



Pathway Christian Church

12 Tribes of Israel Celebration

The 12 Descendants of Israel (also known as Jacob)

The twelve tribes of Israel were named after Israel's (Jacob) sons and grandsons. Jacob, also known as Israel, called his sons and said, "Gather together, that I may tell you what will happen with you in the end of the days" (Genesis 49:1) His sons were Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Zebulun, Issachar, Dan, Gad, Asher, Naphtali, Joseph, and Benjamin. Below is some information on the 12 sons of Jacob for you!

1. Reuben. Syretta Gillette, Tribe Leader

Descended from Jacob's firstborn, whom Jacob said was as "uncontrolled as water" ([Genesis 49:4](#)). The tribe chose not to settle in the Promised Land, and instead asked [Moses](#) for some of the territory that they conquered east of the Jordan River. Moses agreed to this, on the condition that they assist the western tribes in conquering Canaan ([Numbers 32:28–32](#)). They did so, but they did not assist the other tribes in battle during the period of judges ([Judges 5:16](#)), and the tribe falls into scriptural obscurity.

2. Simeon. Pathway Praise Team, Tribe Leader

The man Simeon (with his brother Levi) slaughtered the men of an entire city to avenge his sister ([Genesis 34:25–31](#)). The tribe's portion of land was within the midst of Judah's territory ([Joshua 19:1](#)); however, Simeon did not grow as rapidly as Judah and seems to have dispersed across multiple territories ([1 Chronicles 4:38–43](#); [2 Chronicles 15:8–9](#)). This is consistent with Jacob's prophecy concerning Simeon and his brother Levi: "I will disperse them in Jacob and scatter them in Israel."

3. Levi. Min. Angela Clyde, Tribe Leader

The tribe of the priesthood. The tribe of Levi stood by Moses (a Levite) during the golden calf incident at Mount Sinai (Exodus 32:25–29), and later took their place as ministers to the tabernacle, and later the Temple. Levi had no tribal territory—the Lord was the tribe's inheritance (Numbers 18:19–20)—though they did receive pasture lands for their cattle (Joshua 21). Levitical duties were extensive (read Leviticus!), but Moses gives a brief summary of their significance in his blessing for the tribe (Deuteronomy 33:8–11). It is also important to note that Jacob gave Levi's worldly inheritance to Joseph's son Manasseh since the Lord was Levi's inheritance. Notable tribesmen: Moses, Aaron, John the Baptist, Barnabas

4. Judah. Precious Gibson, Tribe Leader

The tribe of kings, and the most preeminent of the 12 tribes in the biblical narrative. Judah "prevailed over his brothers," ([1 Chronicles 5:2](#)), and the tribe's territory included the city of Jerusalem and the holy temple. [King David](#) was part of this tribe, and his royal line ruled in Jerusalem from around 1,000 BC until the city fell to Babylonian forces in 586 BC. Jerusalem was the capital of Israel and the capital of the Southern Kingdom after the nation divided. Jesus is of the tribe of Judah ([Matthew 1:1–2](#)). **Notable tribesmen: Jesus, David, Mary, [Solomon](#), Caleb**

5. Zebulun. LaToya Orr, Tribe Leader

Zebulun doesn't get very much attention in the Bible. The tribe does boast a strong, loyal fighting force during the days of the judges and King David. In fact, Zebulun had the largest presence in the army that made David king of Israel at Hebron, and they served him with "an undivided heart" ([1 Chronicles 12:33](#)).

6. Issachar. Diane Orr, Tribe Leader

Issachar has even less biblical presence than Zebulun, but the tribe was loyal to Deborah and Barak ([Judges 5:15](#)). They're also remembered as "men who understood the times, with knowledge of what Israel should do" ([1 Chronicles 12:32](#)).

7. Dan. Pastor Keytra Wright, Tribe Leader

We don't read much about the man Dan, but we do see his tribe up to no good in the book of Judges. The tribe did not secure their original portion of land ([Judges 1:34; 18:1](#)), and instead migrated northward. In the process, they took for themselves other gods ([Judges 18:14-17](#)) and set up a new priesthood (Judges 18-20). The tribe later joins Jeroboam in idolatry when the kingdom of Israel divides ([1 Kings 12:28-29](#)). **Notable tribesman: Samson**

8. Gad. Carrichia Clark, Tribe Leader

Little is said of Gad, the man or the tribe. They, like Reuben, settled east of the Jordan.

9. Asher. Cynthia Palmore, Tribe Leader

Jacob prophesied that Asher's tribe would enjoy rich foods ([Genesis 49:20](#)), and the tribe went on to possess a region of eastern Galilee which is still known for its olive groves.

