw with the pen.” The LXX has it, “from Zebulon came they that draw with the scribe’s pen of record.” The word for “pen” here is *shebet*, meaning “to branch off, a scion, i.e. (lit) a stick (for punishing, writing, fighting, ruling, walking, etc.).

It is noteworthy that the printing press was actually not invented by the German Guttenberg, as many people think – he merely refined it. The printing press was invented by a Dutchman, Coster of Haarlem (Holland). From the book *Strange Parallel* by Helene Koppejan, we learn that in the city of Haarlem there is a statue in the marketplace of a man with a letterblock in his hand, inscribed in 1440 A.D. – “the inventor of the art of printing with moveable letters of cast metal.” Coster’s invention was stolen by his servant who fled to Mainz, Germany, where it came into the hands of Guttenberg.

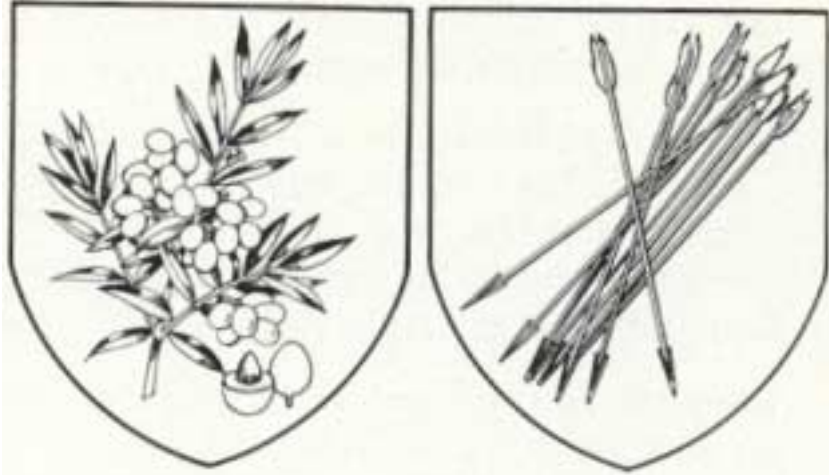
Even today the Dutch are famous for their ability as calligraphers, often making drawings in one line. Dutch calligraphers still enjoy international fame for their drawing of charters.

Ephraim and Manasseh

Jacob declared, “Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall: the archers have sorely grieved him, and shot at him, and hated him: but his bow abode in strength and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob; (from thence is the shepherd, the stone of Israel:) Even by the God of thy father who shall help thee; and the Almighty, who shall bless thee with the blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lieth under, blessings of the

breast and of the womb: The blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills: they shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him that was separate from his brethren” (Gen.49:22-26).

Two of the major identifying attributes of the birth-right tribe of Joseph, which

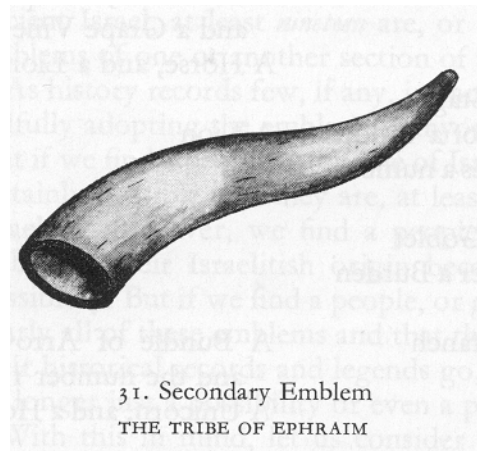


should be especially visible in the identification of EPHRAIM, the son who was given the greater of the blessings, are illustrated in the pictures above. On the left is the Olive Plant, with its abundance of olives. The olive plant is a symbol of richness of oil, and is an emblem of peace.

On the right is a bundle of arrows, symbolical of war-waging prowess and military might; the arrows depict Air Power; today they would represent the power of guided missiles, smart bombs, cruise missiles such as the Tomahawk missile, so effective in both the Gulf war in 1991, and the Afghanistan conflict in which American air power soon devastated the Taliban and Al Qaeda terrorist bases, and drove the terrorists to hiding undercover in the mountain and cities.

