

THE GREAT TRUTHS OF THE BIBLE

STUDY # : 19

The Church of
Christ

PART-3



THE GREAT TRUTHS OF THE BIBLE

STUDY : #19

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST - PART 3 (THE 12 TRIBES OF REVELATION 7TH CHAPTER)

PLEASE NOTE: Kindly refer to your Bibles for every scripture reference and read thoroughly.

MOST SCRIPTURE PASSAGES ARE QUOTED FROM THE AUTHORISED KING JAMES VERSION (KJV)

Today we will be taking up the study of **THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST** in the **THIRD** part of our study on this subject.

Having **CLEARLY** seen through the scriptures the church, its **SELECTION** and the **THREE** steps of the Christian life which are to be taken before attaining to **GLORY** with Jesus, we now see in God's Divine Plan what a **SELECTION PROCESS** has been silently going on in this Gospel Age since the day of Pentecost !!

A select group of 1,44,000 are being selected to be JOINT-RULERS WITH JESUS IN HIS KINGDOM (Revelation 3:21)

These are called a "*little flock*" as we read in **Luke 12:32**
We also saw **THAT AT EVERY STEP** of the **THREE** stages, there is a **FILTRATION** process taking place.

The **FINAL GOAL** is as expressed in -

Romans 8:29

"...He also did predestinate to be conformed to the IMAGE of His Son"- (KJV)

Or as seen in NIV as - *"...conformed to the LIKENESS of His Son."*

What does this mean ?

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Thy Word is Truth



Thy Word is Truth

Oh ! We saw that answer in -

Revelation 14:4

".....These are they which follow the Lamb withersoever He goeth....."




Yes ! These are those who **NOT ONLY** make the "covenant by sacrifice" (Psalms 50:5) but actually **DAILY seek** to fulfill it in obedience to the words of the Master in

Luke 9:23

" If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow me."

These are finally to be a FIXED number of 1,44,000.

Thus in the Church of Jesus Christ we saw-



-  **"Many"** are **CALLED** - These are **"BELIEVERS"** who have faith in Jesus
-  **"Few"** are **CHOSEN** - These are **"FOLLOWERS"** and covenant bound "saints" in Christ.
-  **"Fewer"** still are **FAITHFUL** - These are **"COPIES"** or **"IN THE LIKENESS"** of the Son by **FAITHFULLY** fulfilling their "covenant of sacrifice" unto death.

These **THREE** stages of Christian development is perhaps best **TIPIED** in **THE BOOK OF JUDGES** in -

Judges 7:2-9

"And the LORD said unto Gideon, the people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me. Now therefore go to, proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, whosoever is fearful and afraid, let him return and depart early from mount Gilead. And there returned of the people twenty and two thousand; and there remained ten thousand. And the Lord said unto Gideon, The people are yet too many; bring them down unto the water, and I will try them for thee there: and it shall be, that of whom I say unto thee, This shall go with thee, the same shall go with thee: and of whomsoever I say unto thee, This shall not go with thee, the same shall not go. So he brought down the people unto the water: and the LORD said unto Gideon, Every one that lappeth of the water with his tongue, as a dog lappeth, him shalt thou set by himself; likewise every one that boweth down upon his kness to drink. And the number of them that lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, were three hundred men: but all the rest of the people bowed down upon their knees to drink water. And the Lord said unto Gideon, By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you, and deliver the Midianites into thine hand; and let all the other people go every man unto his place. so the people took victuals in their hands, and their trumpets: and he sent all the rest of Israel every man unto his tent, and retained those three hundred men; and the host of Midian was beneath him in the valley. And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, Arise, get thee down unto the host; for I have delivered it into thine hand."

Here we see **THREE** stages in the selection of **"GIDEON'S ARMY"**. These are a picture of the selection process of **THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST**. Let us now see how -

-  **1. 32,000 men** → represents the **"CALLED"** stage of expressing **FAITH** in Christ - the **BELIEVERS !**
-  **2. 10,000 men** → represents the **"CHOSEN"** stage of being willing to follow Christ - the **FOLLOWERS !**

Remember that out of 32,000 men the number

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Thy Word is Truth



Thy Word is Truth

who were **READY** and **WILLING** to battle were 10,000.

☞ The remaining **22,000** went back and were not willing !

But for the Lord even these **10,000** were **TOO MANY** as He says in -

Vs- 4 - “the people are yet too many...”

Yes ! There had to be a further **FILTRATION** to be done !

This the Lord explains in -

Judges 7:4-6

And the Lord said unto Gideon, The people are yet too many; bring them unto the water, and I will try them for thee there: and it shall be, that of whom I say unto thee, This shall go with thee, the same shall go with thee: and of whomsoever I say unto thee, This shall not go with thee, the same shall not go. So he brought down the people unto the water: and the LORD said unto Gideon, Every one that lappeth of the water with his tongue, as a dog lappeth, him shalt thou set by himself; likewise every one that boweth down upon his knees to drink. And the number of them that lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, were three hundred men: but all the rest of the people bowed down upon their knees to drink water.”

Yes ! In the “**test**” it was found that only

300 men drank the water in the

➔ **ACCEPTABLE WAY OF THE LORD !**

The remaining **9700** were rejected and only these **300** were **SELECTED FINALLY** for the battle !

