

THE TWELVE TRIBES OF THE CHILDREN OF SPIRITUAL ISRAEL

1. What were the first three tribes of the children of Israel mentioned in John's vision Rev 7:5. Who do the twelve tribes represent? Which two tribes were missing from Revelation 7 and why will they be lost forever? See notes below.

Ans: a. Of the tribe of _____ were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of _____ were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of _____ were sealed twelve thousand. Rev 7:5



The Ten Commandments written by God's own finger. The only part of the Bible written by God directly

Ans: b. The twelve tribes represent the twelve basic _____ and characters that humanity fall under. Satan has counterfeited these with the twelve signs of the Zodiac, called _____ by the prophets, which the Bible condemns Isa 47:13,14. See note below.

Ans: c. The twelve tribes being different in name to any of the Old Testament lists of the literal descendants of Israel show that they are Spiritual _____ mentioned in _____ and not the literal Israelites. See notes below.

Ans: d. Dan was excluded from those that will be saved because of 1. that tribe's reputation for _____ (Judges 18:29-31) and 2. _____ Gen 49:17; James 3:6-8; Ps 101:5; Ps 15:1-4 and 3. Being _____ in a negative and critical way to others as the name Dan indicates in the Hebrew original (גִּדְוֹן) to contend or strive at the law as a judge. See note below.

Ans: e. Ephraim was excluded from those that will be saved because of 1. Refusing to walk in God's _____ and covenant Ps 78:9,10; Hosea 8:11,12 and 2. Refusing God's _____ Hosea 11:3-5 as well as 3. For being determined to _____ from truth Hosea 11:7-11 and also 4. Practising _____ which is covetousness Hosea 4:17; Col 3:5 and they 5. Refused to _____ to God and 6. Intermarrying with the _____ Hosea 5:7; 7:8-14. See note below.

Ans: f. 1. Judah prevailed above his brethren, and of him came the chief _____ (1 Chron 5:2); and 2. He was also the _____ and _____ (Gen 49:10) and 3. His brethren shall _____ him (Gen 49:8) and 4. They shall _____ their enemies (Gen 49:8) and lastly 5. _____ was from this tribe Rev 5:5.

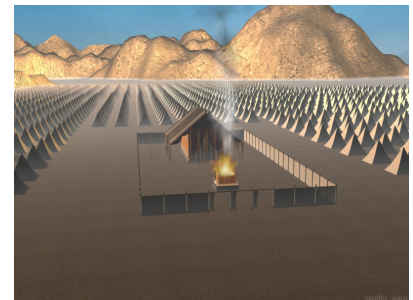
Judah's tribe was _____ in rebellion and strong to support good leaders such as Moses. They commanded praise respect and had wisdom, knowledge, and discernment. They were powerful Leaders and Judges, they would rather _____ than sin, and possessed self-control. They did not submit to peer pressure, they were positive and optimistic trusting in God's promises, and were not critical of leadership. They were faithful and loyal friends and were able to overcome almost impossible odds. If they fell into _____ they were humble, _____ and worked reformation with all the influence they could muster. See note below.

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Ans: g. The tribe of Reuben had excellent qualities of might, strength, dignity, and power but because of sin and _____ they did not excel. But in spite of their weaknesses they were kind and merciful and overcame at last to be _____ in the Kingdom of Christ and be included in the twelve names on the twelve gates of the Heavenly Jerusalem. See note below.

Ans: h. The tribe of Gad was _____, helpful in time of need, _____ and supportive but not leaders. They were the type of people that are hardly noticed in the crowd and are easily overcome by sin but repent and come back strong to be _____ over sin in the end. See note below.

The twelve Tribes. The twelve tribes represent the twelve basic temperaments and characters that humanity fall under. Satan has counterfeited these with the twelve signs of the Zodiac, called astrology by the prophets, which the Bible condemns Isa 47:13,14. Altogether there were fourteen names that made up the Children of Israel because Joseph’s two sons were included because he received a double portion Gen 48:3-22. Two tribes were not included in the twelve, and although some of those tribe members will be saved their characters must change to become like the other twelve. The two tribes not included are the tribes of Dan and Ephraim. In the Heavenly city of the New Jerusalem there are twelve gates, one representing each tribe, showing the twelve different types of temperament and character that have been overcomers of their different hereditary and cultivated weaknesses Rev 21:12. Twelve tribes are listed here (Rev 7:5-8), but they are not entirely identical with the enumerations found in the Old Testament (Num. 1:5-15; Deut 27:12, 13,14; Gen. 35:22-26; 49:3-28; 1 Chron. 2:1, 2). The Old Testament lists commonly begin with Reuben, whereas the present enumeration begins with Judah, this is most likely because Christ came of the tribe of Judah (Rev. 5:5). In the Old Testament, Levi is sometimes not included as a tribe, though, of course, he is listed as a son of Jacob. This was because Levi received no inheritance among the tribes (Joshua 13:14). Here the tribe of Levi is counted, but not that of Dan. To reckon Levi and yet retain the number 12 it was necessary to omit one of the tribes, inasmuch as Joseph was reckoned as two tribes, namely Ephraim and Manasseh. The twelve tribes in Rev 7:6-8, being different in name to any of the Old Testament lists of the literal descendants of Israel shows that they are Spiritual Israel and not literal descendants of Abraham.



The Twelve tribes camped around the Sanctuary at Mt Sinai

Two tribes (Dan and Ephraim) as listed in the blessings of Moses to the tribes of Israel (Deut 33:6-24) of the Old Testament were excluded from the list in Revelation 7. Dan was excluded from those that will be saved because of **1.** that tribe’s reputation for idolatry (Judges 18:29-31) and **2.** Backbiting Gen 49:17; James 3:6-8; Ps 101:5; Ps 15:1-4 and **3.** Being judgmental in a negative and critical way to others as the name Dan indicates in the Hebrew original (דָּן) to contend or strive at the law as a judge.

