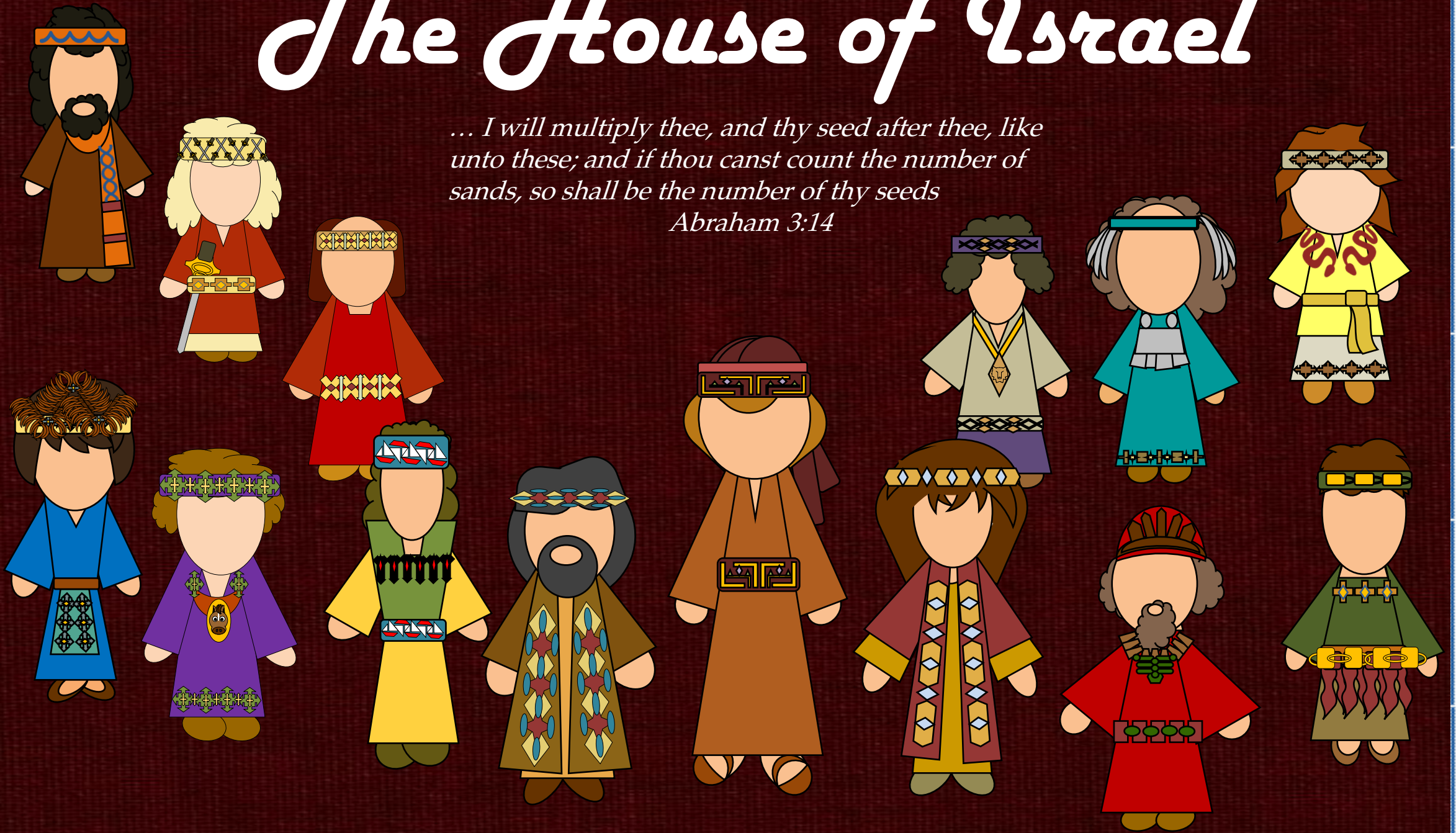


# The House of Israel

*... I will multiply thee, and thy seed after thee, like unto these; and if thou canst count the number of sands, so shall be the number of thy seeds*

*Abraham 3:14*



# Reuben

Behold a Son

He was the first son of Jacob and Leah

He was heir to the primary blessings of the lineage, but his immoral act with Bilhah, his father's concubine, cost him his birthright (Gen. 35:22)

He was part of a conspiracy with his brothers to do away with their brother Joseph, but he influenced his brothers instead to abandon Joseph in a pit

He intended to retrieve Joseph from the pit, but his brothers had sold Joseph to an Ishmaelite band

He guaranteed to protect the life of Benjamin, his youngest brother

By the time his father had moved the family to Egypt, Reuben had 4 sons: Hanoch, Phallu, Hezron, and Carmi

His father gave him a blessing but not the first-born inheritance

His tribe inherited fertile land east of the Jordan River

Eventually the Reubenites were carried away captive by the Assyrians



# Simeon

That Hears

He was the second son of Jacob and Leah

He and his brother Levi inflicted drastic retribution of the Shechemites for the mistreatment of their sister Dinah

He was included in the plot to get rid of Joseph in which the brothers had eventually sold Joseph into slavery