10. Naphtali. First Lady Tracy Clyde, Tribe Leader

Naphtali, with Zebulun, is mentioned by the prophet Isaiah in a passage we read often during Christmastime: "For a child will be born to us . . ." This promise was given concerning the land of Galilee, specifically, the "land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali." You can read the whole prophecy in Isaiah 9.

11. Joseph. Shephard Harris, Tribe Leader

Joseph is the main branch of the vine. The scripture says that Joseph was a skilled archer, bitterly attacked and provoked. They shot at him and harassed him, but his bow remained firm and steady. His arms were made strong and agile. Joseph loved Jacob and shortly before Jacob's death came to be with him along with his two sons. During that visit, Joseph's sons, Manasseh and Ephraim were blessed by Jacob through adoption. Manasseh received Levi's inheritance and Ephraim received the inheritance instead of Joseph.

12. Benjamin. Pastor Willie Clyde, Tribe Leader

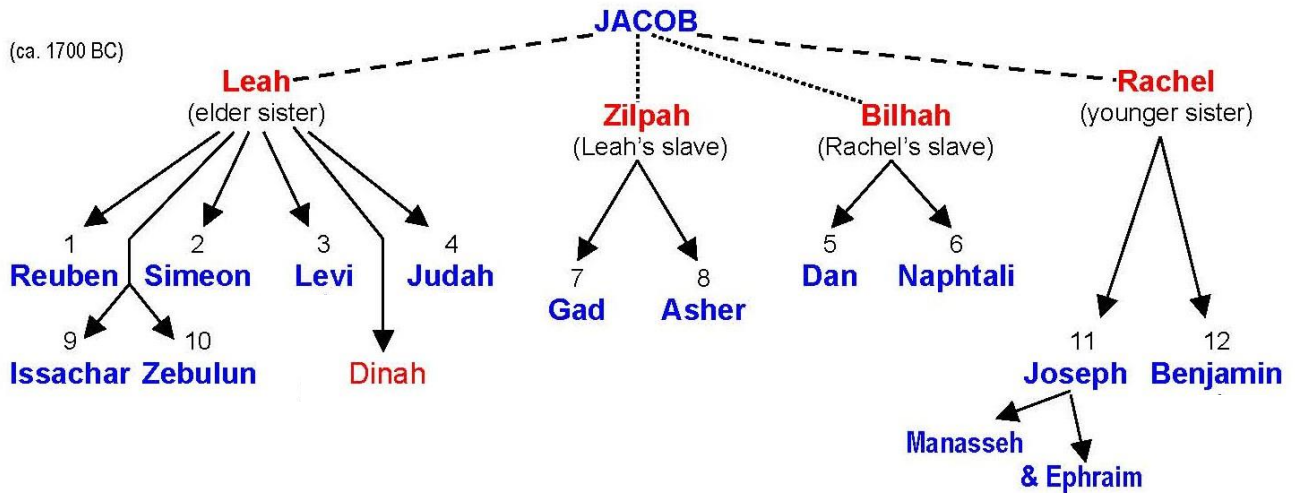
This small tribe has played several important roles in Israel's history. Benjamin stood against the rest of Israel in a national civil war ([Judges 20:14-21:24](#)). Saul, the first anointed king of Israel, was from Benjamin. The tribe was also loyal to David's descendants when the northern tribes seceded ([1 Kings 12:16-24](#)). **Notable tribesmen: King Saul, Mordecai, Paul**



Twelve Tribes of Israel Sunday Bible Study Lessons

January 9 through March 27, 2021

Sons of Jacob / Tribes of Israel



[Link to Sunday School Videos](#)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Scripture Reference</u>
January 9	Esau & Jacob: Jacob Gained the Birthright	Genesis 25:21-26
January 16	Isaac Blesses Jacob	Gen 27:1-29; Gen 28:1-5
January 23	Laban, Jacob, Rachel & Leah	Genesis 29:1-30
January 30	Rivalry Between Rachel & Leah	Gen 29:31-35; Gen 30:1-24
February 6	Jacob's Agreement with Laban	Genesis 30:25-43
February 13	Jacob Journeys to Egypt	Genesis 46:1-34
February 20	Jacob Settles in Goshen	Genesis 47:1-12
February 27	Joseph Deals with the Famine	Genesis 47:13-31
March 6	Jacob Blesses Joseph's Sons	Genesis 48:1-22
March 13	Jacob's Last Words to His Sons	Genesis 49:1-12
March 20	Jacob's Last Words to His Sons	Genesis 49:13-21
March 27	Jacob's Last Words to His Sons	Genesis 49:21-28