Ephraim was excluded from those that will be saved because of **1.** Refusing to walk in God’s law and covenant Ps 78:9,10; Hosea 8:11,12 and **2.** Refusing God’s love Hosea 11:3-5 as well as **3.** For being determined to backslide from truth Hosea 11:7-11 and also **4.** Practising idolatry which is covetousness Hosea 4:17; Col 3:5 and they **5.** Refused to listen to God and **6.** Intermarrying with the heathen Hosea 5:7; 7:8-14. **See notes below**



Judah. **1.** Judah prevailed above his brethren, and of him came the chief ruler (1 Chron 5:2); and **2.** He was also the King and Lawgiver (Gen 49:10) and **3.** His brethren shall praise him (Gen 49:8) and **4.** They shall defeat their enemies (Gen 49:8) and lastly **5.** Christ was from this tribe (Rev 5:5). Judah was Jacob’s fourth son and Leah was his mother Gen 29:35; 35:23. The crowning blessings of the birthright were transferred to Judah. The significance of the name (יהודה) Yehudah = “praised” which denotes praise, --is unfolded in the prophetic history of this tribe: “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

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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.” Gen 49:8-12

The lion, king of the forest, is a fitting symbol of this tribe, from which came David, and the Son of David, Shiloh, the true "Lion of the tribe of Judah," to whom all powers shall finally bow and all nations render homage. Judah was a trusted leader Gen 46:28. Judah was accepted as a surety in emergency when his brother Reuben was not Gen 42:37,38; 43:8-13. Judah was so convincing in his pleading of the cause of his father that Joseph could not restrain himself any longer but revealed himself to his brethren Gen 44: 14-34; 45:1-3. The tribe of Judah had the responsibility of looking after the priests who descended from Aaron in nine of their cities Josh 21:9-16. The remainder of the forty-eight cities of the Levites were scattered through the other tribes Num 35:7. Judah was the most faithful of the tribes retaining their own land 142 years after the remaining tribes of the kingdom of Israel were taken captive into Assyria 2 Kings 17:6; 2 Chron 36:17-21. There are more faithful and strong leaders from this tribe than from any other. Judah is mentioned many more times than any of the other tribes (903 times). Among the well-known leaders was Caleb. He was active in commanding the people to be quiet when they were murmuring against the good report of the twelve spies of the Promised Land Num 13:30. He believed in overcoming and was full of faith and hope when the majority was against him Num 13:1-33. Four other outstanding men of the tribe of Judah were "Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: Unto whom the prince of the eunuchs gave names: for he gave unto Daniel the name of Belteshazzar; and to Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abednego." Dan 1:6,7. These men would rather die than knowingly sin against God. They proved true when tempted with appetite Dan 1:8-16. Daniel would rather be thrown into the lion's den than to sin against God Dan 6:1-28. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego would rather die in the fiery furnace than to bow down to the golden image Dan 3:1-30. David was a man after God's own heart that fulfilled His will 1 Sam 13:14; Acts 13:22. Jesus was called the son of David Mt 21:9. Judah was the second largest of the tribes numbering 76, 500 when entering the Promised Land Num 26:19-22. Judah furnished Israel with Judges and Kings of outstanding courage and faithfulness such as Caleb, Othneil, Ibzan, David, Solomon, Jehoshaphat, Hezekiah, and Josiah Num 13:6; Judges 3:9-11; 12:8-10; Mt 1:1-17. Some of the tribe of Judah had some serious faults to overcome. David committed adultery and murder but had a truly repentant spirit 2 Sam 11:1-27; 12:1-24; Ps 51:1-19. Manasseh was the worst King that ever ruled. He did evil after the abominations of the heathen 2 Kings 21:1,2. He worshipped Baal and all the host of heaven erecting altars and high places even in God's temple 2 Kings 21:3-5,7,8. He made his son pass through the fire and consulted wizards, enchantments, astrology and evil angels that posed as those that had come back from the dead 2 Kings 21:6. Manasseh seduced Israel to do worse than the wicked heathen nations that God had destroyed and when God sent prophets to warn the King he didn't take any notice 2 Kings 21:9-15; 2 Chron 33:10. Manasseh filled Jerusalem with innocent blood including the death of Isaiah whom he sawed slowly to death, while being forced to lie inside a log 2 Kings 21:16; Heb 11:37. Manasseh reigned for 55 years 2 Chron 33:1. He was captured by the Assyrians and when he was taken captive to Babylon he humbled himself and prayed and repented and was released to go home and reign as king again 2 Chron 33:11-13. He then removed the idols and turned the people of Judah back to the worship of the true God 2 Chron 33:14-16. This was a remarkable conversion of probably the worst character mentioned in the Bible. Judah's tribe was faithful in rebellion and strong to support good leaders such as Moses. They commanded praise and respect and had wisdom, knowledge, and discernment. They were powerful Leaders and Judges, they would rather die than sin, and possessed self-control. They did not submit to peer pressure, they were positive and optimistic trusting in God's promises, and were not critical of leadership. They were faithful and loyal friends and were able to overcome almost impossible odds. If they fell into sin they were humble, repentant and worked reformation with all the influence they could muster.