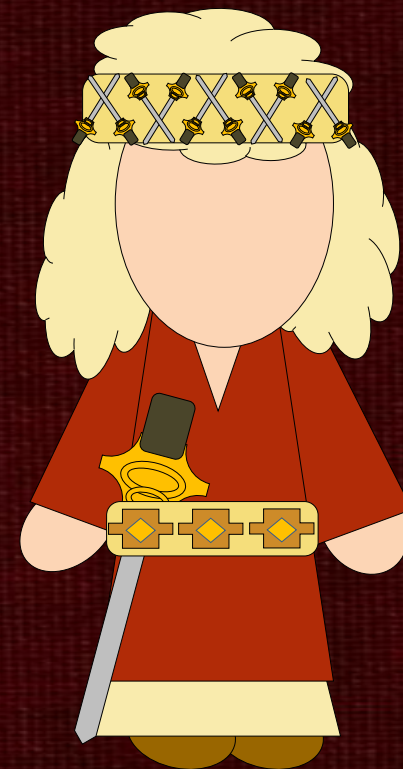
He was with his brothers in going to Egypt because of a famine in Canaan

He was retained by Joseph (unrecognizable to his brothers) as a hostage to guarantee the delivery of the younger brother, Benjamin

He was released when Benjamin was brought to Egypt

His sons were: Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jachin, Zohar, and Shaul the son of a Canaanitish woman

The tribe of Simeon inherited a portion of the land that was surrounded by Judah



# Levi

Joined or adhered to

He was the third son of Jacob and Leah

He and his brother Levi inflicted drastic retribution of the Shechemites for the mistreatment of their sister Dinah

He was with his brothers when they went into Canaan (Joseph had been sold as a slave)

He had three sons: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

The blessing pronounced by Moses on the tribe of Levi included the promise of priestly assignments on behalf of the House of Israel under the direction of Aaron and his sons

The Levites rose up in support of Moses during the time of the making of the golden calf

The Levites performed functions including providing musical offerings, preparing the sacrificial animals, and assisting with temple duties

The Levites did not receive a regional inheritance in the promised land but were assigned cities and given resources in support of their service

Levi is mentioned in the D&C used by John the Baptist in connection with the restoration of the Aaronic Priesthood in the latter days



# Judah

Praise

He was the fourth son of Jacob and Leah

He was a principle figure in perpetuity of the Abrahamic lineage as it extended down to Jesus Christ.

He was the one who stepped forward among the sons of Jacob to advance an alternative to slaying their brother Joseph, suggesting they sell him instead

He assumed the role of protector and guarantor of Benjamin when Jacob was persuaded to allow his youngest son to return to the Egyptian court where Joseph was in charge

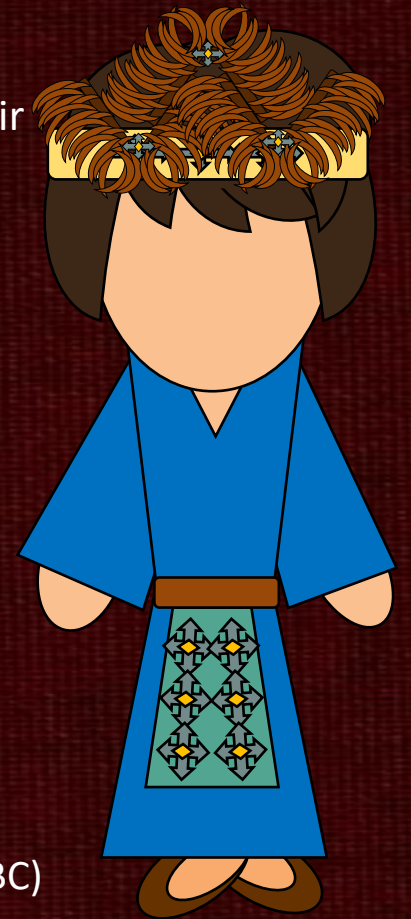
Judah had three sons by the daughter of Shuah, a Canaanite woman; Er, Onan, and Shelah; He also had twin sons by Tamar (widow of his son Er, conceived when she disguised herself as a harlot): Pharez and Zarah

Jesus Christ would come through the line of Pharez

The Tribe of Judah received a continual position of leadership in Canaan and a large portion of land

The Southern Kingdom, also known as Judah, was conquered by the Babylonians nearly 140 years later (586 BC)

Judah is mentioned in the D&C in the dedicatory prayer for the Kirtland Temple in connection with the final gather and in relation to the eventual redemption of the House of Judah



# Dan

Judge

He was the fifth son of Jacob and Bilhah, Rachel's handmaid

The Bible does not mention his name in the selling of Joseph to the Ishmaelites, but it does mention brothers

He was with his brothers when they went to Egypt when there was a famine in Canaan