These are the two major symbols of Joseph, according to Jacob’s blessing of the tribes, in Genesis 49. What nation on earth today is more famous for its AIR POWER than the United States of America? What nation has used air power more successfully than the United States? What nation has taken the lead to bring peace in the Middle East? What nation has been a “peace maker” in the earth?

Moses prophesied of Joseph in Deuteronomy 33: “His glory is like a firstborn bull, and his horns like the horns of a wild ox; together with them he shall push the peoples to the ends of the earth; they are the ten thousands of Ephraim, and they are the thousands of Manasseh” (Deut.33:17, NKJV). The King James Version has this verse, “His glory is like the firstling of his bullock, and his horns are like the horns of unicorns” (first part). The Hebrew word *rem* can be translated either “wild ox” or “unicorn,” from the word *raam*, “to be lifted up” (i.e., the horns).



This Scripture clearly shows that Ephraim would be “doubly-fruitful” and outnumber Manasseh, in the last days, something like *ten to one*. This passage is plainly talking about POPULATION! Some try to argue otherwise, but the sense is very plain. This is talking about armies, and pushing peoples to the ends of the earth. So we would expect to find that Ephraim is a much more mighty power, militarily, than Manasseh, in the end of days – and so it is.

It was the United States which led the fight against Communist aggression in the Korean War, and Vietnam, and it was the United States which sent over 200,000 troops to the Middle East to fight Saddam Hussein in the Gulf War. And, more recently, it was again the United States which sent troops and its Air Force to pummel the Taliban and Al Qaeda forces in Afghanistan. It was the “Arrows” of Ephraim which struck at the heart of the terrorist empire and devastated their forces, in massive missile and bombing sorties, destroying the terrorist infrastructure. And side-by-side with Ephraim, has been the support of his older brother, Manasseh. Prime Minister Tony Blair, and the British, have been America’s leading allies and supporters in all these conflicts, as would be expected since they are true brothers. Yet the dominant power has been that of Ephraim – the “ten thousands of Ephraim” (Deut.33:17).

Joseph is compared in this prophecy to a great bull, and a wild ox – or a unicorn – noted for their massive brute strength. The notable, conspicuous feature of the bull or wild ox is its horn, and so it is with the unicorn, a horse with a prominent horn in the middle of its forehead. America is world famous for its cattle industry, Texas longhorns, and the greatest BEEF producer in the world.

How is this symbology important to our discussion of the relative identities of Ephraim and Manasseh? In the Royal Coat of Arms of the United Kingdom, or Great Britain, there is a rampant lion on the right side, and a unicorn on the left side standing on its hind feet. Which of the two tribes, Ephraim and Manasseh, has the unicorn for its emblem?



The Coat of Arms of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, shown above, contains a rampant lion and a unicorn standing on its hind feet. The lion is a symbol of the kingdom of Judah and David (Gen.49:8-10). The unicorn is a symbol of the house of Joseph (Deut.33:17). In particular, the unicorn was represented on the standard or flag of *Manasseh*, the oldest son of Joseph, and is identified with his descendants.

Yair Davidy, in his book *The Tribes: The Israelite Origins of Western Peoples*, explains:

“A lion represents the kingdom of David and Judah. Moses (Deut.33:17) compared Joseph to a bull and to a unicorn. In the blessing of Balaam the strength of all Israel is compared to that of a unicorn (Num.23:22). A UNICORN (Raem) was represented on the STANDARD OF MANASSEH son of Joseph, according to the MIDRASH” (Yair Davidy, *The Tribes*, p.220, second edition, Russell-Davis Publishers, Israel, 1999).

Notice carefully. The “unicorn” was the emblem or sign of THE TRIBE OF *MANASSEH!* Therefore, we should expect the “unicorn” to be prominent among and identified with the tribe of Manasseh! This fact should be obvious to anybody with an open mind.

So where do we find the “unicorn” prominently displayed, today? Where do we find the “unicorn” symbol among the nations of the world?

It is incorporated into the Royal Coat of Arms of England, Scotland and Northern Ireland – the UNITED KINGDOM!

The Unicorn is on the British Royal Coat of Arms. This is the Sovereign's own symbol and is to be found in many different buildings the length and breadth of Great Britain, such as Government and Public buildings, local council offices, Anglican churches, the Royal Courts of Justice, to name a few. In fact, it is also found on many English pubs, being so commonplace that it is hardly noticed any more!