Reuben. Reuben was the firstborn son of Jacob and the first son of Leah Gen 29:32; 35:23. The name Reuben (~~Re'u~~ Re'uwbén = behold a son) implies that he is God's son which is evident in his name being included in the Heavenly Jerusalem Rev 7:5; 21:12. This gives tremendous encouragement to those like Reuben that have some very weak character traits that need to be overcome. In every ancient family of Israel the eldest son inherited, as his birthright, a double portion of his father's estate, and the honour of the officiating priest in his father's house. But what was of more value to every true son of Abraham than wealth or earthly position was the spiritual birthright which gave him the honour of being the progenitor of the promised Messiah. But Reuben the eldest of the twelve sons of Jacob like his uncle Esau, lightly esteemed his birthright, and in an unguarded hour committed a sin that forever debarred him from all the spiritual and temporal rights of the firstborn Gen 25:34; Heb 12:16. He committed adultery with his father's wife, a sin which Paul said was not even "so much as named among the Gentiles" or heathen 1 Cor 5:1; Gen 49:4. Because of this sin, the temporal birthright which was the double portion of Jacob's inheritance to his sons was given to Joseph 1 Chron 5:1. The priesthood was given to Levi Deut 33:8-11. Judah the fourth son of Jacob was conferred with the honour of becoming the progenitor of Christ 1 Chron 5:1,2. Reuben had many very good qualities as his father described at his death: "Reuben, thou art my firstborn, my might, and the beginning of my strength, the excellency of dignity, and the excellency of power: Gen 49:3 But because of Reuben's sin and unstable character these excellent qualities were never realized as his father explained: "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."

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Gen 49:4. Some of the good side of Reuben showed when he showed kindness to his mother and when he tried to save Joseph's life when his brothers were determined to kill him Gen 30:14; Gen 37:21,22,29; 42:22. Reuben was not trusted by his father to be surety for Benjamin whereas he trusted Judah Gen 42:37,38; 43:8,9. The only valiant man ever mentioned among the Reubenites was Adina who was in the army of David 1 Chron 11:42. In the battle of Meggido, which is a type of the final battle of Armageddon there was among the Reubenites great searchings of heart Judges 5:16. The tribe of Reuben had excellent qualities of might, strength, dignity, and power but because of sin and instability they did not excel. But in spite of their weaknesses they were kind and merciful and overcame at last to be saved in the Kingdom of Christ and be included in the twelve names on the twelve gates of the Heavenly Jerusalem.

Gad. Gad was the first son of Zilpah, Leah's handmaid and the seventh son of Jacob Gen 30:11; 35:26. The name Gad (Hebrew = גַּד Gad = a troop) has a short but encouraging promise "Gad, a troop shall overcome him: but he shall overcome at the last." Gad was the first son of Zilpah, Leah's maid Gen 35:26. Although nothing much is mentioned of Gad it is evident that he was involved with evil conduct when he was young Gen 37:2. Gad may be looked on as one that has backslidden and made mistakes but repents and overcomes to be ready to meet the Lord at His Second Coming. This is evident when the Gadites were in battle "they cried to God in the battle, and he was intreated of them; because they put their trust in him." 1 Chron 5:18-20. Peter also cried unto Jesus when in trouble and was sinking in the water and was saved from destruction Mt 14:30,31. Jesus is always ready to receive the backslider back again if they acknowledge their iniquity and disobedience. Jer 3:12-14. It is iniquities that cause us to be sold and be divorced from the Lord Isa 50:1. But if we confess and forsake our sins we will be completely cleansed and forgiven 1 Jn 1:7,9; Prov 28:13; Isa 1:18. Jesus can and wants to heal our backslidings because he is not willing that any should perish but that all should be saved Jer 3:22; 2 Pet 3:9; 1 Tim 2:3,4. Jesus will turn away His anger from the backslider and love them freely when they repent and confess and turn from their sins Hosea 14:4. The Gadites were men "of war fit for the battle, that could handle shield and buckler, whose faces were like the faces of lions, and were as swift as the roes upon the mountains;" 1 Chron 12:8. They helped David in his time of need. The tribe of Gad was brave, helpful in time of need, quiet and supportive but not leaders. They were the type of people that are hardly noticed in the crowd and are easily overcome by sin but repent and come back strong to be victors over sin in the end.



Jesus can heal our backsliding

2. What were the next three tribes that overcame sin and what were their characteristics? Rev 7:6. See notes below.

Ans: a. Of the tribe of _____ were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of _____ were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of _____ were sealed twelve thousand. Rev 7:6.

Ans: b. The tribe of Asher represents those of a _____ faithful disposition. They are not noted leaders but are of a _____ nature and very brave when the battle is on. They are good at _____ the gospel in a quiet way being _____ with the Holy Spirit. They uphold the royal _____ as a tasty delicacy and delight. They are _____ and spend much time in prayer and serving the Lord. They are peaceful and friendly standing for truth even when others are mocking.



Anna a prophetess, who blessed baby Jesus was of the tribe of Asher

Ans: c. Those that the tribe of Naphtali represents are of a _____ and pleasant disposition. Their words are healing and sweet. They are _____ because they are righteous and of good understanding. They have the attributes of being poor in spirit, meek, hungry and thirsty for righteousness, pure in heart, peacemakers, and rejoice when falsely accused or persecuted. They mourn for their sins and for hurting Jesus by their wrong doing and then keep the _____ of God as overcomers. They are generous and _____. See note below.

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Ans: d. Manasseh brought _____ and caused the memory of toil, rejection, cruelty and hardship to be forgotten. Those that the tribe of Manasseh represent participate enthusiastically in revival and reform in putting away idols. Like Gideon they overcome great odds by _____ and with only a little help. They are humble and steadfast. They are not natural leaders but when called by God will go forward when given a lot of encouragement. They bring great _____ to God's people when they are oppressed and afflicted.

