

Nation Building

A Study of the 12 Tribes

Wednesday Night
Adult Bible Class Series



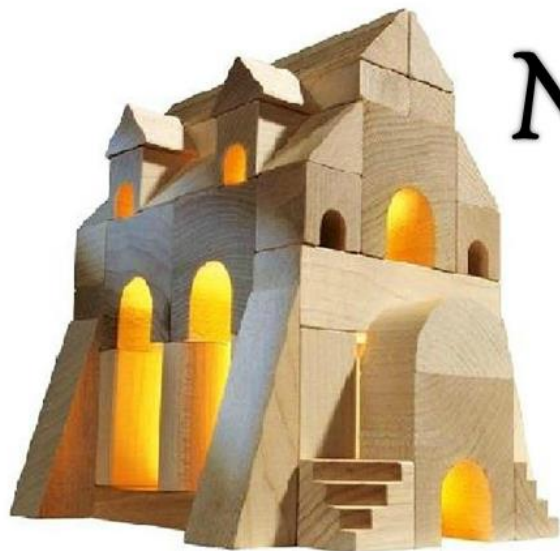
GULF SHORES

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Gulf Shores, AL

BIBLE CLASS STUDY GUIDE

Prepared by Ray Reynolds



Nation Building

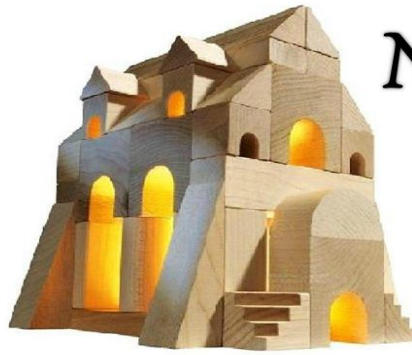
A Study of the 12 Tribes

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This study guide was created by Ray Reynolds for the purpose of Wednesday evening Bible classes at the Gulf Shores Church of Christ (Gulf Shores, AL). The material presented in this class series will be gleaned from personal notes, the New King James Study Bible, Felix Just, Dr. Coy Roper, Henry Morris, Abram Leon Sacher, J. McKee Adams, Gleason L. Archer, H.I. Hester, Charles Pfeiffer, Irving L. Jenson, Jon Bright, the Jewish Virtual Library, and various other sources.



LESSON #1 = INTRODUCTION by Ray Reynolds

Introduction: Any Bible student knows about the seed promise given to Adam and Eve in the Garden (**Genesis 3:15**). We can follow God's redemptive plan from Genesis to Revelation. God created man, He walked with Enoch, He saved Noah and his family from the flood, and He called Abraham. However, that's where we have to pause and notice a bold proclamation God makes to Abraham (**Genesis 12:1-3, 13:14-1, 15:1-6, 17:1-14, 22:15-18**) and then to his son Isaac (**Genesis 25:23-24, 26:24**), but what will happen when Isaac has twin sons (Esau and Jacob)? Let the drama begin! How will God build His nation? Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Important Facts About Jacob

A. Jacob was the chosen one (**Genesis 25:29-34, 37:1-29**).

B. Jacob has four wives (**Genesis 29:18-30:24**).

C. Jacob has twelve sons (**Genesis 29:31-30:24, 35:16-26**).

Leah (wife #1): *Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun* (sons 1-4, 9-10)

Rachel (wife #2): *Joseph, Benjamin* (sons 11-12)

Bilhah (Rachel's maid = wife #3): *Dan, Naphtali* (sons 5-6)

Zilpah (Leah's maid = wife #4): *Gad, Asher* (sons 7-8)

D. Jacob has his name changed to Israel (**Genesis 32:27-28**).

II. Important Facts About the Israelites

- A. Many conflicts between each other.

- B. Many conflicts between other nations.

- C. The conflicts continue to this day (**Genesis 16:12, Genesis 21:18**).

- D. Israel = God's chosen people.

III. The Study of the Twelve Tribes

- A. Nation building takes time.

- B. Each tribe has a significant purpose.

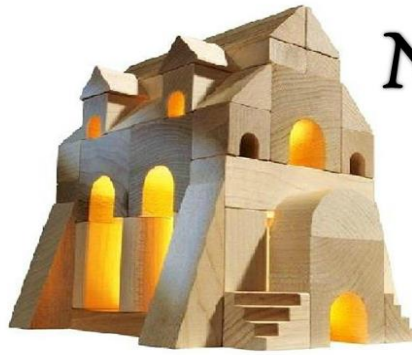
- C. Outline for our study on the tribes of Israel (GSCOC).

Wednesday, September 3, 2014
Wednesday, September 10, 2014
Wednesday, September 17, 2014
Wednesday, September 24, 2014
Wednesday, October 1, 2014
Wednesday, October 8, 2014
Wednesday, October 15, 2014
Wednesday, October 22, 2014
Wednesday, October 29, 2014
Wednesday, November 5, 2014
Wednesday, November 19, 2014
Wednesday, November 26, 2014

Introduction
Reuben
Simeon
Levi
Judah
Dan, Naphtali
Gad, Asher
Issachar, Zebulun
Joseph
Ephraim/Manasseh
Benjamin
Conclusion

- D. Do your homework and study!

Conclusion: The story of Jacob and Esau has fascinated and puzzled Bible scholars for many centuries. The struggle between Jacob and Esau plays out through the countries of Israel and Edom on the pages of the Bible and into other recorded history. The Bible traces the triumphs and tragedies of Jacob and his son's in Canaan and beyond. Don't you think it would be wise for us to discover God's plan for building the nation of Israel? What impact does that have on us today? Is God still building His nation? Has the church replaced Israel? What is our role in the kingdom of God? What role does Jesus play in the salvation of the Jews and Gentiles? What was His plan for the Jews and Gentiles? Get ready for a fantastic journey through Scripture as we trace the history of Israel and the impact of each tribe on Bible events, history, and our world today.



LESSON #2 = THE TRIBE OF REUBEN by Ray Reynolds

Introduction: Any Bible student knows about the seed promise given to Adam and Eve in the Garden (**Genesis 3:15**). We can follow God's redemptive plan from Genesis to Revelation. God created man, He walked with Enoch, He saved Noah and his family from the flood, and He called Abraham. It is at this point God makes a bold proclamation to bless Abraham's descendants which continues through his son Isaac and his grandson Jacob (**Genesis 12:1-3, 13:14-1, 15:1-6, 17:1-14, 22:15-18, 25:23-24, 26:24**). Jacob ends up having twelve sons (**Genesis 29:31-30:24, 35:16-26**). These families include:

- Leah (wife #1): *Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun* (sons 1-4, 9-10)
- Rachel (wife #2): *Joseph, Benjamin* (sons 11-12)
- Bilhah (Rachel's maid = wife #3): *Dan, Naphtali* (sons 5-6)
- Zilpah (Leah's maid = wife #4): *Gad, Asher* (sons 7-8)

How will God build His nation through these twelve men? How will they bless the entire earth? Tonight we are going to consider the tribe of Reuben. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Who Was Reuben & What Did He Do?