Thus the combination of the lion of Judah and the unicorn of Manasseh, reveals that the throne of Judah and David rests in England, the inheritance of Manasseh.

Manasseh as a tribe favored the house of David. Ephraim, on the other hand, led the rebellion against the house of David (I Kings 11:26).

For a greater, more detailed study on these symbols of the tribe of Joseph, and their meaning, send for our special book *America and Great Britain: Our Identity Revealed – Ephraim and Manasseh in the End of Days* (see advertisement in this issue).

Who Is Benjamin?

Jacob prophesied: "Benjamin shall be as *a ravening wolf*; in the morning he shall devour the prey, and at night he shall divide the spoil" (Gen.49:27). Moses foretold of Benjamin: "The beloved of the LORD shall dwell in safety by him, who shelters him all the day long; and he shall dwell between his shoulders" (Deut.33:12).



The name "Benjamin" means "son of my right hand." He was the brother of Joseph, but throughout history was closely connected with the people of Judah. Says Peloubet's Bible Dictionary, "Benjamin was the only tribe which seemed to have pursued archery to any purpose, and their skill in the bow (I Sam.20:20, 36; II Sam.1:22), and sling (Judges 20:16) is celebrated." Its ancient inheritance lay between Ephraim, Judah, Dan, and the Jordan River. Much of Benjamin went with the Southern Kingdom, after the dispersion of the Ten Tribes to the north.

The national emblem of Norway consists of a Crowned Shield on which appears a Crowned Rampant Lion. The Lion is golden in color and holds a silver axe which has a golden handle. The tawny rampant lion, we have noted before, is a symbol also of the tribe of Judah. As the central figure in the Arms of Norway is identical, the people of Norway can also be identified with the tribe of Judah. In fact, the Benjamites' original portion was next to that of Judah.

During World War II, many Jews were safe-guarded by the Norwegians, who provided them sanctuary from the hordes of Hitler as long as possible.

The Norwegians from Norway were the famous Vikings of old – marauders and plunderers, who raided the coastlands far and wide throughout the British Isles, Western Europe, and as far as Italy. Viking sea raiders from the Norwegian communities spread terror through much of western Europe for about 300 years. Like ferocious wolves, they attacked settlements of neighboring peoples, in their Viking ships. An ancient song describes a great battle which occurred about 900 A.D. in which the Norwegian warriors were said to be “wolf-coated.” Professor Hannay, mentioned by W. F. Bennett, declares in his *European Race Origins* that a part of the tribe of Benjamin left the East about the year 300 A.D. and went to what is now called Norway (*Symbols*, p.173).

Notice that Benjamin was to be noted as a ravening wolf who attacked and divided the spoils of pillage and assault. This fits with the character of the Vikings of the land of Norway, also. So in today's world, we largely identify Benjamin with the nation of Norway. Among the Norsemen were no doubt many Benjamites. One of the most famous among them was called “Rollo the Wolf.” Says Bennett, “Further, it should be noted that some of the clans of Scotland have a partial Norwegian ancestry and that several of these, or their Chieftains, have a Wolf as an emblem” (*ibid.*).

Benjamin, in his testament, said to his children, “And do ye, my children, flee evil-doing, envy, and hatred of brethren, and cleave to goodness and love. He that hath a pure mind in love, looketh not after a woman with a view of fornication; for he hath no defilement in his heart, because the Spirit of God resteth upon him. For as the sun is not defiled by shining on dung and mire, but rather drieth up both and driveth away the evil smell; so also the pure mind, though encompassed by the defilements of earth, rather cleanseth them and is not itself defiled” (2:1-3). Benjamin concluded his sayings, “If ye therefore, my children, walk in holiness according to the commandments of the Lord, ye shall again dwell securely with me, and all Israel shall be gathered to the Lord. And I shall no longer be called a ravening wolf on account of your ravages, but a worker of the Lord distributing food to them that work what is good” (2:24-25).

Benjamin wrote: “And there shall arise in the latter days one beloved of the Lord, of the tribe of Judah and Levi, a doer of His good pleasure in his mouth, with new knowledge enlightening the Gentiles.

“Until the consummation of the age shall he be in the synagogues of the Gentiles, and among their rulers, as a strain of music in the mouth of all. And he shall be inscribed

in the holy books, both his work and his word, and he shall be a chosen one of God for ever” (Benjamin 2:26-28).