Asher. The name Asher (Hebrew = אָשֶׁר 'Asher = blessed or happy) describes another type of character. Of Asher it was said "Out of Asher his bread shall be fat, and he shall yield royal dainties." Gen 49:20. Asher was Jacob's eighth son by Zilpah, (her second son) who was Leah's maid Gen 30:13. The men of Asher were choice and mighty men of valour. The expert at war and family men ruling over their father's house 1 Chron 7:40; 12:36. Moses pronounced this wonderful blessing on the tribe of Asher "And of Asher he said, Let Asher be blessed with children; let him be acceptable to his brethren, and let him dip his foot in oil. Thy shoes shall be iron and brass; and as thy days, so shall thy strength be." Deut 33:24,25. Asher was of a good disposition and acceptable to his brethren Deut 33:24. They dip their feet in oil a symbol of the Holy Spirit Zech 4:1-6. Feet are a symbol of spreading and preaching the gospel Eph 6:15; Isa 52:7,8. Royal dainties refers to the Royal law which is a delight to those that love God and symbolically eat them as dainties or delicacies James 2:8-12; Ps 1:2; 40:8; 119:77,174; Ex 34:28; Jer 15:16. The tribe of Asher have strength all the days of their life Deut 33:25. The people that the tribe of Asher represent have God as their strength all through their lives staying faithful until death Ps 18: 2, 32; 43:2; 46:1; 59:9,17; 62:7; 68:28; 71:16; 73:26; 81:1; 140:7. The outstanding personality of this tribe is Anna the prophetess. She served God with fasting and prayer. She gave thanks to God at the coming of Jesus to the temple to be circumcised at eight days old Lk 2:21,36-38. The tribe of Asher were peaceful and friendly and therefore did not cast out the Canaanites Judges 1:31,32. When Hezekiah sent letters to all Israel to come to the house of the Lord to celebrate the passover some tribes mocked the messengers but some of the tribe of Asher humbled themselves and went to worship 2 Chron 30:1,10,11. The tribe of Asher represents those of a happy faithful disposition. They are not noted leaders but are of a quiet nature and very brave when the battle is on. They are good at spreading the gospel in a quiet way being filled with the Holy Spirit. They uphold the royal law as a tasty delicacy and delight. They are humble and spend much time in prayer and serving the Lord. They are peaceful and friendly standing for truth even when others are mocking.

Naphtali. The meaning of this Hebrew name נַפְתָּלִי Naphtaliy is my wrestling. Naphtali was the sixth son of Jacob, the second son of Bilhah, Rachel's maid Gen 30:7,8. The blessing by Jacob was "Naphtali is a hind let loose: he giveth goodly words." Gen 49:21. Naphtali had control of the most difficult part of the body to control and that is the mouth James 3:1-18. "Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones." is the description that shows the affect on others of the words of Naphtali Prov 16:24. The men of Naphtali jeopardized their lives for the cause of God to win the battle Judges 5:18. The blessing of Moses on Naphtali was "satisfied with favour, and full with the blessing of the LORD: possess thou the west and the south Deut 33:23." God favours the righteous cause Ps 35:27. Those that find wisdom shall obtain favour of the Lord Prov 8:35. Those that seek for goodness obtain favour of God Prov 11:27. A good man obtains favour of the Lord Prov 12:2. Good understanding gives favour from the Lord Prov 13:15. There is favour among the righteous Prov 14:9. Whosoever finds a wife has found a good thing and has obtained favour of the Lord Prov 18:22. God can bring us into favour with others as he did with Daniel Dan 1:9. So Naphtali was full of Favour and blessing or happiness. The characteristics of those that are full of blessing are described by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount Mt 5:1-12. Happiness comes to those that keep the law Prov 29:18. Naphtali were hospitable and generous bringing delicious food at the crowning of David as King of Israel 1 Chron 12:40. Barak was the only great leader of the tribe of Naphtali mentioned in the Bible that fought a victorious battle under the direction of Deborah the prophetess Judges 4:5-24. Naphtali saw the great light of Jesus teachings Isa 9:1,2; Mt 4:15,16. Those that the tribe of Naphtali represents are of a happy and pleasant disposition. Their words are healing and sweet. They are favoured because they are righteous and of good understanding. They have the attributes of being poor in spirit, meek, hungry and thirsty for righteousness, pure in heart, peacemakers, and rejoice when falsely accused or persecuted. They mourn for their sins and for hurting Jesus by their wrongdoing and then keep the law of God as overcomers. They are generous and hospitable.



The tribe of Naphtali bring food gifts to King David

Manasseh. Manasseh was the first of Joseph's sons Gen 41:51. The name Manasseh in Hebrew is מְנַשֶּׁה 'Menashsheh which means causing to forget. The reason for his name was given by Joseph his father "For God, said he, hath made me

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forget all my toil, and all my father's house." Gen 41:51. Manasseh joined in revival and reformation in putting away idols in the reign of King Asa 2 Chron 15:8,9. Manasseh joined in worship at the Passover with humility of heart when others mocked and laughed 2 Chron 30:1,10,11. Gideon was the greatest of the judges and he came from the tribe of Manasseh Judges 6:11-15. The men of Manasseh were mighty men in battle and helped others in need as they did David 1 Chron 12:19-22. Manasseh brought comfort and caused the memory of toil, rejection, cruelty and hardship to be forgotten. Those that the tribe of Manasseh represent participate enthusiastically in revival and reform in putting away idols. Like Gideon they overcome great odds by faith and with only a little help. They are humble and steadfast. They are not natural leaders but when called by God will go forward when given a lot of encouragement. They bring great deliverance to God's people when they are oppressed and afflicted.

3. Who are the next three tribes mentioned by John? What types of overcoming Characters do they have? Rev 7:7.

Ans: a. Of the tribe of _____ were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of _____ were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of _____ were sealed twelve thousand.

Ans: b. Those that overcome from the tribe of Simeon that will be finally saved are no longer cruel, deceitful, treacherous, murderers, fierce, angry, adulterous, or involved in apostasy but by the blood of the Lamb _____ all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to _____. See note below.