He had a son: Hushim

He was assigned a small portion of land, some of it very fertile

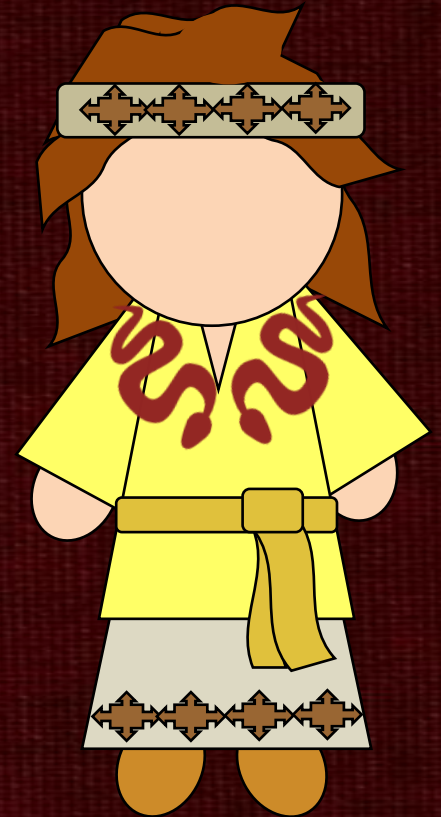
The Danites had a hard time holding the land against the Amorites so they settled in the northern part of Palestine

A city named "Dan" belonging the tribe of Dan, existed in the northernmost part of the Kingdom of Israel and mentioned several times in the Bible—it is known as Tel Dan

Samson was of Danite lineage

As part of the Kingdom of Israel, the territory of Dan was conquered by the Assyrians, and exiled; the manner of their exile led to their further history being lost

The Tribe of Dan is the only original tribe of Israel which is not included in the list of tribes which are sealed in John's account in Revelation 7...the reason we do not know



# Naphitali

Wrestlings

He was the sixth son of Jacob and Bilhah, handmaid to Rachel

One celebrated member of the tribe of Naphitali was Barak of Kedesh-Naphtali , who responded to the commission of Deborah, judge of Israel, to wage the triumphant battle against the encroaching Canaanites under command of Sisera

His sons were: Jahzeel, Guni, Jezer, and Shillem.

Naphtali was divided into four clans: the Jahzeelites, the Gunites, the Jezerites, and the Shillemites, named after Naphtali's sons

Naphtali was one of six tribes chosen to stand on Mount Ebal and pronounce curses

Despite all their blessings, the tribe of Naphtali failed to obey God's command to drive out all the Canaanites living in their territory. Therefore, "the Naphtalites too lived among the Canaanite inhabitants of the land, and those living in Beth Shemesh or Beth Anath became forced labor for them

He and his family migrated to Egypt, with the rest of the clan where they remained until the Exodus

He provided David 1,000 officers and 37,000 men and food to help. And he hired Hiram, whose mother was a Naphtalite, to do the bronze work for King Solomon's temple

In the time of Christ, the land of Naphtali was part of the area of Galilee, and it was viewed by the Jews in Judea as a place of dishonor, full of Gentile pagans, but Isaiah had prophesied that Naphtali would be honored This honor came with the coming of Jesus Christ. All Jesus' disciples but Judas, who betrayed Him, hailed from Galilee, and much of Jesus' ministry took place there.



# Gad

Good Fortune

He was the seventh son of Jacob and Zilpah, handmaid of Leah

Jewish tradition says that Joseph didn't present Gad to the Pharaoh, since Joseph didn't want Gad to become one of Pharaoh's guards, an appointment that would have been likely had the Pharaoh realized that Gad had great strength

The Gadites, also called Gileadites were skilled in battle and raising of cattle

The prophet Elijah “was of the inhabitants of Gilead” (1 Kings 17:1)

The land was north of the Dead Sea and given the best of the new land because they obeyed God and punished Israel’s wicked enemies

The Gadites, along with the Reubenites and half of the Tribe of Manasseh, were carried into captivity by the Assyrians around 722 BC

He had seven sons: Ziphion, Haggi, Shuni, Ezbon, Eri, Arodi, and Areli.

According to tradition he lived 125 years





# Asher

Happy/Blessing  
My good Fortune

He was the eighth son of Jacob and Zilpah, handmaid of Leah

He played a role in selling his brother Joseph into slavery

He had four sons: Jimnah, Ishuah, Isui, Beriah, and one daughter, Serah. The sons of Beriah were Heber, and Malchiel

Moses blessed the tribe of Asher to have many children and to be “acceptable to his brethren” (Deuteronomy 33:24)

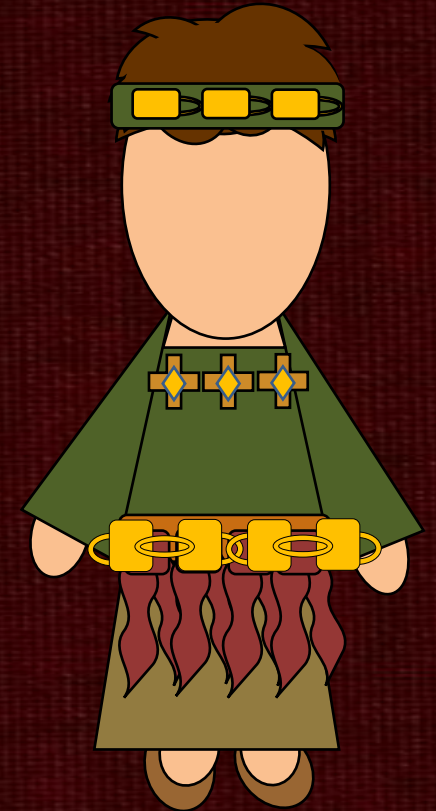
According to rabbinical tradition the tribe of Asher was the one most blessed with male children and its women were so beautiful that priests and princes sought them in marriage