☞ **3** - These **300 men** ➔ represent the final stage of being the **FAITHFUL** followers of the Master

- the “**IMAGE of the Son**”

Their being “**soldiers**” represents the condition of the Christian in -



II Timothy 2:3

“*Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.*”

Yes ! Each Christian is called **TO BE A SOLDIER** and to fight a **BATTLE !!**

We read of that battle in -

I Timothy 1:18,19

“*That thou by them mightest war a good warfare; holding faith, and a good conscience....*”

Yes ! It is to be a **BATTLE of FAITH** against the enemies of **EVIL** in -

☞ **ONE’S OWN FLESH** and body

☞and in the **WORLD** around us

☞and from the **DEVIL** himself !

Yes ! To fight **EVIL** with **GOOD !!**


Today we will study more about **THAT “little flock”** of **1,44,000** as represented in the scripture passage of **Revelation 7th Chapter, verses 4-8.**




As we saw in the last class there are many DOUBTS among Christians generally about this passage of scripture having reference to the Church of Jesus Christ in the Gospel Age. There are many REASONS for this.

Let us see some of the reasons -

REASON # 1

 THAT IT IS TOO SMALL A NUMBER TO APPLY TO ALL “CHRISTIANS” OF THE FULL GOSPEL AGE.

Yes! The argument is that for a period of nearly 2000 years how can ONLY 1,44,000 CHRISTIANS be “sealed” and made ready?

 Yes! This is the belief when the Christian “calling” is understood as merely a matter of exercising ONLY FAITH and believing on Jesus !!

A great majority have no knowledge of THE THREE STEPS IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE and thus are NATURALLY surprised that in 2000 years only 1,44,000 of what they think to be merely “BELIEVING” Christians are found!

 But let us pause and **THINK OVER THE MATTER-**


 1,44,000 “CHRIST LIKE” CHRISTIANS from 2000 years!

 That is **72** per year if we were to divide the number by the number of years!

What a high standard is required and what time is consumed in the development of each.

 **THEY ARE THE CREAM OF CHRISTIANS!**

And besides all this let us remember, there was A DARK PERIOD of nearly 1000 years in what is called the DARK AGES when “no sealing” of God’s Word could be done as there was **NO ACCESS** to the Bible during those days !!

 Keeping **ALL** these conditions in mind it is **VERY REASONABLE** that this Gospel Age produces 1,44,000 Christians

“conformed to the image of His Son” (ROMANS 8:29)

Now let us come to the second reason of doubt...

REASON # 2

THE BELIEF OF MANY THAT IN GOD’S PLAN ONLY CHRISTIANS GO TO HEAVEN AND THE REST GO TO HELL!

Yes! Keeping this idea in mind, the thought that

 THERE WOULD ONLY BE A FIXED number of 1,44,000 Christians being “SAVED” of all mankind becomes a matter difficult to believe!



This is also when the word “**SAVED**” is taken to be a matter of **SIMPLY** going to heaven!!

➔ But we know from the scriptures and our studies so far that,
THAT IS NOT THE PLAN OF GOD AT ALL !

God, we read in the scriptures is a **SAVIOR** of **ALL** mankind as we read in -

1 Timothy 4:10

“...We trust in the living God, who is the SAVIOUR of ALL MEN, and.....especially of those that believe.”

➔ and again in.....

1 Timothy 2:3,4

“of God our SAVIOUR, who will have ALL MEN to be saved....”

Thus God has a **PLAN** for the **salvation** of “**ALL MEN**” and while

➔ **ALL DO GO** to **HELL-**

it is seen that it is **NOT** a place of torment but rather the “**state of death**”
 - from which **ALL** are to be rescued and raised up from. (**Revelation 20:13 KJV**)

- through the resurrection of the dead **for ALL** as we read in -

I Corinthians 15:22 - *“.....even so in Christ shall ALL be made alive”*

Besides in God's plan of salvation there are many **GROUPS-**

- The **LITTLE FLOCK** receives a salvation to the **Divine Nature.**
- The **GREAT MULTITUDE** receives a salvation to the **Angelic nature.**
- The **WORLD OF MANKIND** and **ANCIENT WORTHIES** receive an **Earthly salvation.**

And it t is **ONLY** the “**little flock**” that is being referred to here as the **1,44,000.**
 who receive the **HIGHEST SALVATION** of **ALL** salvations in God's Plan.

➔ Seen in this light isn't it all **VERY REASONABLE !**

Now to the third reason of doubt.....

REASON # 3

➔ **THAT THE REFERENCE TO THE TWELVE TRIBES OF ISRAEL CAUSE MANY TO THINK IT IS FLESHLY ISRAEL THAT IS BEING REFERRED TO OVER HERE !!**

As we did see in the last class itself this is **THE GENERAL ASSUMPTION**
 because of the detailing of the **NAMES** of the 12 tribes of Israel
 in **Revelation 7:4** and in verses **4-8.**

➔ But a **CLOSER STUDY** of the 12 tribes names as listed
 in Genesis 49th Chapter reveals **A GREAT DIFFERENCE !**

The tribe of **DAN** is missing from the Revelation 7th Chapter list
 and replaced by **MANASSEH** who is **NOT** a tribe of the original 12 at all !