*Even those with a rebellious past
can overcome as Simeon did*

Ans: c. The Levites that will be ready for the Kingdom of Heaven are strong, loyal, and _____ in a crisis. They helped join the people to their God through intercession and ministry and make patient and powerful _____. They have _____ a cruel, treacherous, impatient, deceitful tendency. They are talented and intelligent and capable of turning their hand to anything. They are strong in faith and unmovable in principle. They have the ability to perform miracles when God ordains and have a very close connection with God. They are well acquainted and obedient to the _____ of God and are good teachers.

Ans: d. The character of Issachar was strong, patient, and _____ working. They bear heavy responsibilities. The Issachar type character have good _____ in knowing how to _____ on important occasions. They are valiant men of might.

Simeon. This was the second son of Leah and Jacob Gen 29:33; 35:23. The name Simeon in Hebrew is ~~שִׁמְעוֹן~~ Shim` own meaning to be heard. Simeon was deceitful, cruel, and treacherous. This was manifested by the way he and his brother Levi deceived the men of Shechem and killed them all Gen 34:1-31. They were protective of their sister Dinah and brought her home with them after killing the men that had seduced her Gen 34:26,31. At the time of Jacob's blessing his words describe Simeon's character "Simeon and Levi are brethren; instruments of cruelty are in their habitations. O my soul, come not thou into their secret; unto their assembly, mine honour, be not thou united: for in their anger they slew a man, and in their selfwill they digged 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. Those of the tribe of Simeon are not settled. They have no fixed place but move from place to place. There is a curse on their anger and fierce nature. They had no inheritance among the other tribes but eventually after sharing Judah's territory moved out of Israel 1 Chron 4:27,39,42. It is recorded in the writings of the Jewish doctors that the Simeonites became so hard up for a place to live that they spread through the other tribes teaching their children. Simeon was greatly reduced in numbers in apostasy and immorality at Midian. At Mt Sinai they were one of the strongest tribes but after all the apostasies through the forty years in the wilderness they were one of the weakest. When Moses blessed all the tribes just before their entrance to the Promised Land Simeon received no blessing. There are no outstanding men or women mentioned in the Bible that come from this tribe. Those that overcome from the tribe of Simeon that will be finally saved are no longer cruel, deceitful, treacherous, murderers, fierce, angry, adulterous, or involved in apostasy but by the blood of the Lamb defeated all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil.

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Levi. Leah's third son to Jacob was Levi Gen 29:34; 35:23. His name in Hebrew is ~~לוי~~ = Leviy with the meaning to be "joined to." Levi joined with his brother Simeon and was of a similar nature Gen 34:1-31; 49:5-7. Although Levi was cursed the Lord can turn a curse into a blessing Neh 13:2. The tribe of Levi proved their loyalty in the crisis of the Golden Calf worship at Mount Sinai and all of them helped destroy those that refused to repent Ex 32:26-28. Levi was blessed above all other tribes because of their faithfulness. Moses blessed them by saying "Let thy Thummim and thy Urim be with thy holy one, whom thou didst prove at Massah, and with whom thou didst strive at the waters of Meribah; Who said unto his father and to his mother, I have not seen him; neither did he acknowledge his brethren, nor knew his own children: for they have observed thy word, and kept thy covenant. They shall teach Jacob thy judgments, and Israel thy law: they shall put incense before thee, and whole burnt sacrifice upon thine altar. Bless, LORD, his substance, and accept the work of his hands: smite through the loins of them that rise against him, and of them that hate him, that they rise not again." Deut 33:8-11. Levi observed God's word and kept His covenant. They became priests and judges for Israel. The Levites took the place of the firstborn in ministering as priests for all the families of Israel Num 3:46-49. The Levites had no inheritance of land but had an inheritance of ministry and financial support Num 18:20,21. In the Old Testament Moses and Aaron were the most noted Characters Ex 4:14. In the New Testament Barnabas was of the tribe of Levi Acts 4:36. The Levites that will be ready for the Kingdom of Heaven are strong, loyal, and dependable in a crisis. They helped join the people to their God through intercession and ministry and make patient and powerful leaders. They have overcome a cruel, treacherous, impatient, deceitful tendency. They are talented and intelligent and capable of turning their hand to anything. They are strong in faith and unmovable in principle. They have the ability to perform miracles when God ordains and have a very close connection with God. They are well acquainted and obedient to the law of God and are good teachers.



Moses the meekest man in all the earth came from Levi

They shall teach Jacob thy judgments, and Israel thy law: they shall put incense before thee, and whole burnt sacrifice upon thine altar. Bless, LORD, his substance, and accept the work of his hands: smite through the loins of them that rise against him, and of them that hate him, that they rise not again." Deut 33:8-11. Levi observed God's word and kept His covenant. They became priests and judges for Israel. The Levites took the place of the firstborn in ministering as priests for all the families of Israel Num 3:46-49. The Levites had no inheritance of land but had an inheritance of ministry and financial support Num 18:20,21. In the Old Testament Moses and Aaron were the most noted Characters Ex 4:14. In the New Testament Barnabas was of the tribe of Levi Acts 4:36. The Levites that will be ready for the Kingdom of Heaven are strong, loyal, and dependable in a crisis. They helped join the people to their God through intercession and ministry and make patient and powerful leaders. They have overcome a cruel, treacherous, impatient, deceitful tendency. They are talented and intelligent and capable of turning their hand to anything. They are strong in faith and unmovable in principle. They have the ability to perform miracles when God ordains and have a very close connection with God. They are well acquainted and obedient to the law of God and are good teachers.