The Tribe of Asher settled in the northwest part of Canaan, bordering the Mediterranean Sea

Asher was divided into five clans: the Imnites; the Ishvites; and the Berites; and, through Beriah, the Berite patriarch, two more clans: the Heberites and the Malkielites. The first three clans were named after Asher’s sons; the fourth and fifth after Beriah’s sons

Despite all its blessings, the tribe of Asher failed to drive out the Canaanites, and because of this the people of Asher lived among the Canaanite inhabitants of the land

The prophetess Anna was from this tribe



# Issachar

Man of Hire/  
Reward

He was the ninth son of Jacob and Leah

He was among his brothers when they went to Egypt because of the famine in Canaan

He had 4 sons: Tola, Phuvah, Job, and Shimron.

After the settlement of Canaan, the tribe received some of the richest land of Palestine, including the eastern plain of Esdraelon, and had within its borders several places of note in Israelite history, such as Gilboa, Jezreel, and Tabor.

The territory which it was allocated was immediately north of (the western half of) Manasseh, and south of Zebulun and Naphtali, stretching from the Jordan River in the east, to the coast in the west; this region included the fertile Esdraelon plain

As part of the Kingdom of Israel, the territory of Issachar was conquered by the Assyrians, and the tribe exiled; the manner of their exile led to their further history being lost.

He lived 122 years (rabbinical tradition)



# Zebulun

Gift/Honor

He was the tenth son of Jacob and Leah, the last son of Leah

The Tribe of Zebulun was generally steady and valiant in supporting the cause of the Lord over the years as in assisting (along with Naphtali) in achieving the victory against the Canaanites during the days of Deborah and Barak

The Tribe of Zebulun also contributed one of the judges in Israel (named Elon) assisting Gideon in defeating the Midianites

The Tribe of Zebulun also contributed strength to the forces of David and being among the minorities supporting King Hezekiah when he restored the practice of Passover in Jerusalem

He had 3 sons: Sered, and Elon, and Jahleel. The tribe was divided in three clans: the Serdites, the Elonites, and the Jahleelites, named after his sons

Isaiah's prediction is Messianic: Galilee (including Zebulun) would be honored as the first to hear Christ's preaching, and this would more than compensate for their humiliation at the hands of the Assyrians centuries before.

In the past, towards the end of Iyyar, Jews from the most distant parts of Palestine would make a pilgrimage to this tomb.

The Tomb of Zebulun is located in Sidon, Lebanon.



# Joseph

Increase

He was the eleventh son of Jacob and first son of Rachel

He was the holder of the birthright in Israel

He was sold by his older brothers and ended up in Egypt and through a series of trials he became vizier to Pharaoh

He married Asenath who bore two sons. Technically, there is no tribe of Joseph. Instead, Joseph received a “double blessing,” and his two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, each became his own tribe

While his father, Israel (Jacob) lay bedridden he blessed Manasseh (left hand) and Ephraim (right hand)

Joseph lived to the age of 110, living to see his great-grandchildren. Before he died, he made the children of Israel swear that when they left the land of Egypt they would take his bones with them. The bones of Joseph, which the Children of Israel brought up out of Egypt, were buried in Shechem in a parcel of land Jacob bought from the sons of Hamor, father of Shechem, for a hundred pieces of silver (Christian tradition) There are many theories to where he is buried

The Abrahamic covenant was carried through Joseph and the blessings of the priesthood were given to all the nations (Abraham 2:9-11) largely through his lineage

He was the ancestor of Lehi through the lineage of Manasseh while Ishmael and his family were descendants of Ephraim (Alma 10:3; 2 Nephi 3:4)

With the coming forth of the Book of Mormon as an integral part of the Restoration of the gospel, the “stick of Joseph” foreseen by Ezekiel, was conjoined with the “stick of Judah” to confirm the eternal truths of the gospel of Jesus Christ to all the world



# Benjamin

Son of My Right Hand

He was the twelfth son of Jacob and Rachel and born during the journey between Bethel and Bethlehem

Rachel named him “Benoni” (son of my sorrow) before dying in childbirth, but Jacob called him Benjamin

During the famine in Canaan he was too young to travel with his brothers to Egypt to obtain grain, but was later taken back to Egypt, with the anguish of his father, to gain favor from Joseph who was holding Simeon ransom and he gives Benjamin five times as much food as he apportions to the others (Gen. 43:34)

His posterity was aggressive in standing against the enemies of Israel and developed a reputation as skillful archers and slingers

He had 10 sons: Belah, Becher, Ashbel, Gera, Naaman, Ehi, Rosh, Muppim, Huppim, and Ard.