- A. Reuben was the oldest son of Jacob (**Genesis 29:31-32**).
- B. Reuben collected the controversial mandrakes (**Genesis 30:14-16**).
- C. Reuben took his step-mother as a wife (**Genesis 35:22**).
- D. Reuben threw Joseph into the pit (**Genesis 37:18-30, 42:21-24**).
- E. Reuben wanted to be held responsible for Joseph & Benjamin (**Genesis 42:29-38**).
- F. Reuben forfeited his birthright (**Genesis 42:29-38, 49:4**).

II. Who Were Reuben's Descendants?

- A. Reuben was blessed (**Genesis 49:3-4, Deuteronomy 33:6**).

- B. Reuben had 4 sons: Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron, & Carmi (**Genesis 46:9, Exodus 6:14**).

- C. The tribe of Reuben (**Number 1:20-21, Numbers 32:1, 32, Judges 5:15-16, I Chronicles 5:10, 18**)

- D. The encampment around the Tabernacle (**Numbers 2:10-16, 10:18, 26:5-11**)

- E. The merger with other tribes (**I Chronicles 5:24-26**)

- F. The land of Reuben's descendants (**Joshua 13:15-23, Numbers 32:34, Deuteronomy 4:43**)

- G. Famous Bible characters
 - Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron, & Carmi (**Genesis 46:9, Exodus 6:14**)

 - Elizur, the son of Shedeur (**Numbers 1:5, 2:10-16, 7:30-35, 10:18**)

 - Shammua, the son of Zaccur (**Numbers 13:4**)

 - Dathan, Abiram, & On (**Numbers 16:1-50**)

 - Eliezer, son of Zikri (**I Chronicles 27:16**)

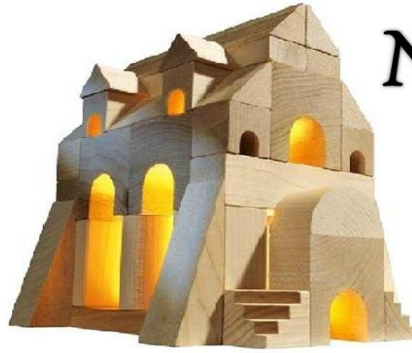
III. Where Are The Descendants of Reuben Now?

- A. The nation of Reuben settled east of the Jordan (**Joshua 22:1-34**).

- B. The Reubenites were conquered by the Assyrians.

- C. Any other interesting facts about Reuben and the Reubenites?

Conclusion: The story of the patriarchs has fascinated and puzzled Bible scholars for centuries. The 12 tribes each had a specific purpose... to build the nation of Israel and bless the world! What we need to see from our New Testament is that God is still building His nation. We are now a part of the spiritual Israel, adopted into the family, added to the kingdom, given a blessing and inheritance so that we may enter into the Promised Land. God sent Jesus to fulfill His promise and now we can be grafted in by means of the new covenant of the Lord.



LESSON #3 = THE TRIBE OF SIMEON by Ray Reynolds

Introduction: Any Bible student knows about the seed promise given to Adam and Eve in the Garden (**Genesis 3:15**). We can follow God's redemptive plan from Genesis to Revelation. Early on in Genesis we see that God makes a bold proclamation to bless Abraham's descendants which continues through his son Isaac and his grandson Jacob (**Genesis 12:1-3, 13:14-1, 15:1-6, 17:1-14, 22:15-18, 25:23-24, 26:24**). However, they would be rivaled by their cousins, the other descendants of Abraham's family:

- The children of Lot (Daughter #1): Moab (Moabites)
- The children of Lot (Daughter #2): Ben-Ammi (Ammonites)
- The children of Abraham (Wife #2 = Hagar): Ishmael (12 sons = Ishmaelites)
- The children of Abraham (Wife #2 = Keturah): Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, Shuah (Midianites & other pagan tribes)
- The children of Esau (Wife #1 = Adah): Eliphaz (Edomites)
- The children of Esau (Wife #2 = Aholibamah): Jeush, Jalam, Korah (Edomites)
- The children of Esau (Wife #3 = Bashemath): Reuel (Edomites)

Jacob ends up having twelve sons (**Genesis 29:31-30:24, 35:16-26**):

- Leah (wife #1): Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun (sons 1-4, 9-10)
- Rachel (wife #2): Joseph, Benjamin (sons 11-12)
- Bilhah (Rachel's maid = wife #3): Dan, Naphtali (sons 5-6)
- Zilpah (Leah's maid = wife #4): Gad, Asher (sons 7-8)

How will God build His nation through these twelve men? How will they bless the entire earth? What would happen to their cousins, the other descendants of Abraham? Tonight we are going to consider the tribe of Simeon. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Who Was Simeon & What Did He Do?

- A. Simeon was the second son of Jacob (**Genesis 29:33**)

- B. Simeon and Levi avenge their sister Dinah (**Genesis 34:1-31**)

- C. Simeon and Levi lead a rebellion against Jacob (**Genesis 34:31**)

- D. Simeon is thrown into prison (**42:24, 36, 43:23**)

II. Who Were Simeon's Descendants?

- A. Simeon received a mixed blessing (**Genesis 49:5-7**)

- B. Simeon had 6 sons: Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jachin, Zohar, and Shaul (**Exodus 6:15**)

- C. The tribe of Simeon (**Number 1:22-23, Numbers 26:14**)

- D. The encampment around the Tabernacle (**Numbers 2:12-13, 10:19, 26:12-14**)

- E. The merger with other tribes (**Joshua 14:1-4, Joshua 19:1**)

- F. The land of Simeon's descendants (**Joshua 15:20-32, 19:1-9, 21:4-9, Judges 1:17**)

- G. Famous Bible characters
 - Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jachin, Zohar & Shaul (**Exodus 6:15**)

 - Zurishaddai (**Number 7:36**)

 - Shelumiel, the son of Zurishaddai (**Numbers 1:6, 2:12, 7:36-41, 10:19**)

 - Shaphat, the son of Hori (**Numbers 13:5**)

 - Zimri, the son of Salu(**Numbers 25:1-18**)

 - Shemuel, the son of Ammihud (**Numbers 34:20**)

 - Shephatiah, the son of Maachah (**I Chronicles 27:16**)

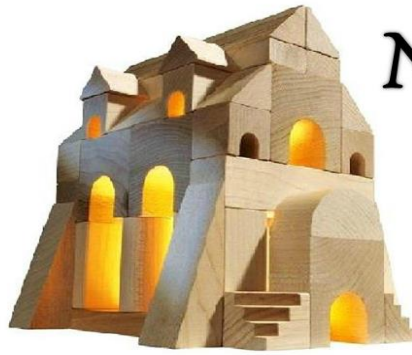
III. Where Are The Descendants of Simeon Now?

- A. The nation of Simeon settled in the Southern part of the Promised Land.

- B. The Simeonites were conquered by the Assyrians (**II Chronicles 30, 34:9, 35:17-18**).

- C. Any other interesting facts about Simeon and the Simeonites?