Issachar. The ninth son of Jacob and the fifth son of Leah was Issachar Gen 35:23. The meaning of the original Hebrew for this name ~~יִסַּחַר~~ = Yissaskar is "he will bring a reward," or "he will recompense." The blessing of his father Jacob declared "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. The men of Issachar were very supportive to Deborah the prophetess and Barak in battle against their enemies. Judges 5:15. The men of Issachar were men of understanding and knew what to do in the crowning of David 1 Chron 12:32. The men of Issachar were valiant men of might 1 Chron 7:1-5. Tola of the tribe of Issachar was a judge over Israel for twenty-three years Judges 10:1,2. It was a time of rest and peace. Issachar had removed so far from the knowledge of the sanctuary that they did not cleanse themselves. But God accepted their worship through intercessory prayer 2 Chron 30:17-20. Baasha of the tribe of Issachar was king over Israel 1 Kings 15:25-28. The character of Issachar was strong, patient, and hard working. They bear heavy responsibilities. The Issachar type character has good understanding in knowing how to act on important occasions. They are valiant men of might.



The Tribe of Zebulun had a thankful spirit. It's easier to overcome when we are thankful

4. Who are the last three tribes that overcame? Rev 7:8. What type of characters do they have? See notes below.

Ans: a. Of the tribe of _____ were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of _____ were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of _____ were sealed twelve thousand. Rev 7:8

Ans: b. The Zebulun type characters are _____, and offer sacrifices of praise along with a broken and contrite heart of repentance and confession Heb 13:15; Ps 51:17,19. They _____ in the Lord always Phil 4:4. They are _____ in their business undertakings having God's blessing upon them. They are accomplished in _____ and art. They are independent financially and _____ in motive offering their services for no monetary gain. They are resolute in purpose and _____ in a crisis not being double in heart. They are expert in spiritual _____. They have great light and experience plenty of evidence of Christ's ministry and teachings. They can see and discern the miracles of God around them.

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Ans: c. The character type that Joseph represents are favoured, _____, and the answer to prayer long waited for. They are _____ and _____ by family and those that are close to them because of their high moral standing and unwavering faith. They do not entertain bad thoughts or self-pity under the most trying circumstances. They have the gift of prophecy. They are _____, understanding, and discerning. They are _____ and kind. They treat those that have done them wrong with love and compassion even helping and nourishing them in time of need. They are fruitful and prosperous and of a great blessing to all that are around them. Their influence is wide and saves even whole nations from great hardship by their wise planing. They are _____ and of a good courage. See notebelow.

Ans: d. The character of the 12,000 who the tribe of Benjamin represent were unconverted by nature but had a _____ change in their lives in accepting Christ. They are very zealous and _____ in all their undertakings. They make powerful and influential leaders. They are especially protected by the Lord until their work is finished. Their conversion is always dramatic and decisive. They save many individuals and whole nations by their prayers. They are very intelligent and fill positions of _____ and importance. They are cruelly _____ because of their strong influence against paganism. They are greatly loved by those they work for. They are brave, strong, and _____. They are often very well educated being strongly _____ and determined.

Zebulun. This son was the sixth son of Leah and the tenth son of Jacob Gen 30:20; 35:23. The name Zebulun in Hebrew זְבֻלֹן = Zebuwluwn means exalted. The blessing of Jacob on Zebulun 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 blessing was added in saying “And of Zebulun he said, Rejoice, Zebulun, in thy going out; and, Issachar, in thy tents. They shall call the people unto the mountain; there they shall offer sacrifices of righteousness: for they shall suck of the abundance of the seas, and of treasures hid in the sand.” Deut 33:18,19. The men of Zebulun were writers Judges 5:14. The men of Zebulun jeopardized their lives for God’s cause in the Battle of Barak and Deborah Judges 5:18. The character and motives of the men of Zebulun was pure not taking any gain of money for their services even though they had risked their lives Judges 5:19. They along with Naphtali were exceptions to the other tribes in this case. The men of Zebulun were not double in heart. They were expert with all instruments of war 1 Chron 12:23,33. Nazareth the home of Jesus through His childhood was on the Borders of Zebulun Isa 9:1,2. The first miracle of turning the water into wine was performed by Jesus in Cana of Galilee that is part of Zebulun Jn 2:1-11. The Zebulun type characters are righteous, and offer sacrifices of praise along with a broken and contrite heart of repentance and confession Heb 13:15; Ps 51:17,19. They rejoice in the Lord always Phil 4:4. They are prosperous in their business undertakings having God’s blessing upon them. They are accomplished in writing and art. They are independent financially and pure in motive offering their services for no monetary gain. They are resolute in purpose and dependable in a crisis not being double in heart. They are expert in spiritual warfare. They have great light and experience plenty of evidence of Christ’s ministry and teachings. They can see and discern the miracles of God around them.



*Joseph received a double portion
of the inheritance*

Joseph. Joseph was the eleventh son of Jacob and the first son of Rachel Gen 30:22-24; 35:24. His name יוֹסֵף = Yowceph is a Hebrew word which means “Jehovah has added.” This was a long waited for blessing and answer to prayer for Rachel who had not been able to bare any children Gen 30:1,22-24. God had answered her prayers after she had seen ten sons born to Jacob without any of her own. Joseph’s blessing from his father 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 by the Almighty, who shall bless thee with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lieth under, blessings of the breasts, 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. Joseph was