Following the return from Babylonian captivity, the tribes of Benjamin and Judah comprised the main body of the Jewish nation

Ehud, a great warrior who delivered Israel from Moab, Mordecai and Esther (Esther 2:5-7), King Saul and the Apostle Paul were descendants of Benjamin



# Manasseh

Forgetting

He was the firstborn son born to Joseph and Asenath, grandson to Israel (Jacob) and Rachel

Manasseh was married to an Aramean concubine, and that they had two sons, named Asriel and Machir (1<sup>st</sup> Chronicles 7:14)

Near the end of the book of Genesis, according to some English translations of the Bible (such as the King James Version), Manasseh's grandchildren are described as having been *brought up upon Joseph's knees*, while other English translations (such as the Revised Version) render the same text as *born upon Joseph's knees*;

He was appointed a large portion of land from the Mediterranean Sea to the Jordan River

The Tribe of Manasseh joined the new kingdom with Saul as the first king. After the death of Saul, all the tribes other than Judah remained loyal to the House of Saul, but after the death of Ish-bosheth, Saul's son and successor to the throne of Israel, the Tribe of Manasseh joined the other northern Israelite tribes in making David, who was then the king of Judah, king of a re-united Kingdom of Israel. However, on the accession of Rehoboam, David's grandson, in c. 930 BC the northern tribes split from the House of David to reform a Kingdom of Israel as the Northern Kingdom. Manasseh was a member of the kingdom until the kingdom was conquered by Assyria in c. 723 BC and the population deported.

This tribe is counted as one of the lost Ten Tribes

Gideon, the warrior/judge and Lehi (Book of Mormon) was of the Tribe of Manasseh



# Ephraim

Fruitful

He was the younger of the two sons born to Joseph and Asenath, grandson of Jacob and Rachel

He would be the one to receive the birthright

When the aged Israel (Jacob) was about to give a blessing to Joseph's sons, he placed his hands in such a way as to favor Ephraim

He was given the birthright in Israel

He received a portion of Joseph's land with prime and fertile regions

The Tribe of Ephraim had a colorful history marked at times by an envious nature concerning the other tribes

Ephraim is mentioned a number of times in the D&C and in connection with the Book of Mormon as the "stick of Ephraim" and also connected with the "rod" (connected with Joseph Smith) that should come forth "out of the stem of Jesse"

Ephraim is primarily responsible for conveying the truths of the gospel of Jesus Christ to all the world under provisions of the Abrahamic covenant

Ephraim is also mentioned in connection with the return of the ten tribes and the glorious blessings to be poured out upon Israel

Ishmael and his family were descendants of Ephraim (Book of Mormon)



**Reuben:**  
According to the Book of Jasher, Chapter 45, Reuben's wife was Eliuram the daughter of Avi the Canaanite (of Timnah). Wikipedia  
A brief account of Reuben's immorality in the historical account may seem unusual, but it explains why Reuben, the firstborn of Leah, forfeited the birthright. Since Rachel was the second wife, her firstborn would then by right inherit the forfeited blessing. Joseph thus was the next legal heir in line, even though he was the eleventh son born. ( 1 Chronicles 5:1–3 specifically ties Reuben's loss of the birthright to his transgression and shows how it went to Joseph.) The firstborn sons of the handmaids, Bilhah and Zilpah, would not be considered since they were the property of their mistresses and their children were also technically considered Rachel's and Leah's property. Mormonbible.org

**Simeon** refers to Leah's belief that God had heard that she was hated by Jacob, in the sense of not being as favoured as Rachel. Wikipedia

**Levi** The Torah suggests that the name of *Levi* refers to Leah's hope for Jacob to *join* with her because she had borne him 3 sons. The early sources of the Torah—the Jahwist and Elohist—appear to treat the term *Levi* as just being a word meaning *priest*; some scholars therefore suspect that "levi" was originally a general term for a priest, and had no connection to ancestry, and that it was only later, for example in the priestly source and Blessing of Moses, that the existence of a tribe named *Levi* became assumed, in order to explain the origin of the priestly caste. Wikipedia

**Judah:**  
Following Onan's death, Judah asked Tamar to not remarry, but to wait in her father's house until Judah's youngest son, Shelah, was old enough to marry. Tamar complied with Judah's wishes. But quite a number of years went by, and Judah's wife, Shua, died. Tamar realized that she was not going to be given in marriage to Shelah, who was now grown (Genesis 38:11-14).  
One day Tamar heard that her father-in-law was heading out to shear his sheep. She removed her widow's garments and dressed to appear as a harlot as she sat along the road where Judah would pass by. Judah did not recognize her and propositioned her; and she demanded his signet, cord and staff for collateral. When it was later discovered that she was pregnant, Judah threatened her with death for harlotry. To save her life, she presented the items belonging to Judah and said, "By the man to whom these belong, I am with child" (Genesis 38:18, 24-26).  
Tamar had twins. At delivery, one twin put out his hand first and the midwife tied a scarlet thread on it and said, "This one came out first." But the other twin, Perez, came out unexpectedly followed by Zerah with the scarlet thread tied on his hand (Genesis 38:27-30).  
God would use the unusual birth of these twins to establish two lines of genealogy in the tribe of Judah.  
The second great promise God gave to Abraham stated, "And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Genesis 12:3). This promise would come through the line of Perez. King David and the kings of Judah would descend through the line of Perez. But most importantly, Jesus Christ would come through this line so "all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Matthew 1:3, 16).