Conclusion: The story of the patriarchs has fascinated and puzzled Bible scholars for centuries. The 12 tribes each had a specific purpose... to build the nation of Israel and bless the world! What we need to see from our New Testament is that God is still building His nation. We are now a part of the spiritual Israel, adopted into the family, added to the kingdom, given a blessing and inheritance so that we may enter into the Promised Land. God sent Jesus to fulfill His promise and now we can be grafted in by means of the new covenant of the Lord.



LESSON #4 = THE TRIBE OF LEVI by Ray Reynolds

Introduction: Any Bible student knows about the seed promise given to Adam and Eve in the Garden (**Genesis 3:15**). We can follow God's redemptive plan from Genesis to Revelation. Early on in Genesis we see that God makes a bold proclamation to bless Abraham's descendants which continues through his son Isaac and his grandson Jacob (**Genesis 12:1-3, 13:14-1, 15:1-6, 17:1-14, 22:15-18, 25:23-24, 26:24**). Jacob, of course, has 12 sons who will carry on this blessing. The rest of the Bible will reveal how God plans to bless the whole earth through them. How will God build His nation through these twelve men? How will they bless the entire earth? Tonight we are going to consider the tribe of Levi. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Who Was Levi & What Did He Do?

- A. Levi was the third son of Jacob (**Genesis 29:34**).
- B. Levi and Simeon avenge their sister Dinah (**Genesis 34:1-31**).
- C. Levi and Simeon lead a rebellion against Jacob (**Genesis 34:31**).

II. Who Were Levi's Descendants?

- A. Levi received a mixed blessing (**Genesis 49:5-7, Deuteronomy 33:8-11**).
- B. Levi had 3 sons: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari (**Genesis 46:11, Exodus 6:16-25**).
- C. The tribe of Levi (**Numbers 3:11, 40-41**)
- D. The Levitical priesthood (**Exodus 12, Exodus 32:25-29, I Kings 8:4, Ezra 2:7**).
- E. The encampment around the Tabernacle (**Numbers 2:17, 3:21-33**)
- F. The dispersion among the other tribes (**Joshua 14:3-4**)
- G. The cities of Levi's descendants (**Joshua 21:9-40, Number 35:1-8**)

H. Famous Bible characters

Levi's sons: Gershon, Kohath, & Merari (**Genesis 46:11, Exodus 6:16-25**).

Amram's children: Moses, Aaron, & Miriam (**Exodus 6:20-25, 15:20-21**).

Aaron's sons: Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, & Ithamar (**Exodus 6:23**)

Phinehas, who killed the Simeonite at Peor (**Exodus 6:25, Numbers 25:1-18**)

Korah and his rebellious family (**Exodus 6:21, 24, Numbers 16**)

Prophet, priest, and judge Eli and Samuel (**I Samuel 1-2**)

Hashabiah, the son of Kemuel (**I Chronicles 27:17**)

Zadok, the priest (**I Chronicles 27:17**)

Ezra the great reformer of Israel (**Ezra, Nehemiah**)

The prophets Ezekiel (**Ezekiel 1:3**), Jeremiah (**Jeremiah 1:1**), Habakkuk (**Habakkuk 1:1**), and possibly Malachi (**Malachi 1:1**)

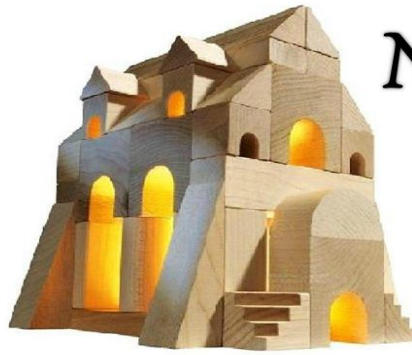
John the Baptist, the forerunner of Jesus (**Luke 1:5-80, 7:28, Matthew 16:14**)

Joses, nicknamed Barnabas, the son of Encouragement (**Acts 4:36**)

III. Where Are The Descendants of Levi Now?

- A. The nation of Levi settled in their appointed cities.
- B. The Levites were taken captive by the Babylonians.
- C. Any other interesting facts about Levi and the Levites?

Conclusion: The story of the patriarchs has fascinated and puzzled Bible scholars for centuries. The 12 tribes each had a specific purpose... to build the nation of Israel and bless the world! What we need to see from our New Testament is that God is still building His nation. We are now a part of the spiritual Israel, adopted into the family, added to the kingdom, given a blessing and inheritance so that we may enter into the Promised Land. God sent Jesus to fulfill His promise and now we can be grafted in by means of the new covenant of the Lord.



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LESSON #5 = THE TRIBE OF JUDAH by Ray Reynolds

Introduction: Any Bible student knows about the seed promise given to Adam and Eve in the Garden (**Genesis 3:15**). We can follow God's redemptive plan from Genesis to Revelation. Early on in Genesis we see that God makes a bold proclamation to bless Abraham's descendants which continues through his son Isaac and his grandson Jacob (**Genesis 12:1-3, 13:14-1, 15:1-6, 17:1-14, 22:15-18, 25:23-24, 26:24**). Jacob, of course, has 12 sons who will carry on this blessing. The rest of the Bible will reveal how God plans to bless the whole earth through them. How will God build His nation through these twelve men? How will they bless the entire earth? Tonight we are going to consider the tribe of Judah. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Who Was Judah & What Did He Do?

- A. Judah was the fourth son of Jacob (**Genesis 29:35**).
- B. Judah & Joseph had a complicated relationship (**Genesis 37:26**).
- C. Judah gets friendly with the Canaanites (**Genesis 38:1**).
- D. Judah marries the daughter of Shua, a Canaanite woman (**Genesis 38:2**).
- E. Judah & the daughter of Shua have three sons: Er, Onan, & Shelah (**Genesis 38:3-5**).
- F. Judah & Tamar had a complicated relationship (**Genesis 38:6-26**).
- G. Judah & Tamar have twin sons: Perez & Zerah (**Genesis 38:27-30**).
- H. Judah & Joseph reconcile (**Genesis 42-46**).

II. Who Were Judah's Descendants?

- A. Judah was blessed by Jacob (**Genesis 49:8-12, Deuteronomy 33:7**).

- B. Judah had 5 sons: Er, Onan, Shelah, Perez & Zerah (**Genesis 38:3-5, 27-30**).

- C. The tribe of Judah (**Numbers 13-14, Joshua 15:21-32, Joshua 19:9**)

- D. The encampment around the Tabernacle (**Numbers 2:3-4, 2:9, 10:14-17, 26:19-22**)

- E. Famous Bible characters
 - Er, Onan, Shelah, Perez & Zerah (**Genesis 38:3-5, 27-30**)

 - Nahshon, the son of Amminadab (**Numbers 7:12-17, 10:14**)

 - Caleb, the son of Jephunneh (**Numbers 13:6, 14:24, 34:19, Judges 1:16**)

 - King David, the son of Jesse (**I Samuel 16 - I Kings 2**)

 - King Solomon, the son of David (**I Samuel 12 - I Kings 11**)

 - King Rehoboam, the son of Solomon (**I Kings 11-14, I Chronicles 10-11**)

 - King Jehoshaphat (**I Kings 15-22**).