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favoured as a boy above all his brothers and sisters Gen 37:3, 29-35. God gave Joseph dreams which were prophetic Gen 37:5-11; 42:6-13. He was envied and hated by his brothers Gen 37:11. Joseph was sold by his brothers and became a slave in Egypt Gen 37:27,28. But Joseph had not bitterness or resentment towards his brothers for their cruelty but believed that all things work together for good when God is leading Gen 42:21-24; 45:8; 50:14-21. Joseph was especially strong physically as empowered by God Gen 49:24. He was tested and tried by the word of God by his bitter experience of separation from his father and family at about the age of seventeen Gen 37:2-36; Ps 105:19. Joseph was very capable in all his undertakings being an excellent leader Gen 39:4-6. He was very close to God and this was recognized by others even without any other believers around to worship with Gen 39:3. Joseph was prosperous Gen 39:3. Joseph was unflinching under the most enticing and seducing of temptations running from the temptation as a man of great and strong principle Gen 39:7-13. Joseph was cast into prison for his integrity but stayed loyal to God Gen 39:14-23. Joseph at the age of thirty because he interpreted the dream of the pharaoh was placed in a high position of honour showing great wisdom, discernment, and understanding Gen 41:46, 43; Ps 105:21,22. Joseph's life was without reproach. He did not have one sin marked against his name in the one hundred and ten years of his fruitful life Gen 50:26. The character type that Joseph represents are favoured, blessed and the answers to prayer long waited for. They are hated and envied by family and those that are close because of their high moral standing and unwavering faith. They do not entertain bad thoughts or self-pity under the most trying circumstances. They have the gift of prophecy. They are wise, understanding, and discerning. They are merciful and kind. They treat those that have done them wrong with love and compassion even helping and nourishing them in time of need. They are fruitful and prosperous and of a great blessing to all that are around them. Their influence is wide and saves even whole nations from great hardship by their wise planing. They are strong and of a good courage.

Benjamin. *The twelfth son of Jacob and the second son of Rachel was Benjamin Gen 35:24. His name in Hebrew בִּנְיָמִין = Binyamiyn means “ the son of my right hand.” The blessing of Jacob for Benjamin declared “Benjamin shall ravine as a wolf: in the morning he shall devour the prey, and at night he shall divide the spoil.” Gen 49:27. Benjamin's mother Rachel died at his birth Gen 35:17-19. He was loved and protected by his father Gen 42:38. The tribe of Benjamin were skillful with both hands with sling and bow and arrow 1 Chron 12:1,2. They were very accurate and would never miss with their slings Judges 20:14,15. Moses departing blessing on Benjamin declared “The beloved of the LORD shall dwell in safety by him; and the LORD shall cover him all the day long, and he shall dwell between his shoulders.” Deut 33:12. The apostle Paul was of the tribe of Benjamin Rom 11:1. He was consenting to the death of Stephen Acts 7:58; 8:1. He made havock of the church persecuting and killing every one he could Acts 8:3. Paul was converted when he beheld Jesus on the Damascus road Acts 9:3-9. Ehud who was the judge over Israel brought rest and peace to Israel 80 years Judges 3:15,30. He bravely killed Eglon king of Moab their enemy Judges 3:21-26. Saul the first king of Israel was of the tribe of Benjamin 1 Sam 9:21. Saul was given a new heart by God 1 Sam 10:9. His heart was touched by God 1 Sam 10:26. While Saul remained humble God was with him 1 Sam 15:17-23. When Saul became exalted in his own eyes his nature changed to that like of a ravining wolf when he hunted David to kill him 1 Sam 26:19,20; 1 Sam 18:11. Mordecai who saved Israel in Persia after seeking God for help was of the tribe of Benjamin Esther 2:5; 4:1-3; 8:7-17. Mordecai would not bow down to any but God Esther 3:2. The character of the 12,000 who the tribe of Benjamin represent were unconverted by nature but had a dramatic change in their lives in accepting Christ. They are very zealous and enthusiastic in all their undertakings. They make powerful and influential leaders. They are especially protected by the Lord until their work is finished. Their conversion is always dramatic and decisive. They save many individuals and whole nations by their prayers. They are very intelligent and fill positions of authority and importance. They are cruelly persecuted because of their strong influence against paganism. They are greatly loved by those they work for. They are brave, strong, and fearless. They are often very well educated being strongly disciplined and determined.*

THE 144,000 ALIVE AT THE SECOND COMING THE GREAT MULTITUDE RESURRECTED AT THE SECOND COMING

5. What is the second group that overcome by the blood of the Lamb that John saw? Rev 7:9. What did they say? Rev 7:10. Who are they? See note below.

Ans: a. After this I beheld, and, lo, a great _____, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; Rev 7:9

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Ans: b. And cried with a loud voice, saying, _____ to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. Rev 7:10.

Ans: c. The 144,000 that are alive at Jesus coming are not the only ones to be saved at the Second Coming. All the righteous which make up the great multitude shall be _____ at the Second Coming of Christ Jn 5:28,29; 1 Thes 4:16,17. The 144, 000 will see the righteous resurrected around them and caught up to heaven before their eyes 1 Thes 4:16,17.

The great Multitude. The 144,000 that are alive at Jesus coming are not the only ones to be saved at the Second Coming. All the righteous which make up the great multitude shall be resurrected at the Second Coming of Christ Jn 5:28,29; 1 Thes 4:16,17. The 144, 000 will see the righteous resurrected around them and caught up to heaven before their eyes 1 Thes 4:16,17. It will happen as described by an inspired writer as follows.



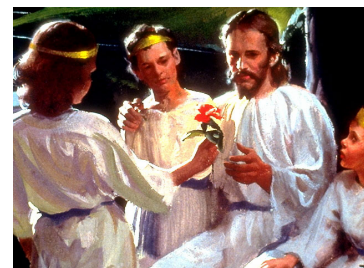
“Soon our eyes were drawn to the east, for a small black cloud had appeared, about half as large as a man's hand, which we all knew was the sign of the Son of man (Rev 1:7). We all in solemn silence gazed on the cloud as it drew nearer and became lighter, glorious, and still more glorious, till it was a great white cloud (Rev 14:14). The bottom appeared

like fire; a rainbow was over the cloud, while around it were ten thousand angels, singing a most lovely song; and upon it sat the Son of man (Ps 50:3). His hair was white and curly and lay on His shoulders; and upon His head were many crowns (Rev 1:14; 19:12). His feet had the appearance of fire; in His right hand was a sharp sickle; in His left, a silver trumpet (Rev 1:15; 14:14; 1 Thes 4:16; Ps 47:5). His eyes were as a flame of fire, which searched His children through and through (Rev 1:14). Then all faces gathered paleness, and those that God had rejected gathered blackness (Jer 30:6; Joel 2:6). Then we all cried out, "Who shall be able to stand? Is my robe spotless?" (Rev 6:17; 7:14) Then the angels ceased to sing, and there was some time of awful silence, when Jesus spoke: "Those who have clean hands and pure hearts shall be able to stand; My grace is sufficient for you." (Ps 24:3,4; 2 Cor 12:9). At this our faces lighted up, and joy filled every heart. And the angels struck a note higher and sang again, while the cloud drew still nearer the earth.