Thus we came to understand that though the "sealing" was from

➔ *"all the tribes of the children of Israel" (Revelation 7:4)*

the Israel being referred to OVER HERE is NOT the **fleshly** nation of Israel - the descendants (children) of **Abraham** and **Jacob** but rather it refers to **THE ISRAEL** that is called -

➔ *"the Israel of God" (Galatians 6:16).*

Yes ! This Israel mentioned here is a reference to

☞ **-SPIRITUAL ISRAEL** - the **spiritual** children of Abraham !! (Galatians 3:7)
- **THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST !**

☞ Having clarified the doubts surrounding this group of 144000, now let us come to the question as to **WHY** the tribes of **NATURAL** Israel are used in this passage in Revelation to **TYPIFY**

➔ the **SPIRITUAL** "Israel of God" ?

To understand the answer let us first see God's plan for this **SPIRITUAL ISRAEL** in the scriptures in -

Ephesians 1:4

"...He hath chosen us in Him BEFORE the FOUNDATION of the world...."

JUST IMAGINE ! The depth of this scripture !

God had **PLANNED** this group of 1,44,000 before even he began to create the world !

☞ **WHAT AN AWESOME THOUGHT INDEED !!**

But here we are **NOT TO THINK** that each of the 1,44,000 are **INDIVIDUALLY FOREKNOWN** -that is not so at all !!

God had FOREKNOWN such A GROUP and ITS SELECTION and ITS DEVELOPMENTAL PROCESS.

☞ This **GROUP** was to be **very special** - **A VERY SPECIAL CREATION OF GOD** - Yes ! They would be the **"BRIDE"** of His dearly beloved Son - Jesus !

☞ A complete **"AGE"** was kept and set aside for the selection and development of this class - **THE GOSPEL AGE !**

This class would be **GUIDED** and **INSTRUCTED** through **THE WORD OF GOD - THE BIBLE (Psalms 119:105)**

Thus it is that we read this matter in

Romans 15:4

"For whatsoever things were written AFORETIME (Before) were written for our learning....."

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Thy Word is Truth

Yes ! Thus it was that, whatever experiences the Gospel Age CHURCH would go through was foreknown to God and
➔ **TYPIFIED in the nation of Israel** during their Jewish Age.

☞ We see this matter very clearly explained in-

1 Corinthians 10:11

"Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples and they are written for our admonition...."

ALL THINGS in the Jewish Age took place as "ensamples" or

➔ **ACTED OUT ILLUSTRATIONS** or **TYPES**.

☞ For example: Jews were identified through **CIRCUMCISION** (**Genesis 17:14**)

But let us see what we read about the significance of that "circumcision" in the Gospel Age in -

Romans 2:28,29

"For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly....But he is a Jew which is one inwardly, and CIRCUMCISION is that of the heart, in the spirit...." (the intention / the mind)

Yes ! Thus **THE FLESHLY JEW** only **TYPIFIED THE SPIRITUAL JEW !**

In fact when the GOSPEL AGE dawned God gave the FIRST CHANCE to these fleshly natural Jews TO BECOME THE FIRST SPIRITUAL JEWS !

For we read in the scriptures of how the order of salvation is in -

Romans 1:16

"For it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew FIRST...."

Yes ! The opportunity to **SALVATION** - whether **HEAVENLY** or **EARTHLY** is to be -
☞ *"to the jew first"*

Thus understood we see and understand the meaning of Jesus' words in -

Matthew 15:24

".....I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

It would seem that Jesus was biased speaking these words !!

☞ **But, No ! It is NOT SO !!**

➔ The **INVITATION** and "calling" to the **CHURCH** class of spiritual Jews **FIRST** went to the nation of **ISRAEL**.

☞ In fact for 7 years

FROM the baptism of Jesus

☞ it was to be **EXCLUSIVELY** to the Jews.

(THIS WE WILL STUDY IN DETAIL IN CLASS # 28 - "The 70 weeks prophecy" of Daniel 9th Chapter and the "seventieth week" and its meaning)




But in spite of **SUCH A GREAT BLESSING AND PRIVILEGE** being offered to Israel we see that **NOT MANY BELIEVED** as we read in -

Romans 9:27

“Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved....”

Yes! **ONLY A SMALL NUMBER** accepted the “calling” and Jesus message and the gospel was **generally REJECTED by the rest**.

 Now, let us note that word “saved”.....

 **WHAT DOES IT REALLY MEAN ?**

As we have studied before there are **TWO** salvations in the **PLAN** of **GOD-**

 one, a **HEAVENLY** salvation during the **GOSPEL AGE**

and to **follow** a **EARTHLY** salvation during the Millennial Age of Jesus kingdom reign of 1000 years (**CHECK AND REFER TO John 11:25,26 / 10:14-16**)

Thus this “saved” over here refers to the **FIRST HEAVENLY SALVATION** which is also referred to in-


Hebrews 2:3

“.....so great salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord;....”

Remember! This was the letter to the Hebrews

 **-THE NATURAL FLESHLY JEWS !**

But only a **FEW** of the fleshly Jews accepted and **RECOGNISED** this great opportunity.

 Thus we read of the condition of **THE REST OF ISRAEL** in

Romans 11:7-8

“What then ? Israel hath NOT obtained that which he seeketh for: but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded....”