 - King Josiah (**I King 13:2, I Kings 21-23**)

 - The prophets **Amos, Habakkuk, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Micah, Obadiah, & Zephaniah**

 - Jesus Christ (**Matthew-John**)

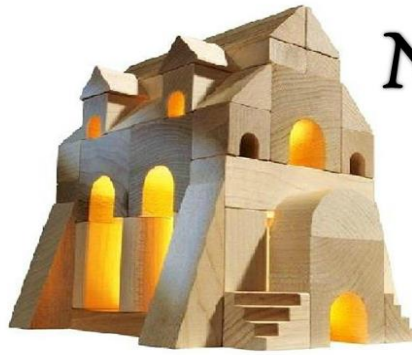
III. Where Are The Descendants of Judah Now?

- A. The nation of Judah settled in the southern part.

- B. The Jews were taken captive by the Babylonians.

- C. Any other interesting facts about Judah and his descendants?

Conclusion: The story of the patriarchs has fascinated and puzzled Bible scholars for centuries. The 12 tribes each had a specific purpose... to build the nation of Israel and bless the world! What we need to see from our New Testament is that God is still building His nation. We are now a part of the spiritual Israel, adopted into the family, added to the kingdom, given a blessing and inheritance so that we may enter into the Promised Land. God sent Jesus to fulfill His promise and now we can be grafted in by means of the new covenant of the Lord.



LESSON #6 = THE TRIBES OF DAN by Ray Reynolds

Introduction: Any Bible student knows about the seed promise given to Adam and Eve in the Garden (**Genesis 3:15**). We can follow God's redemptive plan from Genesis to Revelation. Early on in Genesis we see that God makes a bold proclamation to bless Abraham's descendants which continues through his son Isaac and his grandson Jacob (**Genesis 12:1-3, 13:14-1, 15:1-6, 17:1-14, 22:15-18, 25:23-24, 26:24**). Jacob, of course, has 12 sons who will carry on this blessing. The rest of the Bible will reveal how God plans to bless the whole earth through them. How will God build His nation through these twelve men? How will they bless the entire earth? Tonight we are going to consider the tribe of Dan. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Who Was Dan? What Did He Do?

- A. Dan was the fifth son of Jacob (**Genesis 30:5-6**)

- B. Dan is fairly silent in Scripture (**Genesis 14:14, 30:6, 35:25, Exodus 1:4**)

- C. Dan has a son named Hushim (**Genesis 46:23**)

II. Who Were Dan's Descendants?

- A. Dan was blessed by Jacob (**Genesis 49:16-17, Deuteronomy 33:2**)

- B. The tribe of Dan (**Numbers 26:42-43, Joshua 19:47-48, Judges 5:17, Judges 18:2**)

- C. Micah & the Danites (**Judges 17-18**)

- D. King Jeroboam chooses to join them and bless them (**I Kings 12:29**)

- E. The encampment around the Tabernacle (**Numbers 2:25-31, 10:25, 26:42-43**)

F. The Danites are omitted from Revelation (**Revelation 7**)

G. Famous Bible characters

Hushim, the son of Dan (**Genesis 46:23**)

Ammishaddai, the father of Ahiezer (**Numbers 1:12, 2:25**)

Ahiezer, the son of Ammishaddai(**Numbers 7:66-71, 10:25**)

Ammiel, son of Gemalli (**Numbers 13:3-15**)

Bukki, the son of Jogli (**Numbers 34:22**)

Azarel, the son of Jeroham (**I Chronicles 27:22**)

Samson, the judge (**Judges 13-16, Hebrews 11:32**)

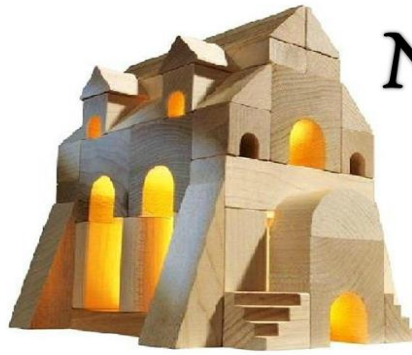
III. Where Are The Descendants of Dan Now?

A. The nation of Dan settled in the northern part.

B. The Danites were conquered by the Assyrians, but many were blended.

C. Any other interesting facts about and his descendants?

Conclusion: The story of the patriarchs has fascinated and puzzled Bible scholars for centuries. The 12 tribes each had a specific purpose... to build the nation of Israel and bless the world! What we need to see from our New Testament is that God is still building His nation. We are now a part of the spiritual Israel, adopted into the family, added to the kingdom, given a blessing and inheritance so that we may enter into the Promised Land. God sent Jesus to fulfill His promise and now we can be grafted in by means of the new covenant of the Lord.



LESSON #7 = THE TRIBES OF NAPHTALI by Ray Reynolds

Introduction: Any Bible student knows about the seed promise given to Adam and Eve in the Garden (**Genesis 3:15**). We can follow God's redemptive plan from Genesis to Revelation. Early on in Genesis we see that God makes a bold proclamation to bless Abraham's descendants which continues through his son Isaac and his grandson Jacob (**Genesis 12:1-3, 13:14-1, 15:1-6, 17:1-14, 22:15-18, 25:23-24, 26:24**). Jacob, of course, has 12 sons who will carry on this blessing. The rest of the Bible will reveal how God plans to bless the whole earth through them. How will God build His nation through these twelve men? How will they bless the entire earth? Tonight we are going to consider the tribe of Naphtali. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Who Was Naphtali? What Did He Do?

- A. Naphtali was the sixth son of Jacob (**Genesis 30:7-8**).
- B. Naphtali is fairly silent in Scripture (**Genesis 30:8, 35:25, Exodus 1:4**).
- C. Naphtali has 4 sons named Jahzeel, Guni, Jezer, & Shillem (**Genesis 46:24**).

II. Who Were Naphtali's Descendants?

- A. Naphtali was blessed by Jacob (**Genesis 49:21**).
- B. The tribe of Naphtali (**Numbers 1:42-44, Numbers 26:48-51, Joshua 17, Judges 1:33**)
- C. Positions of prominence for the Naphtalites
 - 1. Many of the warriors of Gideon were Naphtalites (**Judges 6-7**).
 - 2. Many of the warriors of David were Naphtalites (**I Chronicles 12**).
 - 3. King David's cabinet had many Naphtalites (**I Chronicles 27**).
 - 4. King Solomon's cabinet had many Naphtalites (**I Kings 7**).