Then Jesus' silver trumpet sounded, as He descended on the cloud, wrapped in flames of fire. He gazed on the graves of the sleeping saints, then raised His eyes and hands to heaven, and cried, "Awake! awake! awake! ye that sleep in the dust, and arise." Then there was a mighty earthquake. The graves opened, and the dead came up clothed with immortality. The 144,000 shouted, "Alleluia!" as they recognized their friends who had been torn from them by death, and in the same moment we were changed and caught up together with them to meet the Lord in the air." E. W. page 15.

White robes and Palms in their hands.

The garden of the promises of God has been presented before us, and by the precious promises of God we are to lay hold on faith, hope, and love. Through these graces the church may shine forth in the righteousness of Christ. Living faith grasps the hand of divine power, and faith is an anchor to the soul both sure and steadfast, entering into that which is within the veil. John says, "This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." He describes the great multitude who shall stand before God as overcomers, and says, "After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands." The palms signify that they have gained the victory, and the white robes that they have been clothed with the righteousness of Christ. Thank God that a fountain has been opened to wash our robes of character, and make them as white as snow.



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Salvation to Our God. We will be thankful through out eternity for the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus for us 2 Pet 1:1; Jude 1:24,25. His kindness and love will always be appreciated Tit 3:4. Our blessed hope in waiting for Him will be realized and we will be happy forever more Tit 2:13; Isa 25:9.

The philosopher turns aside from the light of salvation because it puts his proud theories to shame. The worldling refuses to receive it, because it would separate him from his earthly idols, and draw him to a holier life, for which he has no inclination. Paul saw that the character of Christ must be understood before men could love him, and view the cross with the eye of faith. Here must begin that study which shall be the science and the song of the redeemed through all eternity. In the light of the cross alone can the true value of the human soul be estimated.

6. Who joins with the 144,000 and the great multitude in praising God? What do they say? Rev 7:11,12.

Ans: a. And all the _____ stood round about the throne, and *about* the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, Amen: _____, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and _____, and might, *be* unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

7. What question did one of the elders ask John about the great multitude and how did the elder describe them? Rev 7:13,14.

Ans: And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white _____? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their _____, and made them _____ in the blood of the Lamb.

Arrayed in White Robes. Those “arrayed in white robes that have come out of great tribulation” is a reference to the great multitude Rev 7:9. All God’s people go through tribulation and persecution Jn 16:33; 2 Tim 3:12. Tribulation brings patience Rom 5:3. During the time of the Thyatira Church and the Pale Horse Period there was great tribulation from 538 A.D. until 1798 A.D. It was shortened by God or else none of us would be able to be saved Mt 24:21,29.

We have a work before us to overcome our defects of character if we would be among the number who are to stand without fault before the throne of God, having come up through great tribulation, and having washed their robes of character and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. The provision has been made for us to wash. The fountain has been prepared at infinite expense, and the burden of washing rests upon us, who are imperfect before God. The Lord does not propose to remove these spots of defilement without our doing anything on our part. We must wash our robes in the blood of the Lamb. We may lay hold of the merits of the blood of Christ by faith, and through His grace and power we may have strength to overcome our errors, our sins, our imperfections of character, and come off victorious, having washed our robes in the blood of the Lamb.

8. What is the wonderful reward that Jesus has for the overcomers among the 144,000 and the great multitude that will be able to stand and be ready for the Second Coming of Christ? Rev 7:15-17.



Serving in the temple in Heaven

Ans: Therefore are they before the throne of God, and _____ him day and night in his _____: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the _____ which is in the midst of the throne shall _____ them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

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Serve Him day and night in His Temple. The temple mentioned here is not inside the New Jerusalem because there is no temple there Rev 21:21,22. The temple will be out side the city on the New Earth because intercession, forgiveness, and atonement for sin will no longer be necessary because sin and death and Satan will be gone forever Rev 21:4; Nah 1:9; Rev 20:10-14. Those that will serve God in this temple are the meek and poor in spirit Mt 5:3-5. They have taken the yoke of Jesus and have learnt of Him how to be meek and lowly of heart Mt 11:28-30.

"Though the Lord be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly: but the proud he knoweth afar off." "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise" (Ps. 138:6; 51:17). Those who reveal the meek and lowly spirit of Christ are tenderly regarded by God. Nothing is unnoticed by Him. He marks their self-denial, their effort to uplift Christ before the world. Through these humble workers may be looked upon with scorn by the world, they are of great value in the sight of God. Not only the wise, the great, the beneficent, will gain a passport into the heavenly courts--not only the busy worker, full of zeal and restless activity. No; the pure in heart, in whose lips there is found no guile; the poor in spirit, who are actuated by the Spirit of an abiding Christ; the peacemaker, whose highest ambition is to do God's will--these will gain an abundant entrance. They are God's jewels, and will be among that number of whom John writes, "I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, . . . saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth" (Rev. 19:6). They have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. "Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them" (Rev. 7:15).

14. Would you like to be one of those who overcome by the blood of the Lamb and receive the seal of God? _____