Yes ! Israel seeked for the fulfillment of

 **THE ABRAHAMIC PROMISE (Genesis 22:17-18)**

through the Messiah and His Kingdom.

They seeked to be of that “seed” of **ABRAHAM** not realizing there would be **TWO CLASSES** of the “seed” -

 One, **SPIRITUAL**

and the other **EARTHLY !**

And the **SPIRITUAL** would be more greater and **GLORIOUS** than the **EARTHLY !**

But they only recognized

the EARTHLY phase of the **MESSIANIC** Kingdom as we read in -

Luke 24:21; Acts 1:6

 *“But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel:....”*

 *“....They asked of Him saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel.”*



They could not recognize the **MORE GLORIOUS** spiritual PHASE -

☞ *“the stars in the sky”* class !

Thus it was that God sent forth the “calling” for this 1,44,000 class **TO THE GENTILES TOO** as we read in -

Romans 9:24

“..... Even us whom He hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the gentiles.....”



Yes ! They were to be from -

☞ **“every** kindred (tribe), and tongue, and people and nation” of **THE WHOLE WORLD OF MANKIND** as we read in -

Revelation 5:9

“For thou wast slain; and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation.”

In fact they were to be **A NEW NATION** as we read in -

1 Peter 2:9

*“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, and a **HOLY NATION**.....”*

☞ **YES ! THIS NEW “HOLY NATION”- THE ISRAEL OF GOD WAS TYPIFIED BY FLESHLY ISRAEL. THUS IN REVELATION 7TH CHAPTER THE TRIBES OF ISRAEL ARE**
➔ **SYMBOLS FOR THE SPIRITUAL ISRAEL OF GOD.**

In fact the **SIMILARITIES** are many. We will see them as we go along in other subjects.

But let us see a few only today -

<p>1</p> <p>ISRAEL (Towards the North)</p> <p>➔ Consisted of 10 tribes</p> <p>➔ Capital city: SAMARIA</p>	<p>JUDAH (Towards the south)</p> <p>➔ Consisted of 2 tribes</p> <p>➔ Capital city: JERUSALEM</p>
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The blessings of God was more on Judah -than on Israel
(Judah was referred to by Jesus in the Parable of the Rich Man & Lazarus as the Rich Man having “five” brothers)

☞ **WHAT DID THIS TYPIFY IN SPIRITUAL ISRAEL ?**

This **TYPIFIED** the division of the church into **TWO** parts, during the **REFORMATION-**

☞ **THE ROMAN CATHOLICS** AND **THE PROTESTANTS**
(a great majority) (a minority)

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Yet, God's blessings were with the Protestants as they gave more importance to the study of the Bible !



Further we see Israel was divided into-

NOMINAL Israelites and **REAL** Israelites (THIS IS INDIVIDUALLY SPEAKING)

So too there are **NOMINAL** and **REAL** Christians in **SPIRITUAL ISRAEL** today !

2

Just as from the 12 sons of Jacob came forth the nation of Israel, so too **SPIRITUAL ISRAEL** - the Christian church has come forth from.....



THE TWELVE APOSTLES !!



We read this in.....

Ephesians 2:20

“and are built upon the foundation of the APOSTLES and.....”

Yes ! These apostles are again referred to as the foundation stones in....

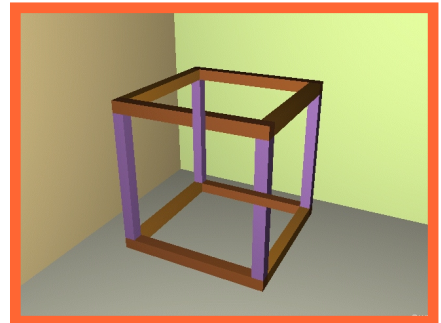
Revelation 21:14

“And the wall of the city had TWELVE foundations, and in them the names of the TWELVE apostles of the Lamb.”

Yes ! This is the **NEW JERUSALEM**- *“the great city”* - which was **A CUBE** of 12,000 furlongs each as we read in -

Revelation 21:16

“And the city lieth four square, and the length is as large as the breadth and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are EQUAL.”



Yes ! This is a cube of **12 SIDES** which when multiplied given an area of -

$12 \times 12,000 \Rightarrow 1,44,000$

Ah ! This is a symbolic picture of the **DIVINE GOVERNMENT** of Jesus and His Church - (**CITY is a symbol for government in the Bible.**)
Yes ! This is Jesus **GOVERNMENT** or the **NEW HEAVENS** of the Third world !

3

As a final **TYPICAL PICTURE** we will see how the nation of Israel received its name - **ISRAEL !**

Yes ! We read of it in -

Genesis 32:24,28

*“and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day....”
And He said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel:
for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed..”*





Yes! After this “wrestling” in the night
 Jacob’s name **WAS CHANGED TO ISRAEL.**

The name Israel **SIGNIFIED**

➔ “One who prevailed or overcame
 with God and with men”.

☞ Now what did all this mean ?

It only **TYPIFIED** the coming
 experiences of **SPIRITUAL ISRAEL**

➔ - the **“ISRAEL OF GOD”**.