The Testament of Benjamin clearly foreshadows and predicts the coming of Jesus Christ, and the Christian churches throughout the Gentile world, although written down at least 150 years or so before Christ was born!

Levi

Levi was the third son of Jacob with Leah. Jacob said, “Simeon and Levi are brothers; instruments of cruelty are in their dwelling place. . . . Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce; and their wrath, for it is cruel! I will divide them in Jacob and scatter them in Israel” (Gen.49:5-7).

Levi was like his brother Simeon, in that he was a wrathful person. He was prophesied to be divided among the tribes of Israel, like Simeon (Gen.49:5-7). Yet Levi also repented of his anger, and became a priest for his brethren. God made a special covenant with him, because of his righteousness. Speaking of Levi, God says: “My covenant was with him, one of life and peace, and I gave them to him that he might fear Me; so he feared Me and was reverent before My name. The law of truth was in his mouth, and injustice was not found on his lips. He walked with Me in peace and equity, and turned many away from iniquity. For the lips of a priest should keep knowledge, and people should seek the law from his mouth; for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts” (Malachi 2:5-7, NKJV).



Moses prophesied of Levi: “Let Your Thummim and Your Urim be with Your holy one, whom You tested at Massah, and with whom You contended at Meribah, who says of his father and mother, I have not seen them; nor did he acknowledge his brothers, or know his own children; for they have observed Your word and kept Your covenant. They shall teach Jacob Your judgments and Israel Your law. They shall put incense

before You, and a whole burnt sacrifice on Your altar. Bless his substance, LORD, and accept the work of his hands; strike the loins of those who rise against him, and of those who hate him, that they rise not again” (Deut.33:8-11).

The tribe of Levi was chosen by God to serve Him directly, and they were given no physical inheritance in the land of Israel. God chose them instead of all the firstborn of Israel to serve at His tabernacle, and later the Temple. They were teachers in the law of God, expounders of the Torah, and a number of them became prophets in the service of God. Levi and his descendants had a gift for teaching and instruction, and many of them, today, identified among the Jewish people, are teachers, instructors, professors, scientists, and those dealing with discovery and with knowledge – searching out the causes of things.

In Levi’s case, the Biblical object mentioned in connection with him is the same as Simeon – a sword. But in following the Bible story, we find that they were put in charge of the religious instruction and teaching of the people, as a direct conduit between God and the people. Levi was zealous for the LORD (see Exo.32:25-28). Phineas, a grandson of Aaron, was specially noted for his “zeal” for the LORD (Num.25:5-13).

Aaron, a Levite, was chosen by God to be the High Priest, and his descendants to follow in his footsteps. Moses, the great man of God and spiritual leader of Israel out of Egypt, the younger brother of Aaron, was also a Levite. Thus the tribe of Levi was chosen to administer the religious government of Israel under the direction of the High Priest. It is fitting therefore that the breastplate of the High Priest should become their tribal emblem.

This breastplate was a symbol of the UNITY of all the 12 tribes, containing the tribal stone for each tribe. The breastplate was also called “the breastplate of judgment” (Exo.28:1, 29, 30). On it were the twelve precious stones, set in four rows with three in each row, corresponding to the twelve tribes. Each stone had the name of one of the children of Israel engraved upon it. Inside the breastplate were placed the “Urim and Thummim” (meaning “lights and perfections”), which were to be over Aaron’s heart as he went in before the LORD (Exo.28:30). Not a word describes them. Josephus and the rabbis believed that the stones gave out an answer by supernatural illumination. In any event, God worked through and spoke through the High Priest, as he served the Lord, and inquired of Him in His Temple, or Tabernacle, and answered his petitions through the consulting of the Urim and Thummim, a symbol of God’s presence and authority (Num.27:21).

In his Testament, Levi declares, “And I was young, about twenty years of age, when, with Simeon, I wrought vengeance on Hamor for our sister Dinah. And when I was feeding the flocks in Abel-Maul, the spirit of understanding of the Lord came upon me, and I saw all men corrupting their way, and that unrighteousness had built for itself walls, and lawlessness sat upon towers. And I was grieving for the race of the sons of men, and I prayed to the Lord that I might be saved” (1:5-7).