**Dan:**  
*Judge*. Son of Bilhah, Rachel's maid, and brother to Naphtali. After the settlement in Canaan, the district assigned to the tribe of Dan was small in area but had an admirable situation, adjoining Ephraim, Benjamin, and Judah, parts of it being extremely fertile. There was a good deal of difficulty in holding it against the Amorites and against the Philistines (Judg. 13:2, 25; 18:1). Consequently the Danites made for themselves a settlement in the north of Palestine (Judg. 18), around Laish, to which city they gave the name of Dan. This town is well known as the northern limit of Palestine, which extended "from Dan even to Beer-sheba." It was chosen by Jeroboam as one of the places in which to establish the calf worship for the northern tribes (1 Kgs. 12:29; 2 Kgs. 10:29). The city was laid waste by Benhadad (1 Kgs. 15:20; 2 Chr. 16:4); and Jewish tradition records that the calf was carried off to Assyria by Tiglath-pileser (2 Kgs. 15:29). The reason for the omission of the tribe of Dan in John's list in Rev. 7:5–7 is not known. Its character is sketched in the blessings of Jacob and Moses (Gen. 49:16–18; Deut. 33:22). Bible Dictionary

**Naphitali:**  
Sixth son of Jacob, and second child of Bilhah, Rachel's slave (Gen. 30:8); his four sons (Gen. 46:24; Ex. 1:4; 1 Chr. 7:13); the blessing on the tribe (Gen. 49:21; Deut. 33:23); land of Naphtali (Josh. 19:32–39). Barak of Kedesh-Naphtali was the one man of note belonging to the tribe (Judg. 4:6; 5:15–18). The history of the tribe ends with the captivity under Tiglath-pileser, see Isa. 9:1; Ezek. 48:3–4, 34; Matt. 4:15; Rev. 7:6. Bible Dictionary

**Gadi:**  
They were of warlike character of the Gadites is emphasized. The children of Gad along with the Reubenites were owners of cattle, and for that reason grazing land was allotted to them in Canaan (Num. 32:1–5). Their district lay east of the Jordan and contained good arable pasture land, with an abundance of water. It was given them on condition they went armed before their brethren. Their boundaries are described (Josh. 12:1–6; 13:8–12). After the wars they were sent home with a blessing and built an altar, which caused offense (Josh. 22). The Gadites, who were brave and warlike (1 Chr. 5:11–22; 12:8, 14), were sometimes known as Gileadites (Judg. 5:17; 12:4). Their land was invaded, and they were carried captive by Tiglath-pileser (2 Kgs. 10:33; 1 Chr. 5:26).  
The Book of Jasher states that Gad married Uzith. Uzith was the daughter of Amuram, the granddaughter of Uz and the great-grandson of Nahor (son of Terah) Wikipedia



**Asher:**  
According to classical rabbinical literature, Asher had informed his brothers about Reuben's incest with Bilhah, and as a result Asher came to be on bad terms with his brothers, though once Reuben confessed, the brothers realized they had been unjust towards Asher. He was the very one whose endeavor it had always been to reconcile the brothers, especially when they disputed as to who among them was destined to be the ancestor of the priests. According to the Book of Jubilees Asher married twice. His first wife was Adon, a great-granddaughter of Ishmael; his second, Hadurah, a granddaughter of Eber and a widow. By her first marriage Hadurah had a daughter Serah, whom Asher treated as affectionately as if she had been of his own flesh and blood, so that the Bible itself speaks of Serah as Asher's daughter. Wikipedia

**Issachar:**  
The Talmud argues that Issachar's description in the Blessing of Jacob - *Issachar is a strong ass lying down between two burdens: and he saw that settled life was good, and the land was pleasant; and bowed his shoulder to bear, and became a servant unto tribute*. Since the tribe of Zebulun were traditionally seen as merchants and Issachar as religious teachers, Issachar and Zebulun were considered to have a symbiotic relationship, whereby Issachar would devote its time to the study and teaching of Torah, while Zebulun would provide the financial support, in exchange for a share of Issachar's spiritual reward . Such was the tradition of this symbiosis, that anyone engaged in such a partnership became termed *Issachar* and *Zebulun* respectively, even into modern times. Wikipedia

**Zebulun:**  
Zebulun was one of six tribes chosen to stand on Mount Ebal and pronounce curses (Deuteronomy 27:13). By means of these curses, the people promised God they would refrain from certain behaviors. For example, one curse says, "Cursed is the man who carves an image or casts an idol – a thing detestable to the Lord" (Deuteronomy 27:15). Zebulun helped deliver twelve admonishments of this sort (Deuteronomy 27:15-26).  
Upon entering the Promised Land, Zebulun failed to drive out the Canaanites living in Kitron and Nahalol, although Zebulun did subject them to forced labor (Judges 1:30). This was incomplete obedience to God's clear command to drive out all the inhabitants of the land (Numbers 33:52). Not responding fully to God's Word, as Zebulun demonstrated, is a trait to which we all can relate.  
Later, Zebulun returned to God and followed His commands. They participated in the battles led by Deborah and Barak, and they fought valiantly (Judges 4:6; 5:18). The judge Elon was a Zebulunite (Judges 12:11). During the kingdom years, Zebulun joined David at Hebron to transfer Saul's kingdom to David (1 Chronicles 12:23, 33, 40)  
Zebulun's territory was located in what later became known as Galilee, in Northern Israel. Moses' blessing on the tribe was that they would prosper in their overseas dealings with Gentile nations (Deuteronomy 33:18-19). Isaiah prophesied, "In the past [God] humbled the land of Zebulun . . . but in the future he will honor Galilee" (Isaiah 9:1). Isaiah's prediction is Messianic: Galilee (including Zebulun) would be honored as the first to hear Christ's preaching, and this would more than compensate for their humiliation at the hands of the Assyrians centuries before.  
<http://www.gotquestions.org/tribe-of-Zebulun.html>