Let us see how as we understand this matter **symbolically.**

☞ *“The night”*

This signified the **NIGHT** of this Gospel age when

“.....Darkness covers the earth and gross darkness the people” (Isaiah 60:2)

This is also the **NIGHT** period about which we read in -

Psalms 30:5

“Weeping....endureth for a night”

Yes! The **ENTIRE** Gospel Age spans this period of **“NIGHT”**

☞ Now what is the *“wrestling”* ?

We see that answer in-

Ephesians 6:12

*“For we **WRESTLE** not against flesh and blood, but against principalities,
 against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world....”*

Yes! This is the wrestling of the **“Israel of God”**

➔ - the **STRUGGLE** with **SATAN** and his **FALLEN ANGELS** and
THE POWERS AND WAYS OF EVIL.

☞ Then what is meant by the overcoming ?

Yes! The Church is called to **OVERCOME** as we read in -

Revelation 3:21

“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne.....”

Yes! In the **BATTLE** with the **FORCES OF EVIL**

the **SPIRITUAL ISRAEL** is called upon to **FIGHT A GOOD FIGHT !!**

☞ **NOT** TO FIGHT EVIL WITH EVIL.....

☞**BUT** TO FIGHT EVIL WITH GOOD !!

It takes **FAITH** in God and His **WORD** to do this and to **“OVERCOME”**.

And that is what we read is **REALLY** what the battle is about in -

1 Peter 1:7



"That the trial of your faith.....might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ."

Yes ! In all this "wrestling" or **STRUGGLE** the "overcoming" and the **VICTORY** is gained through **FAITH** which is held on to and not lost through all the struggles with **EVIL** and the **FORCES OF EVIL** !

Thus just like Jacob by **NOT** letting go of the angel and by **OVERCOMING** became **ISRAEL** so too does Spiritual Israel today by **NOT** letting go of their **FAITH** in all these trials become
➔ **"THE ISRAEL OF GOD"**.

Who is it that **TRIES** the faith of "Spiritual Israel" ?
We read the answer in -

Deuteronomy 13:3

*".....For the **LORD** your **GOD** proveth you, to know whether ye love the **LORD** your **GOD** with all your heart and with all your soul."*

➔ **YES! IT IS THE ALMIGHTY GOD HIMSELF !**

Thus it is that the **TRIAL** of the church class is **A TRIAL OF FAITH** and the blessing is for
☞ *"him that overcomes".*

Thus it is that we read in -

James 1:12

*"Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried he shall receive the **CROWN OF LIFE**....."*

☞ Yes! Indeed the picture of Jacob wrestling with the angel of God is a picture of the church class being **TESTED** and **PROVEN** by God Himself !!
Thus they become worthy to be called ⇒ **"Israel"** -
➔ *"one who prevailed and overcame with God."*

☞ **Thus we have seen how closely the fleshly nation of Israel TYPIFIED the "Israel of God"**

☞ **NOW FINALLY WE ARE GOING TO SEE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NAMES OF THE TRIBES OF ISRAEL MENTIONED IN REVELATION 7TH CHAPTER IN A VERY SPECIAL WAY.....**

Yes ! Psychologists recently have come to a conclusion that HUMAN personality TYPES are of 12 BASIC TYPES or varieties.

This is not a surprising discovery. The Bible already tells us the same.

☞ This is why there are the **12 tribes of NATURAL ISRAEL** and **12 apostles of SPIRITUAL ISRAEL** !!

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Notice that even when God promised a **BLESSING** to Abraham's other son Ishmael, He said *“TWELVE PRINCES shall he beget and I shall make him as great nation.”* (Genesis 17:20)



There could have been 10 or even 15 -but, NO!

The number is always 12 !



WHY IS THIS ?



This is because there are 12 **TYPES** of people or personalities in the world. Now these 12 **TYPES** of personalities have perhaps a connection to the 12 months of the year !

You see, the earth revolves around the sun and takes 365 1/4 days to complete **ONE REVOLUTION**. This period is what we refer to as **A YEAR**.

Now this year is further divided into **TWELVE** units called **MONTHS**.

Throughout this period 12 months there are changes of **SEASONS** and **CONDITIONS** and all through these twelve months humans are being born.

These changes of conditions greatly influence people and thus it could be **BROADLY** said that there are **TWELVE** types of human beings who differ **physically, mentally, psychologically** etc.



Thus now the **CHURCH** too is being selected from the same world and has all these **TWELVE** types of humans in it !

There are to be **TWELVE TRIBES** in spiritual Israel and they are to have **DIFFERENCES** in their character !!



WHAT ARE THESE VARIOUS CHARACTER TYPES ?

We can find out by studying each of the names listed in Revelation 7th Chapter and compare it to the **PROPHETIC WORDS** of Jacob the patriarch to each of his twelve sons when he was dying !



This study will reveal **TWELVE CHARACTER** types or personalities.



Let us see the matter now

When we see the **FIRST** tribe mentioned in Genesis 49th chapter, it is **REUBEN** but in Revelation 7th Chapter it is **Judah!**



WHY IS THIS ?



Because Judah was the tribe through which Jesus was born -

“the lion of the tribe of Judah” (Revelation 5:5)

and thus the glory and eminence !

Now let us go to the tribes one by one and check for the **SPECIAL** characteristics.

Today we will see only a few points of each of the 12 tribes.

Those interested can study the matter more **DEEPLY** and find out more !



Let us begin with -

1. REUBEN

We read about this tribe of Reuben by turning to -

Genesis 49:3

".....the excellency of dignity, and the excelling of power".