God revealed to him that He will execute judgment upon the sons of men (2:1). But He heard his prayer and that He would separate him from iniquity and Levi would become a son, servant and minister of the Lord, and give the light of knowledge to Israel and be a blessing forever (vs.4-6).

Levi prophesied, “And behold, I am clear from your ungodliness and transgression, which ye shall commit in the end of the ages against the Saviour of the world, Christ [“Messiah”], acting godlessly, deceiving Israel, and stirring up against it great evils from the Lord. And ye shall deal lawlessly together with Israel, so He shall not bear with Jerusalem because of your wickedness; but the veil of the temple shall be rent, so as not to cover your shame. And ye shall be scattered as captives among the Gentiles, and shall be for a reproach and for a curse there” (2:44-46).

Levi warned his progeny, “Fear the Lord your God with your whole heart, and walk in simplicity according to all His law” (4:1). He warned them, “Yea, ye shall bring a curse upon our race, because the light of the law which was given to lighten every man this ye desire to destroy by teaching commandments contrary to the ordinances of God And ye shall be puffed up because of your priesthood, lifting yourselves up against men, and not only so, but also against the commands of God” (vs.15-18).

Levi foretold the coming of the Messiah, long before Christ appeared on the earth! It is an amazing prediction of the life, and ministry, of Jesus Christ, written down over 100 years before He came upon the earth! He wrote, “And a man who reneweth the law in the power of the Most High, ye shall call a deceiver; and at last ye shall rush upon him to slay him, not knowing his dignity, taking innocent blood through wickedness upon your heads. And your holy places shall be laid waste even to the ground because of him. And ye shall have no place that is clean; but ye shall be among the Gentiles a curse and a dispersion until He shall again visit you, and in pity shall receive you through faith and water” (Levi 4:27-29).

Speaking of the *second* coming of the Messiah, Levi foretold: “In his priesthood shall sin come to an end, and the lawless shall cease to do evil. And he shall open the gates of paradise, and shall remove the threatening sword against Adam, and he shall give to the saints to eat from the tree of life, and the spirit of holiness shall be upon them. And Beliar [Satan] shall be bound by him, and he shall give power to his children to tread upon the evil spirits. And the Lord shall rejoice in His children, and be well pleased in His beloved ones for ever” (5:25-28).

The Twelve Sons

As the Testament of the Twelve Patriarchs shows, all the sons of Jacob learned to repent of their sins and serve God, and taught their children to do the same. Their warnings to their sons were prophetic as to what was to befall them in the future, and the temptations they should strive to avoid.

The name of these twelve men will be inscribed on the twelve gates of the New Jerusalem which will descend from heaven, when a new heavens and a new earth replace the existing system (Rev.21:1-2). God says, “And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the *names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel*” (Rev.21:10-12).

What are the lessons we can learn from the lives of the 12 sons of Jacob? They all came to repentance, and turned back to serving the Lord their God, in simplicity, honesty, and truth. Their lives and warnings to their offspring provide great insights into how God works with families, and gives us an example of how we should teach and charge our children, concerning the lessons of heaven and God’s Word.

God said concerning Abraham, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing, since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? *For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the LORD to do righteousness and justice . . .*” (Gen.18:17-19, NKJV).

The twelve patriarchs followed the example of their own father Jacob, who gave them blessings and warnings concerning the future of their progeny.

The apostle Paul wrote, “For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope” (Rom.10:4). The death-bed testimonials of these valiant men are not only worthy of study, because of the moral lessons they impart, but they also allude to the coming of the Messiah, who would finally redeem the tribes of Israel and bring them hope, salvation, and deliverance from their enemies.

The sons of Jacob, during a long life of struggle and strife, all came to the point of true and genuine repentance from their sins, and gave their lives to serve the Great God, Creator of heaven and earth. They came to the point, in their lives, like Job, to abhor their previous wicked conduct and attitudes, and repented deeply, and became overcomers to the end (see Job 42:1-6). It is the overcomers who will inherit the Kingdom of God (Rev.2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21).

Will their descendants, scattered among the nations, today, also pay attention, wake up, and take heed to their dire warnings and prophecies? Christ is coming soon! “Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him” (Rev.1:7). Are you ready to meet Him? “Prepare to meet your God, O Israel!” (Amos 4:12).