**Joseph:**  
The **vizier** was the highest official in Ancient Egypt to serve the king, or pharaoh during the Old, Middle, and New Kingdoms. The viziers were appointed by the pharaohs, but often belonged to a pharaoh's family. The vizier's paramount duty was to supervise the running of the country, such as a prime minister, at times even small details of it such as sampling the city's water supply.  
The house of Israel acquired many possessions and multiplied exceedingly during the course of seventeen years, even through the worst of the seven-year famine. At this time, Joseph's father was 147 years old and bedridden. He had fallen ill and lost most of his vision. Joseph was called into his father's house and Israel pleaded with his son that he not be buried in Egypt. Rather, he requested to be carried to the land of Canaan to be buried with his forefathers. Joseph was sworn to do as his father asked of him. (Genesis 47:27-31)  
Then Israel laid his left hand on the eldest Manasseh's head and his right hand on the youngest Ephraim's head and blessed Joseph. However, Joseph was displeased that his father's right hand was not on the head of his firstborn, so he switched his father's hands. But Israel refused saying, "but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he." A declaration he made just as Israel himself was to his firstborn brother Esau. To Joseph, he gave a portion more of Canaanite property than he had to his other sons; land that he fought for against the Amorites. (Genesis 48:1-22)  
  
Then Israel (Jacob) called all of his sons in and prophesied their blessings or curses to all twelve of them in order of their ages. To Joseph he declared:  
  
"Joseph is a fruitful bough, a fruitful bough by a well; His branches run over the wall. The archers have bitterly grieved him, Shot at him and hated him. But his bow remained in strength, And the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the Mighty God of Jacob (From there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel), By the God of your father who will help you, And by the Almighty who will bless you With blessings of heaven above, Blessings of the deep that lies beneath, Blessings of the breasts and of the womb. The blessings of your father have excelled the blessings of my ancestors, Up to the utmost bound of the everlasting hills. They shall be on the head of Joseph, And on the crown of the head of him who was separate from his brothers." -Genesis 49:22-26

**Benjamin:**

Benjamin's tribe had its dark side. Their warlike nature came out not only in defense of their country but also in depravity within their country. In [Judges 19—21](#) Benjamin takes up an offence against the other eleven tribes of Israel, and civil war ensues. This period had the reputation of everyone doing what was right in his own eyes ([Judges 21:25](#)). What led to the civil war was the horrific abuse and death of an unnamed Levite's concubine ([Judges 19:10–28](#)). The eleven tribes turned against the tribe of Benjamin and nearly annihilated them because of their refusal to give up the perpetrators ([Judges 20:1—21:25](#)). Eventually, the tribes restored Benjamin's tribe, greatly diminished due to the war, and the country reunited.

But Benjamin's "dividing of the spoil" has another fulfillment yet future. In [Revelation 7:8](#), during the tribulation period, 12,000 men from Benjamin, along with 12,000 from each of the other tribes of Israel, will reach the world's population with the gospel. The result will be a multitude of the saved "that no man could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands" ([Revelation 7:9](#)). The second dividing of the spoil for Benjamin comes in the millennial kingdom when they will have a place in the land of Israel, along with a gate that has their name on it in the city of Jerusalem ([Ezekiel 48:32](#)). They, along with the other tribes of Israel, will find the ultimate dividing of the spoils in the New Jerusalem as each gate has a name of one of the tribes, Benjamin included ([Revelation 21:12–13](#)). What a glorious finish! What grace is this!

<http://www.gotquestions.org/tribe-of-Benjamin.html>

**Manasseh:**

Asenath was an Egyptian woman whom Pharaoh gave to Joseph as wife, and the daughter of Potipherh, a priest of On. (Genesis 41:50-52) Manasseh was born in Egypt before the arrival of the children of Israel from Canaan

Early on, we learn that Manasseh is frequently referred to as the "half-tribe" of Manasseh. This designation highlights the choice made by some of the tribe to reside east of the River Jordan ([Numbers 32:33](#); [Joshua 13: 29–31](#)). They believed the Transjordan was the more suitable land to raise their flocks. The rest of the tribe settled west of the Jordan, in Canaan, following Joshua's command to enter and possess the Promised Land. As is evident throughout Scripture, God endows His children with the freedom to choose.

Manasseh illustrates other human failings as well, such as greed and covetousness. The (half) tribe of Manasseh desired more land because they were "a numerous people." They may have had the numbers, but they were unwilling to follow Joshua's exhortation to clear "the land of the Perizzites and Rephaites" ([Joshua 17:12-18](#)).