➔ What is this "excellency" ?

It represents the talents possessed by this class -
these are the **FIVE TALENTED** class in the Church (**Matthew 25:20**)

Those of this class are few in the Church of Jesus Christ having-

➔ **TIME / WEALTH / HEALTH / MENTAL TALENTS**
and **INFLUENCE** (Public speaking capacity).

☞ These are very **SPECIALLY** and **GREATLY** talented.

But there is also a danger to this class,
as we read in -

Genesis 49:4

".....Unstable as water, thou shalt not excel...."

Yes ! These could be led to **MISUSE** their talents in and for the world !

The world will put forth attractions for this class and their full hearted devotion to the Lord could be **DISTRACTED** and **DEVIATED** from the path of "self sacrifice"-

☞ **EVEN TO THE SETTING UP OF ONE'S "OWN" CHURCH !!!**

2. SIMEON

About this tribe of Simeon we read in -

Genesis 49:5

"Simeon and Levi are brothers, their swords are weapons of violence...." (NIV)

☞ What does this mean ?

This is a picture of **SHORT TEMPER** and **ANGER** and **EMOTIONS** as was expressed when Simeon and Levi avenged - their sister **DINAH** by attacking and killing and plundering **THE SHECHEMITES**. (**Genesis 34th chapter**)

☞ Now let us take a look at the meaning of the name "Simeon" in-

Genesis 29:33

"The Lord hath heard....and she called his name Simeon"

Yes ! Simeon means "hearing" representing the character of those who have a **HEARING** ear- who through many **hard life experiences** and **troubles**



have become **SYMPATHETIC** to others and **PATIENT** !

☞ They have **UNDERSTANDING HEARTS** to hear out and comfort others in their problems and sorrows.

3. LEVI

We understand about Levi in the meaning of his name as seen in-

Genesis 29:34

"Now this time will my husband be joined unto me....therefore was his name called Levi"

Yes ! **LEVI** means "**attached to**" and just as Levi as a tribe were separated and attached to the service of God- these brethren of this type are those who are

➔ **FULL TIME** "attached" to the service of God and the Lord.

THEY ARE THE FULL TIME WORKERS !

They do not have any worldly commitments or employment and are **USUALLY BACHELORS** and **UNMARRIED** and either depend on God's service for their needs or have it provided for in their families.

4. JUDAH

About this tribe of Judah we read in -

Genesis 49:8

"Thou art he whom thy brethren shall praise...."



Yes ! These are those whose life and actions **BRING PRAISE TO GOD** as they completely **DENY SELF** !.

The great members of this class are **JESUS** and the **APOSTLE PAUL** !! We also see another sense of this "praise" as referring to those who seek to praise God in **SONG WRITING**, **SINGING** and **WRITING POEMS** in the praise of God.

5. ZEBULON

About this tribe Zebulon we read in -

Genesis 49:13

"Zebulon shall dwell at the haven of the sea...."



What does this mean ?

ZEBULON means "dwelling place" (**Genesis 30:20**) and denotes a spiritual class who all their life



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in serving the Lord have **NO PARTICULAR DWELLING PLACE** for themselves
in the spirit of Jesus' words in-

Luke 9:58

*“Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests,
but the Son of man hath not **WHERE TO LAY HIS HEAD....**”*

Yes! They move from **PLACE TO PLACE** in the service of the Lord.
They are born in **one place**, live **in another place** and die **in yet another**. !

👉 **GREAT SACRIFICE** and **SELF DENIAL** have led to the spread of
the truth of the gospel.

Many of this class have sacrificed their all in the service of the Lord
having no “**address**” but **ONLY** trusting in Him who said-

“...I go to prepare a place for you....” (John 14:2)

Yes! They have trusted the Lord for the **HEAVENLY ADDRESS** and mind not the fact
that they have **NO FIXED EARTHLY ADDRESS**.

👉 This **CLASS** live out the words of the poet who sang -
“**This world is NOT my home, I'm just a passing through....**”

6. ISSACHAR



About this tribe of Issachar we read in -

Genesis 49:14

“Issachar is a strong ass couching down between two burdens....”

Ah! **ISSACHAR** is compared to a **DONKEY** !

Now, today the “donkey” is an animal of **DISHONOUR** and **fools** are called- “donkey”.
It **WOULD SEEM DISHONOURABLE** for these brethren to be compared to a donkey !

👉 But **NOT SO** in the Bible !

The donkey is an **animal of honour**- Jesus sat upon a donkey, **remember? !!**
(Refer to Zechariah 9:9/ Matthew 21:7)

THE DONKEY BORE BURDENS AND WAS VERY USEFUL.

In what way is this tribe or **CLASS** of Issachar compared to a donkey ??
Let us read further in -

Genesis 49:15

*“And he saw that the rest was good and the land that it was pleasant,
and.....became a **servant unto tribute.**”*



Yes ! These are those who are **WORKERS** in the Lord's service

☞ - **TIRELESS WORKERS !**

Indeed much of the Lord's service would not have been made possible

➡ **WITHOUT THE EFFORTS** of this class of brethren and sisters.

They occupy a “**behind the scene**” kind of position and their **EFFORTS** and **LABOURS** are not prominently **NOTICED** but we are sure they are

➡ **GREATLY NOTED AND VALUED** of the Lord.

