

Doctrine of the Levitical Priesthood

Lost Privileges

1. Reuben, the oldest son had three privileges.
 - Rulership The oldest son was the family patriarch
 - Priesthood The oldest son was the family priest
 - Double portion The oldest son was to receive a double blessing

2. Reuben lost all of his privileges through instability.
 - The rulership was lost to Judah.
 - The priesthood was lost to Levi.
 - The double portion was lost to Joseph.

3. Joseph had two sons, Ephraim and Mannaseh.

4. In the end there were thirteen tribes of Israel: twelve independent tribes and one spiritual tribe, the tribe of Levi.

5. "Israel" is the name that God gave Jacob.
 - *Genesis 32:28 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.*

Special Note.

The Twelve Sons of Jacob are different from The Twelve Tribes of Israel. In the list of the tribes, Levi is exempted because of priestly duties. Joseph is not listed as a tribe because he and Levi are replaced by the two sons of Joseph, Ephraim and Manasseh

The Twelve Tribes of Israel

Father Jacob	Mother
Reuben	Leah
Simeon	Leah
Levi (Priestly tribe)	Leah
Judah	Leah
Issachar	Leah
Zebulun	Leah
Benjamin	Rachel

Joseph	Rachel	
❖ Ephraim	Asenath	wife of Joseph
❖ Manasseh	Asenath	wife of Joseph
Dan	Bilhah	Rachel's handmaid
Naphtali	Bilhah	Rachael's handmaid
Gad	Zilpah	Leah's handmaid
Asher	Zilpah	Leah's handmaid

Special Note.

- *Genesis 35:23 The sons of Leah; Reuben, Jacob's firstborn, and Simeon, and Levi, and Judah, and Issachar, and Zebulun: 24 The sons of Rachel; Joseph, and Benjamin: 25 And the sons of Bilhah, Rachel's handmaid; Dan, and Naphtali: 26 And the sons of Zilpah, Leah's handmaid; Gad, and Asher: these are the sons of Jacob, which were born to him in Padan-aram.*
 - *Exodus 1:1 Now these are the names of the children of Israel, which came into Egypt; every man and his household came with Jacob. 2 Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah, 3 Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin, 4 Dan, and Naphtali, Gad, and Asher.*
 - *1 Chronicles 2:1 These are the sons of Israel; Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun, 2 Dan, Joseph, and Benjamin, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher.*
6. That Levi would be chosen to be the priestly line is a remarkable illustration of God's grace considering what he and Simeon did. The sordid story of bloodshed and violence is told in Genesis 34.
 7. For his transgressions, God placed Levi under a curse: he would never inherit the land.
 8. Because Levi repented, God's curse on him was turned into a blessing. Levi would become the spiritual leaders of Israel and his son were appointed to be priests unto God.



THE 12 TRIBES OF ISRAEL

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|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| ■ Reuben | ■ Judah | ■ Naphtali | ■ Issachar | ■ Zebulun |
| ■ Simeon | ■ Dan | ■ Gad | ■ Asher | ■ Benjamin |
| ■ Ephraim | ■ Manasseh | | | |