On the other hand, the tribe of Manasseh at times exhibits faithfulness to God. Gideon, who would later become one of Israel's best judges, questioned God when called to "save Israel out of Midian's hand." One of Gideon's objections was that his "clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family" ([Judges 6:15](#)). Gideon required proof from God—twice—before he acted ([Judges 6:36–40](#)). Once convinced of God's will, Gideon moved forward with 32,000 troops to conquer the Midianites. But then God told Gideon that he had too many troops for the job, and God reduced his corps to a mere 300 men. Following God's lead, this paltry force routed the enemy. The battle proved God was with Gideon and the half-tribe of Manasseh.

<http://www.gotquestions.org/tribe-of-Benjamin.html>

**Ephraim:**

The Tribe of Ephraim joined the new kingdom with Saul as the first king. After the death of Saul, all the tribes other than Judah remained loyal to the House of Saul, but after the death of Ish-bosheth, Saul's son and successor to the throne of Israel, the Tribe of Ephraim joined the other northern Israelite tribes in making David, who was then the king of Judah, king of a re-united Kingdom of Israel.

However, on the accession of Rehoboam, David's grandson, in c. 930 BCE the northern tribes split from the House of David to reform a Kingdom of Israel as the Northern Kingdom. The first king of the Northern Kingdom of Israel was Jeroboam, who came from the Tribe of Ephraim. (1 Kings 11:26)

Ephraim was a member of the Northern Kingdom until the kingdom was conquered by Assyria in c. 723 BCE and the population deported.

The territory of Ephraim contained the early centers of Israelite religion - Shechem and Shiloh. These factors contributed to making Ephraim the most dominant of the tribes in the Kingdom of Israel, and led to *Ephraim* becoming a synonym for the entire kingdom.

There are several specific events regarding the tribe of Ephraim that we can learn from. While God gifted the tribe as warriors and valiant fighters ([1 Chronicles 12:30](#)), Ephraim failed to follow God's order to remove the Canaanites from the Promised Land ([Exodus 23:23–25](#); [Judges 1:29](#); [Joshua 16:10](#)).

During the time of the judges, the Ephraimites became angry with Gideon because he had not initially called for their help in battling the Midianites ([Judges 8:1](#)). Gideon wisely displayed godly kindness and extolled the tribe's commitment and willingness to serve the Lord, thus diffusing what could have become an ugly situation ([Judges 8:2–3](#)). When Jephthah chose to fight (and defeat) the Ammonites without the aid of the proud Ephraim warriors, a civil war erupted, and 42,000 warriors from Ephraim were killed.

# The House of Israel

Although mention is often made of the Lord's "other tribes" which were taken captive by the Assyrians in 722B.C., the exact identity of the names of the ten "other tribes" is much less well known. We count ten "lost" tribes of the northern kingdom of Israel by remembering that the tribe of Joseph was divided into three land and people elements for the purpose of land inheritance—Ephraim and the two subdivisions of Manasseh. Hence, the "ten lost tribes" are ten lost land groups and are accounted for as follows:

Reuben, Asher, Ephraim, Dan, Issachar, Half-tribe Manasseh  
Naphtali, Zebulun, Gad, Half-tribe of Manasseh (Machir),  
As is well known, there is clear evidence that not all members of the tribes listed above were taken captive. Some members of these tribes were left behind on the land, while others fled to the kingdom of Judah for refuge. Consequently, descendants of these "lost" tribal groups remained among the Jews and have thus been spread throughout the world today. As a result, some of each of the Twelve blood tribes have been gathered in this last dispensation to reassemble under the banner of the One King who is destined to reunite all Israel in these last days.



Excerpt From: The "Other Tribes": Which Are They?  
By John A. Tvedtnes January 1982 Ensign

Sources:

Old Testament Who's Who by Ed J. Pinegar and Richard J. Allen pgs. 20, 28, 30, 53, 61, 107-109,113,117-118,123, 140, 159-160, 174, 186

Wikipedia

<http://www.gotquestions.org> search for individual tribe names

Mormonbible.com

Bible Dictionary

Bible King James Version

Traditional means: What Christian or Jewish writers have written but not necessarily LDS views.

So much was lost in translations over the years we can only speculate.



ראובן  
Rúbem



שמעון  
Simeão



לוי  
Levi



יהודה  
Judá



דן  
Dā



נפתלי  
Naftali



גד  
Gade



אשר  
Aser



יששכר  
Issacar



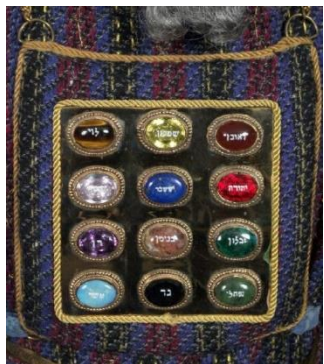
זבולון  
Zebulom



יוסף  
José



בנימין  
Benjamin



Breastplate of Judgment - Exodus 28 & 39

 Levi - Emerald	 Simeon - Topaz	 Reuben - Sardius
 Naphtali - Diamond	 Dan - Sapphire	 Judah - Turquoise
 Issachar - Amethyst	 Asher - Agate	 Gad - Jacinth
 Benjamin - Jasper	 Joseph - Onyx	 Zebulun - Bergl

[www.israelingiblog.org](http://www.israelingiblog.org)