Now what are the “two burdens” that are referred to over here ?

We read the answer in -

1 Timothy 4:16

“Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine.....thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.”

Yes ! Truly “**between two burdens**” !!

Yes ! **THEIR SALVATION** and**THE SALVATION OF OTHERS** through their serving in the Lord's harvest service and labours.

7. MANASSEH

(IN PLACE OF DAN)

Let us first see Dan and the class he represents as we read about Dan in -

Genesis 49:16,17

“Dan shall judge his people..... Dan shall be a serpent by the way.... that biteth the horse heels, so that his rider shall fall backward.”

Yes ! This class “**judge**” their brethren -that is, they **CRITICIZE TOO MUCH !!**

☞ Yes ! It is seen that this habit of **CRITICIZING** and **JUDGING** “others” is present with all Christians !!


➡ But **TRUE JUDGEMENT** is based on clearly reading the **HEART INTENTION** of the person. **BUT WHAT DO WE SEE ?**

One cannot read another's **HEART**, we can only judge the actions-but this class we see is **OVER CRITICAL**.

☞ And in addition Dan is also a serpent !
-A **DECEIVER** ! Like Judas Iscariot !

☞ What does “*biteth the horse heels*” mean ?
Here we must remember that this is symbolic language being used.



 The “horse” here is a symbol.
What is it a symbol of ?
We read that answer in -


Isaiah 31:1

“Woe to them, that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses and trust in chariots, because they are many.....but they look not unto the Holy of Israel, neither seek the LORD.”

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN ? We see an explanation of the matter in -

Isaiah 31:3

“Now the Egyptians are men, and not God, and their horses flesh AND NOT SPIRIT...”

Yes! The “Egypt” and “Egyptians” over here symbolize the **WORLD**
and the “horses of flesh” symbolize the **BELIEFS** and **DOCTRINES** of man.
They are not “spirit”, meaning the **WORLDLY BELIEFS**
and **DOCTRINES** are **NOT** of God.

 **So we see “horses” symbolize DOCTRINES, TEACHINGS or BELIEFS.**


Now what is meant of Dan that he -

 *“biteth the horse heels” ?*

Just as the “heel” is a **TINY** or **SMALL** part of the whole horse so
this symbolizes a **TINY** or **SMALL** point about a doctrine.

WHAT THEN DOES THIS DAN CLASS OF BRETHERN DO ?

They meddle with the **DOCTRINES** using small deceptive means
 (“biteth the horse heels”) to **MISGUIDE** and **MISINTERPRET** and

 *“causes the rider to fall backwards”*

or in other words the **BELIEVER IN THAT DOCTRINE** is thus
CONFUSED and **MISLED** and **DECEIVED**.

 Truly a terrible thing to do and a matter of
GREAT warning of CAREFULNESS for all who are **TEACHERS** of the Word.

They are thus found **UNFIT** and are **REPLACED** by **MANASSEH** which means-
“to forget”.

This class follow the Master in the words as seen in -

Psalms 45:10,11

*-“Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear; forget also thine own people,
and thy father’s house; so shall the King greatly desire thy beauty, for He is thy Lord....”*

Here this scripture we read speaks of a call to **FORGET** !

Yes ! The call is to -



➡ *forget also thine own people,*
➡ *.....and thy father's house.*

Here the "daughter" is the **PROSPECTIVE BRIDE OF CHRIST** and the meaning of the matter here we will take up in future classes.

This class of "*Manasseh*" too have a special **ABILITY** to "FORGET".

☞ **WHAT IS IT** that they **FORGET** ?

This **CLASS** of brethren and sisters have great earthly troubles of **family problems, oppositions, financial troubles and even health problems -**

☞ yet - **THEY FORGET IT ALL**

and don't allow these troubles to **AFFECT** their **SPIRITUAL LIFE !!**

8. GAD

Now about the tribe of *Gad* we read in -

Genesis 49:19

"Gad, a troop shall overcome...."

GAD means "*troop cometh*" (**Genesis 30:11**) or "fortune".

Here the "**troop**" represents a bunch of people - and specifically **CHILDREN !**

Yes ! These represent those who invest all their energies into **BRINGING UP THEIR CHILDREN in the way of TRUTH and GODLINESS.**

➡ Ah ! Thus this group of **GAD** consist of the **SISTERS !**

Yes ! The way of salvation for the sisters is very clearly seen in -

1 Timothy 2:15

"Notwithstanding she shall be saved in child bearing...."

➡ What is this "*child bearing*" ?

Does it refer to bearing many innumerable children ?

☞ **MOST DEFINITELY NOT !!**

This is a reference to the "**housewife**" work or the work of bringing up children !

Yes ! How important a work this is ! It is **NOT** so simple !

What a tireless job it is which goes on **DAILY** for so many years !

➡ And in a world surrounded and dominated by **EVIL !!**

Yes ! These sisters labour hard to bring up their children in the **KNOWLEDGE** of God and His word and in the way of **TRUTH !**



☞ And really ! It is the “good fortune” of THOSE who have such mothers !
Thus we see GAD meaning “ *a troop cometh*” and “*good fortune*” !!

9. ASHER

And about the tribe of Asher we read in -

Genesis 49:20

“Out of Asher his bread shall be fat....”