D. The encampment around the Tabernacle (**Numbers 2:29, 10:25-27, 26:48-50**)

E. Famous Bible characters

Jahzeel, Guni, Jezer, & Shillem (**Genesis 46:24, Numbers 26:48, 50**)

Ahira, the son of Enan (**Numbers 1:15, 2:29, 7:78-83, 10:27**)

Nahbi, son of Vophsi (**Numbers 13:3-15**)

Pedahel, the son of Ammihud (**Numbers 34:28**)

General Barak of Deborah's army (**Judges 4-5, Hebrews 11:32**)

Elijah, the prophet (**I Kings 17-II Kings 2**)

Jeremoth, the son of Azriel(**I Chronicles 27:19**)

Huram the 1/2 Naphtalite, 1/2 Phoenician (**I Kings 7:13-14**)

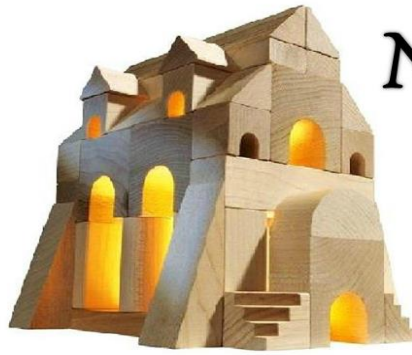
III. Where Are The Descendants of Naphtali Now?

A. The nation of Naphtali settled in the northern part.

B. The Naphtalites were conquered by the Assyrians.

C. Any other interesting facts about Naphtali and his descendants?

Conclusion: The story of the patriarchs has fascinated and puzzled Bible scholars for centuries. The 12 tribes had a specific purpose... to build the nation of Israel and bless the world! What we need to see is that God is still building His nation. We are a part of the spiritual Israel, adopted into the family, added to the kingdom, given a blessing and inheritance so we may enter into the Promised Land. God sent Jesus to fulfill His promise and establish the new covenant of the Lord.



LESSON #8 = THE TRIBES OF GAD by Ray Reynolds

Introduction: Any Bible student knows about the seed promise given to Adam and Eve in the Garden (**Genesis 3:15**). We can follow God's redemptive plan from Genesis to Revelation. Early on in Genesis we see that God makes a bold proclamation to bless Abraham's descendants which continues through his son Isaac and his grandson Jacob (**Genesis 12:1-3, 13:14-1, 15:1-6, 17:1-14, 22:15-18, 25:23-24, 26:24**). Jacob, of course, has 12 sons who will carry on this blessing. The rest of the Bible will reveal how God plans to bless the whole earth through them. How will God build His nation through these twelve men? How will they bless the entire earth? Tonight we are going to consider the tribe of Gad. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Who Was Gad? What Did He Do?

- A. Gad was the seventh son of Jacob (**Genesis 30:9-11**).

- B. Gad is fairly silent in Scripture (**Genesis 30:11, 35:26, 46:16, 46:19, Exodus 1:4**).

- C. Gad has 7 sons: Zephon, Haggi, Shuni, Ezbon, Eri, Arodi & Areli (**Genesis 46:16**).

II. Who Were Gad's Descendants?

- A. Gad was blessed by Jacob (**Genesis 49:19**).

- B. The tribe of Gad (**Numbers 1:25, 26:15-18, 32:1-32, Joshua 4:12, 13:24-28, 18:7**)

- C. The Gadites defeat Sihon and Og (**Numbers 21:21-35, Deuteronomy 3:18**)

- D. The encampment around the Tabernacle (**Numbers 2:14-16, 10:20, 26:15-18**)

- E. The Gadites and the battle of Jericho (**Joshua 4:12, 6:9**)

F. The Gadites and the Ammonites (**Judges 10:6-12:7**)

G. Famous Bible characters

Zephon, Haggi, Shuni, Ezbon, Eri, Arodi & Areli (**Genesis 46:23**)

Eliasaph, the son of Deuel (**Numbers 1:14, 2:14, 3:24, 7:42-47, 10:20**)

Geuel, son of Maki (**Numbers 13:3-15**)

Jephthah, judge of Israel (**Judges 10:6-12:7**)

Gad, the prophet (**I Samuel 22:5, II Samuel 24:11, I Chronicles 21:9, 29:29**)

Bani, the Gadite (**II Samuel 23:36**)

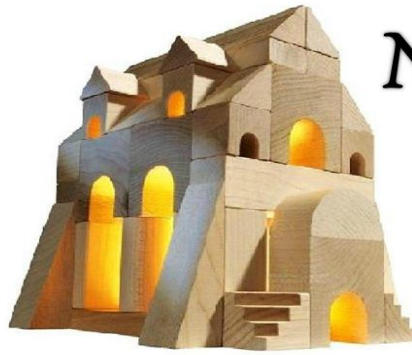
III. Where Are The Descendants of Gad Now?

A. The nation of Gad settled in the northern part.

B. The Gadites were conquered by the Assyrians.

C. Any other interesting facts about Gad and his descendants?

Conclusion: The story of the patriarchs has fascinated and puzzled Bible scholars for centuries. The 12 tribes had a specific purpose... to build the nation of Israel and bless the world! What we need to see is that God is still building His nation. We are a part of the spiritual Israel, adopted into the family, added to the kingdom, given a blessing and inheritance so we may enter into the Promised Land. God sent Jesus to fulfill His promise and establish the new covenant of the Lord.



LESSON #9 = THE TRIBES OF ASHER by Ray Reynolds

Introduction: Any Bible student knows about the seed promise given to Adam and Eve in the Garden (**Genesis 3:15**). We can follow God's redemptive plan from Genesis to Revelation. Early on in Genesis we see that God makes a bold proclamation to bless Abraham's descendants which continues through his son Isaac and his grandson Jacob (**Genesis 12:1-3, 13:14-1, 15:1-6, 17:1-14, 22:15-18, 25:23-24, 26:24**). Jacob, of course, has 12 sons who will carry on this blessing. The rest of the Bible will reveal how God plans to bless the whole earth through them. How will God build His nation through these twelve men? How will they bless the entire earth? Tonight we are going to consider the tribe of Asher. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Who Was Asher? What Did He Do?

- A. Asher was the eighth son of Jacob (**Genesis 30:12-13**).
- B. Asher is fairly silent in Scripture (**Genesis 30:13, 35:26, 46:17, 49:20, Exodus 1:4**).
- C. Asher had 4 sons named Imnah, Ishvah, Ishvi and Beriah (**Genesis 46:17**).
- D. Asher had a daughter named Serah (**Genesis 46:17**).

II. Who Were Asher's Descendants?

- A. Asher was blessed by Jacob (**Genesis 49:20**).
- B. The tribe of Asher (**Numbers 1:40-41, Numbers 26:44-47**)
- C. The encampment around the Tabernacle (**Numbers 2:27-28, 10:25-27, 26:44-47**)
- D. The Asherites and Deborah (**Judges 5:17**)

E. The Asherites and Gideon (**Judges 6-7**)

F. The Asherites and Hezekiah (**II Chronicles 30:11**)

G. Famous Bible characters

Imnah, Ishvah, Ishvi and Beriah (**Genesis 46:17**)

Serah, the daughter of Asher (**Genesis 46:17**)

Pagiel, the son of Ocran (**Numbers 7:72-77, 10:26**)

Sethur, son of Michael (**Numbers 13:3-15**)

Ahitud, the son of Shelomi (**Numbers 34:27**)

Heber, grandson to Asher and son of Beriah (**I Chronicles 7:30-40**)

Baanah, the son of Hushai (**II Samuel 15:37, I Kings 4:16**)

Anna, the prophetess (**Luke 2:36-37**)

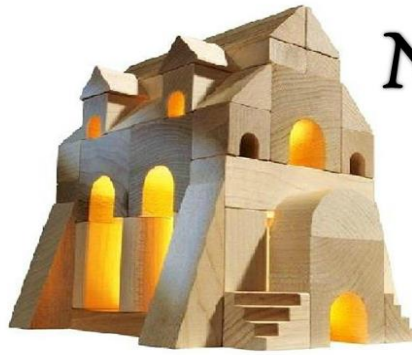
III. Where Are The Descendants of Asher Now?