Yes ! ASHER means “happy”

(As we read the meaning of the name “Asher” in GENESIS 30:13).

These are the class that are ALWAYS cheerful and smiling -no matter what be their situation and circumstances.

☞ They ENCOURAGE and INSPIRE others !!!

These are REJOICING Christians as they follow the words of the Apostle Paul in-

Phillippians 4:4

“Rejoice in the Lord alway; and again I say, Rejoice.”

➡ and again we read the same in....

1 Thessalonians 5:16

“Rejoice evermore....”

They are TRULY ALWAYS REJOICING in the Lord whatever be their circumstances.
Their SMILES light up so many troubled hearts around them !

☞ Have you some ASHER TRIBE MEMBERS around you brethren ?

☞ THESE ARE TONIC TO THE SORROWFUL AND HEAVY HEARTED.

10. NAPHTALI

Now about this tribe of Naphtali we read in -

Genesis 49:21

“Naphtali is a hind let loose...”

☞ NOW WHAT COULD THIS MEAN ?

Let us see the meaning of the word and the name - “Naphtali”.



NAPHTALI means “wrestling” as we read in -

Genesis 30:8

*“And Rachel said, with great wrestling have I wrestled...and I have prevailed:
and she called his name Naphtali.”*

- 👉 What kind of “wrestling” is this?
Is it with other brethren?
- 👉 **SURELY NOT !!!**

It is a wrestling of a very different kind !

Yes ! This class spends hours “wrestling” with God
in prayer and ON THEIR KNEES
for the harvest work, welfare of brethren, etc.

They are called - PRAYER WARRIORS !!



- 👉 These brethren and sisters labour **UNSEEN** as they plead at the throne of Heavenly grace on behalf of other brethren who **MORE ACTIVELY LABOUR** in the field of the Lord's service !

11. JOSEPH

About this tribe of “Joseph” we read in -

Genesis 49:22

“Joseph is a fruitful bough....”

Ah ! Yes ! This class of “**JOSEPH**” is shown as
“fruitful”.

Further we learn more from the meaning of the name **JOSEPH** in -
Genesis 30:24 → *“and she called his name Joseph and said, The LORD shall add to me another.”*

Yes ! Joseph means “to add” !

This **CLASS** then are having the **CHARACTER** of “fruitful” AND “to add”.

This class are those who have within them many “additional” qualities -

- 👉 **MULTI QUALITIES** to add to their services to the Lord.
- 👉 But they are not **PERFECT** in any one work and neither are these their **TRADE** or their **PROFESSION** !

**These are like the English saying-
“JACK of all trades, MASTER of none.”**

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These are the **VERY USEFUL** in a range of activities -

-  **mike arrangements,**
-  **electrical work,**
-  **vehicle repairs,**
-  **running errands,**
-  **computer operations etc.**

These are **INVALUABLE** in the Lord's service and their importance is **emphasised** during **EMERGENCIES** in the Lord's service as they are ready and able to lend a hand in a great variety of ways.

Yes ! This **JOSEPH** class could also represent a possession of many **CHARACTERISTICS**, without any **PREDOMINANT CHARACTER ATTRIBUTE** !
Yes ! They are "*fruitful*" and "*add*" their **USEFULNESS** in the Lord's service !

12. BENJAMIN

Now finally about the tribe of Benjamin we read in -

Genesis 49:27

"Benjamin shall ravin as a wolf, in the morning he shall devour the prey..."

 **NOW, WHAT DOES THIS MEAN ?**

Perhaps the answer to the nature of this tribe of spiritual Israel is found in the meaning of the name of "**Benjamin**" which we read in -

Genesis 35:18

"And it came to pass as her soul was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name BEN - ONI: but his father called him BENJAMIN."

Yes ! His original name given was "**BENONI**" meaning "**son of my trouble**" for when he was born his mother Rachel was dying.
But later his father Jacob changed his name to **BENJAMIN** which means -

 **"Son of my right hand"**

 So what does this class represent ?

They represent a class of brethren who become **assistants** and "**right hands**" of those who are being more **ACTIVELY** and **GREATLY** used of the Lord.

THEY PLAY A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE LORD'S MINISTRY.

Yes ! All through the Gospel Age this class has been present.



Imagine the **APOSTLE PAUL** without **TIMOTHY** or **SILAS**
or **BARNABAS** or **LUKE** (II Timothy 4:11)

👉or the **APOSTLE PETER** without **MARK** (or Marcus) (I Peter 5:13).

Yes ! This class greatly **ENCOURAGE** and **ASSIST** and **SUPPORT**
the more well known and **PROMINENT** brethren in the Lord's service.

👉 **THUS WE HAVE SEEN GREAT SPIRITUAL MEANING
HIDDEN IN THE NAMES OF THESE 12 TRIBES LISTED IN
REVELATION 7th CHAPTER.**

Yes ! Today we have studied and have confirmed that the 12 tribes
of the 7th chapter of Revelation refer to

➡ the **CALLED, CHOSEN** and **FAITHFUL** members OF
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

➡those number is to be a **FIXED NUMBER OF 1,44,000.**

👉 Thus we conclude our studies of the **CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST -
ITS CALLING, DEVELOPMENT AND FINAL GLORIFICATION.**

---Amen--