A. The nation of Asher settled in the northern part.

B. The Asherites were conquered by the Assyrians.

C. Any other interesting facts about Asher and his descendants?

Conclusion: The story of the patriarchs has fascinated and puzzled Bible scholars for centuries. The 12 tribes had a specific purpose... to build the nation of Israel and bless the world! What we need to see is that God is still building His nation. We are a part of the spiritual Israel, adopted into the family, added to the kingdom, given a blessing and inheritance so we may enter into the Promised Land. God sent Jesus to fulfill His promise and establish the new covenant of the Lord.



LESSON #10 = THE TRIBES OF ISSACHAR by Ray Reynolds

Introduction: Any Bible student knows about the seed promise given to Adam and Eve in the Garden (**Genesis 3:15**). We can follow God's redemptive plan from Genesis to Revelation. Early on in Genesis we see that God makes a bold proclamation to bless Abraham's descendants which continues through his son Isaac and his grandson Jacob (**Genesis 12:1-3, 13:14-1, 15:1-6, 17:1-14, 22:15-18, 25:23-24, 26:24**). Jacob, of course, has 12 sons who will carry on this blessing. The rest of the Bible will reveal how God plans to bless the whole earth through them. How will God build His nation through these twelve men? How will they bless the entire earth? Tonight we are going to consider the tribe of Issachar. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Who Was Issachar? What Did He Do?

- A. Issachar was the ninth son of Jacob (**Genesis 30:17-18**).

- B. Issachar's birth was a family affair (**Genesis 30:14-16**).

- C. Issachar is fairly silent in Scripture (**Genesis 30:18, 35:23, 46:13, 46:14, Exodus 1:3**).

- D. Issachar has 4 sons named Tola, Puvah, Job, and Shimron (**Genesis 46:13**).

II. Who Were Issachar's Descendants?

- A. Issachar was blessed by Jacob (**Genesis 49:14-15**).

- B. The tribe of Issachar (**Numbers 1:28-29, 26:23-25, Joshua 19:17-23**)

- C. The encampment around the Tabernacle (**Numbers 2:5-6, 10:15, 26:23-25**)

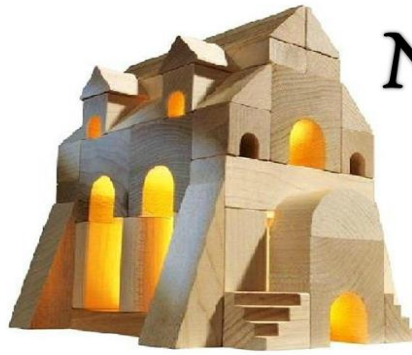
- D. Cooperation Between Issachar, Asher & Manasseh (**Joshua 17**)

- E. The princes of Issachar helped Deborah & Barak (**Judges 4-5**)
- F. They inhabited a biblically significant region (**Judges 7, I Samuel 31, II Samuel 21**)
- G. They supported King David (**I Chronicles 12:32**)
- H. Famous Bible characters
 - Tola, Puvah, Job, and Shimron (**Genesis 46:13, I Chronicles 7:1-2**)
 - Nethanel, the son of Zuar (**Numbers 2:5, 7:18-23, 10:15**)
 - Igal, son of Joseph (**Numbers 13:7**)
 - Paltiel, the son of Azzan (**Numbers 34:26**)
 - Tola, the judge of Israel (**Judges 10:1-2**)
 - Jehoshaphat, the son of Paruah (**I Kings 4:17**)
 - King Baasha, the son of Ahijah (**I Kings 15-16, II Chronicles 16**)
 - Omri, the son of Michael (**I Chronicles 27:18**)

III. Where Are The Descendants of Issachar Now?

- A. The nation of Issachar settled in the northern part.
- B. The Issacharites were conquered by the Assyrians.
- C. Any other interesting facts about Issachar and his descendants?

Conclusion: The story of Jacob and Esau has fascinated and puzzled Bible scholars for centuries. The 12 tribes each had a specific purpose... to build the nation of Israel and bless the world! What we need to see from our New Testament is that God is still building His nation. We are now a part of the spiritual Israel, adopted into the family, added to the kingdom, given a blessing and inheritance so that we may enter into the Promised Land. God sent Jesus to fulfill His promise and now we can be grafted in by means of the new covenant of the Lord.



LESSON #11 = THE TRIBES OF ZEBULUN by Ray Reynolds

Introduction: Any Bible student knows about the seed promise given to Adam and Eve in the Garden (**Genesis 3:15**). We can follow God's redemptive plan from Genesis to Revelation. Early on in Genesis we see that God makes a bold proclamation to bless Abraham's descendants which continues through his son Isaac and his grandson Jacob (**Genesis 12:1-3, 13:14-1, 15:1-6, 17:1-14, 22:15-18, 25:23-24, 26:24**). Jacob, of course, has 12 sons who will carry on this blessing. The rest of the Bible will reveal how God plans to bless the whole earth through them. How will God build His nation through these twelve men? How will they bless the entire earth? Tonight we are going to consider the tribe of Zebulun. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Who Was Zebulun? What Did He Do?

- A. Zebulun was the tenth son of Jacob (**Genesis 30:19-20**).

- B. Zebulun is fairly silent in Scripture (**Genesis 30:20, 35:23, 46:14, Exodus 1:3**).

- C. Zebulun has 3 sons named Sared, Elon, and Jahleel (**Genesis 46:14**).

- D. Zebulun has a younger sister named Dinah (**Genesis 24, 46**).

II. Who Were Zebulun's Descendants?

- A. Zebulun was blessed by Jacob (**Genesis 49:13**)

- B. The tribe of Zebulun (**Numbers 1:30-31, 26:26-27, Joshua 19:10-16**)

- C. The encampment around the Tabernacle (**Numbers 2:27-28, 10:25-27, 26:26-27**)

- D. They inhabited a biblically significant region (**Judges 12, I Kings 4, Matthew 2, John 2**)

E. The Zebulunites and Deborah (**Judges 4-5**)

F. Famous Bible characters

Sared, Elon, and Jahleel (**Genesis 46:14**)

Eliab, the son of Helon (**Numbers 2:7, 7:24, 10:16**)

Gaddiel, son of Sodi (**Numbers 13:10**)

Elizaphan, the son of Parnach (**Numbers 34:25**)

Elon, the judge of Israel (**Judges 12:11-12**)

Ishmaiah, the son of Obadiah (**I Chronicles 27:19**)

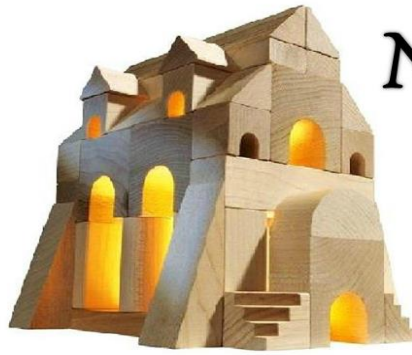
III. Where Are The Descendants of Zebulun Now?

A. The nation of Zebulun settled in the northern part.

B. The Zebulunites were conquered by the Assyrians.

C. Any other interesting facts about Zebulun and his descendants?

Conclusion: The story of Jacob and Esau has fascinated and puzzled Bible scholars for centuries. The 12 tribes each had a specific purpose... to build the nation of Israel and bless the world! What we need to see from our New Testament is that God is still building His nation. We are now a part of the spiritual Israel, adopted into the family, added to the kingdom, given a blessing and inheritance so that we may enter into the Promised Land. God sent Jesus to fulfill His promise and now we can be grafted in by means of the new covenant of the Lord.



LESSON #12 = THE TRIBES OF JOSEPH by Ray Reynolds

Introduction: Any Bible student knows about the seed promise given to Adam and Eve in the Garden (**Genesis 3:15**). We can follow God's redemptive plan from Genesis to Revelation. Early on in Genesis we see that God makes a bold proclamation to bless Abraham's descendants which continues through his son Isaac and his grandson Jacob (**Genesis 12:1-3, 13:14-1, 15:1-6, 17:1-14, 22:15-18, 25:23-24, 26:24**). Jacob, of course, has 12 sons who will carry on this blessing. Tonight we are going to consider one of those sons, Joseph, and his two sons Ephraim and Manasseh. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Who Was Joseph? What Did He Do?

- A. Joseph was the eleventh son of Jacob (**Genesis 30:22-24**).
- B. Joseph had a difficult early life (**Genesis 30-36**).
- C. Joseph was the favorite son of Jacob (**Genesis 37:1-4**).
- D. Joseph had supernatural dreams and visions (**Genesis 37:5-11**).
- E. Joseph's brothers hated him and wanted to punish him (**Genesis 37:12-24**).
- F. Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery (**Genesis 37:25-35**).
- G. Joseph is sold to Potiphar (**Genesis 37:36, 39:1-19**).
- H. Joseph is thrown into prison (**Genesis 39:20-40-23**).
- I. Joseph gets a chance to help Pharaoh (**Genesis 41:1-36**).
- J. Joseph is made ruler over Egypt (**Genesis 41:37-57**).
- K. Joseph marries Asenath and has 2 sons: Ephraim and Manasseh (**Genesis 46:50-52**).
- L. Joseph gets to save his family (**Genesis 42-48**).
- M. Joseph story is echoed and repeated in the Bible (**Psalms 105:17-19, Acts 7**).
- N. Joseph's bones were carried out of Egypt (**Genesis 49:29-32, Genesis 50:1-14, Exodus 13:19, Joshua 24:32, Hebrews 11:22**).

II. Who Were Josephs' Descendants?

- A. Joseph and his boys were blessed by Jacob (**Genesis 48:1-22, 49:22-26**).
- B. The tribe of Joseph was divided into two tribes: Ephraim and Manasseh (**Numbers 1:32-35, 26:29-37, Joshua 16:1-10**).
- C. The encampment around the Tabernacle (**Numbers 2:18-21, 10:22-23**).

- D. Memorable things about Ephraim.

- E. Memorable things about Manasseh.

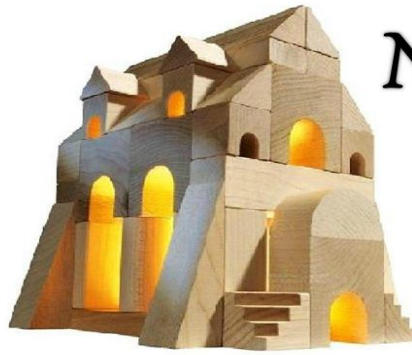
- F. Famous Bible characters from Ephraim
 - Elishama, the son of Ammihud (**Numbers 1:10, 2:18, 7:48-53, 10:22**)
 - Hoshea (Joshua), son of Nun (**Numbers 13:8, 16, Joshua**)
 - Elkanah, the father of Samuel (**I Samuel 1**)
 - Samuel, the judge and prophet (**I Samuel 1-25**)
 - King Jeroboam I (**I Kings 11:26-14:20, II Chronicles 10:1-13:20**)
 - Helez, the Pelonite (**I Chronicles 27:10**)
 - Hoshea, the son of Azaziah (**I Chronicles 27:20**)

- G. Famous Bible characters from Manasseh
 - Gamaleil, the son of Pedahzur (**Numbers 1:10, 2:20, 7:54-59, 10:23**)
 - Gaddi, son of Susi (**Numbers 13:11**)
 - Hanniel, the son of Ephod (**Numbers 34:26**)
 - Benaiah, the Pirathonite (**I Chronicles 27:14**)
 - Joel, the son of Pedaiiah (**I Chronicles 27:20**)
 - Iddo, the son of Zechariah (**I Chronicles 27:21**)
 - Gideon, judge of Israel (**Judges 6-8, Hebrews 11:32**)
 - Jephthah, judge of Israel (**Judges 10:6-12:7, Hebrews 11:32**)

III. Where Are The Descendants of Joseph Now?

- A. The nation of Ephraim and part of Manasseh settled in the northern part.
- B. The other half of Manasseh settled in the southern part of the promised land.
- C. They were conquered by the Assyrians and the Babylonians, respectively.
- D. Other facts about Joseph and his descendants.

Conclusion: The story of Jacob and Esau has fascinated and puzzled Bible scholars for centuries. The 12 tribes each had a specific purpose... to build the nation of Israel and bless the world! What we need to see from our New Testament is that God is still building His nation. We are now a part of the spiritual Israel, adopted into the family, added to the kingdom, given a blessing and inheritance so that we may enter into the Promised Land. God sent Jesus to fulfill His promise and now we can be grafted in by means of the new covenant of the Lord.



LESSON #13 = THE TRIBE OF BENJAMIN by Ray Reynolds

Introduction: Any Bible student knows about the seed promise given to Adam and Eve in the Garden (**Genesis 3:15**). We can follow God's redemptive plan from Genesis to Revelation. Early on in Genesis we see that God makes a bold proclamation to bless Abraham's descendants which continues through his son Isaac and his grandson Jacob (**Genesis 12:1-3, 13:14-1, 15:1-6, 17:1-14, 22:15-18, 25:23-24, 26:24**). Jacob, of course, has 12 sons who will carry on this blessing. Tonight we are going to consider Benjamin. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Who Was Benjamin? What Did He Do?

- A. Benjamin was the last son of Jacob (**Genesis 35:16-20**).

- B. Benjamin, like Joseph, had a difficult early life (**Genesis 35-41**).

- C. Benjamin was the NEW favorite son of Jacob (**Genesis 42-44**).

- D. Benjamin was reunited with Joseph (**Genesis 45-50**).

II. Who Were Benjamin's Descendants?

- A. Benjamin was blessed by Jacob (**Genesis 49:27**)

- B. The tribe of Benjamin (**Numbers 1:36-38, 26:29-37, Joshua 18:11-28**)

- C. The encampment around the Tabernacle (**Numbers 2:22-24, 10:24**)

- D. Benjamin was an elite fighting force (**Judges 20:16, I Chronicles 12:2**)

- E. Benjamin answered the call of Deborah (**Judges 4-5**)

- F. Benjamin was heavily oppressed (**Judges 3, 10-11**)

G. Famous Bible characters from Benjamin

Belah, Becher, Ashbel, Gera, Naaman, Ehi, Rosh, Muppim, Huppim, & Ard
(**Genesis 46:21**)

Abidan, the son of Gideoni (**Numbers 1:11, 2:12, 7:60, 7:65, 10:24**)

Palti, son of Raphu (**Numbers 13:9**)

Ehud, the judge of Israel (**Judges 3:12-30**)

The sons of Ulam (**I Chronicles 8:40**)

Abiezer, the Anathothite (**I Chronicles 27:12**)

Jaasiel, the son of Abner (**I Chronicles 27:21**)

King Saul (**I Samuel 9-10**) Jonathan, Ishvi, Malki-Shua, Merab & Michal

Hadassah/Queen Esther (**Esther 2:5-7**)

Saul/Paul of Tarsus (**Acts 13:21, Romans 11:1, Philippians 3:5**)

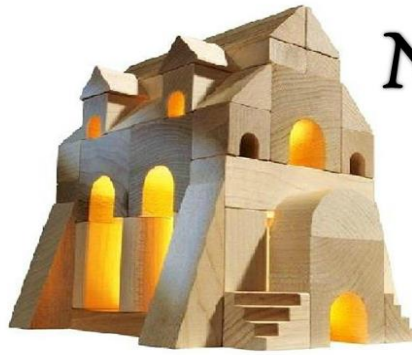
III. Where Are The Descendants of Benjamin Now?

A. The nation of Benjamin settled in the southern part.

B. The Benjaminites were taken captive by the Babylonians.

C. Other facts about Benjamin and his descendants

Conclusion: The story of Jacob and Esau has fascinated and puzzled Bible scholars for centuries. The 12 tribes each had a specific purpose... to build the nation of Israel and bless the world! What we need to see from our New Testament is that God is still building His nation. We are now a part of the spiritual Israel, adopted into the family, added to the kingdom, given a blessing and inheritance so that we may enter into the Promised Land. God sent Jesus to fulfill His promise and now we can be grafted in by means of the new covenant of the Lord.



Nation Building

A Study of the 12 Tribes

Wednesday Night
Adult Bible Class Series

LESSON #14 = CONCLUSION by Ray Reynolds

Introduction: For the past several weeks we have examined the 12 tribes of Israel. We started with the seed promise given to Adam and Eve (**Genesis 3:15**). God's redemptive plan from Genesis to Revelation (and beyond) is revealed by sending His Son to save His people and building a kingdom for their safety. God made a promise to Abraham, his children, and his grandchildren (**Genesis 12:1-3, 13:14-1, 15:1-6, 17:1-14, 22:15-18, 25:23-24, 26:24**). Tonight we are going to put this nation building into perspective. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. What Do We Know About Great Nations Before Christ?

- A. The Egyptian Kingdom
- B. The Kingdom of David & Solomon
- C. The Kingdom of Israel & Judah
- D. The Philistine Kingdom
- E. The Phoenician Kingdom
- F. The Ammonites Kingdom
- G. The Moabites Kingdom
- H. The Assyrian Kingdom
- I. The Babylonian Kingdom
- J. The Medo-Persian Kingdom
- K. The Greek Kingdom
- L. The Roman Kingdom

II. What Do We Know About Other Great Nations?

- A. The Ottoman Empire
- B. The Oriental Empires
- C. The Islamic Caliphates
- D. The Spanish Empire
- E. The British Empire
- F. The French Empire
- G. The Russian Empire
- H. The Portuguese Empire
- I. The German Kingdom
- J. The American Influence Around the World

III. What Do We Know About God's Plans For An Eternal Kingdom?

- A. What did the prophets of God say?

The Prophecy of Isaiah (**Isaiah 2:1-4**)

What can we learn from Isaiah's prophesy?

The Prophecy of Isaiah (**Daniel 2:34, 44-45**)

What can we learn from Daniel's prophesy?

The Prophecy of Hosea (**Hosea 1:10-11**)

What can we learn from Hosea's prophesy?

The Prophecy of Joel (**Joel 2:28-32**)

What can we learn from Joel's prophesy?

The Prophecy of Micah (**Micah 4:1-5**)

What can we learn from Micah's prophesy?

B. What did the Lord promise?

The Promise of God to Abraham (Isaac, Jacob, the tribes, etc.)

"I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."(**Genesis 12:2-3**)

The Promise of God to David (Solomon, the Jews, etc.)

"...I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ...I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ...your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you."(**II Samuel 7:1-16**)

C. What did Jesus say about this nation?

- Jesus prepared His disciples for a spiritual kingdom (**Matthew 5-7**).
- Jesus pointed to His Headship and establishment (**Matthew 16:18-19, Acts 1-2**)
- Jesus promised many of His disciples would see it (**Mark 9:1**).
- Jesus proclaimed that His disciples would be a part of it (**Luke 24:46-49**).
- Jesus prophesied that that the disciples would do amazing things (**John 14:12-14**).
- Jesus persisted that His kingdom was unlike others before it (**John 8:23, 18:36**).
- Jesus promoted Peter by giving him the keys to the kingdom (**Matthew 16:18-19**).
- Jesus predicted that the whole earth would be impacted (**Matthew 28:18-20**).

D. What can we learn from God's nation building?

The coming of Christ was carefully planned by God.

- He came at just the right time (**Genesis 3:15, Galatians 4:3-5, Ephesians 1:9-12**).
- He came in just the right way (**I Timothy 2:5-6, Titus 1:2-3**).
- He came into just the right environment (**Romans 1:18-22, 2:12-13**).

The coming of Christ's church was carefully planned by God.

- It came at just the right time (**Acts 17:21, Malachi 4:5-6, John 1:21**).
- It came in just the right way (**Matthew 16:14, Luke 2:25-26, 3:15**).
- It came into just the right environment (**Matthew 15:3, Galatians 4:4-5**).

Conclusion: We have noticed that each of the 12 tribes had a specific purpose in God's plan. The Lord was planning to build the nation of Israel, spread them out, and bless the world through them! The New Testament reveals is that God is still building His nation. There are 76 references to the kingdom of God in the New Testament. There are no borders or limits to the kingdom of God. Anyone can be a part of God's nation! In Christ we can become a part of the spiritual Israel. What comes next after we enter it? Our goal is to bring all nations back together under one banner... the banner of the cross. Are you in the kingdom of God?