

BIBLE CLASS 10:11:2022:- NUMBERS CHAPTER 2

THE ORDER OF THE TRIBES OF ISRAEL

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Forty years had passed since Moses under Yahweh's direction had led the children of Israel out of Egypt and into the wilderness. During that time large numbers of the mixed multitude had passed away along with the complaining Israelites who were gradually buried in the wilderness until all the generation, that had done evil in the sight of the LORD, were consumed. (Num 32:13) During that time, the Israelites wandered in the wilderness for forty years. The possible route of their journeys through the wilderness is illustrated below

2. Israel's Exodus from Egypt and Entry into Canaan

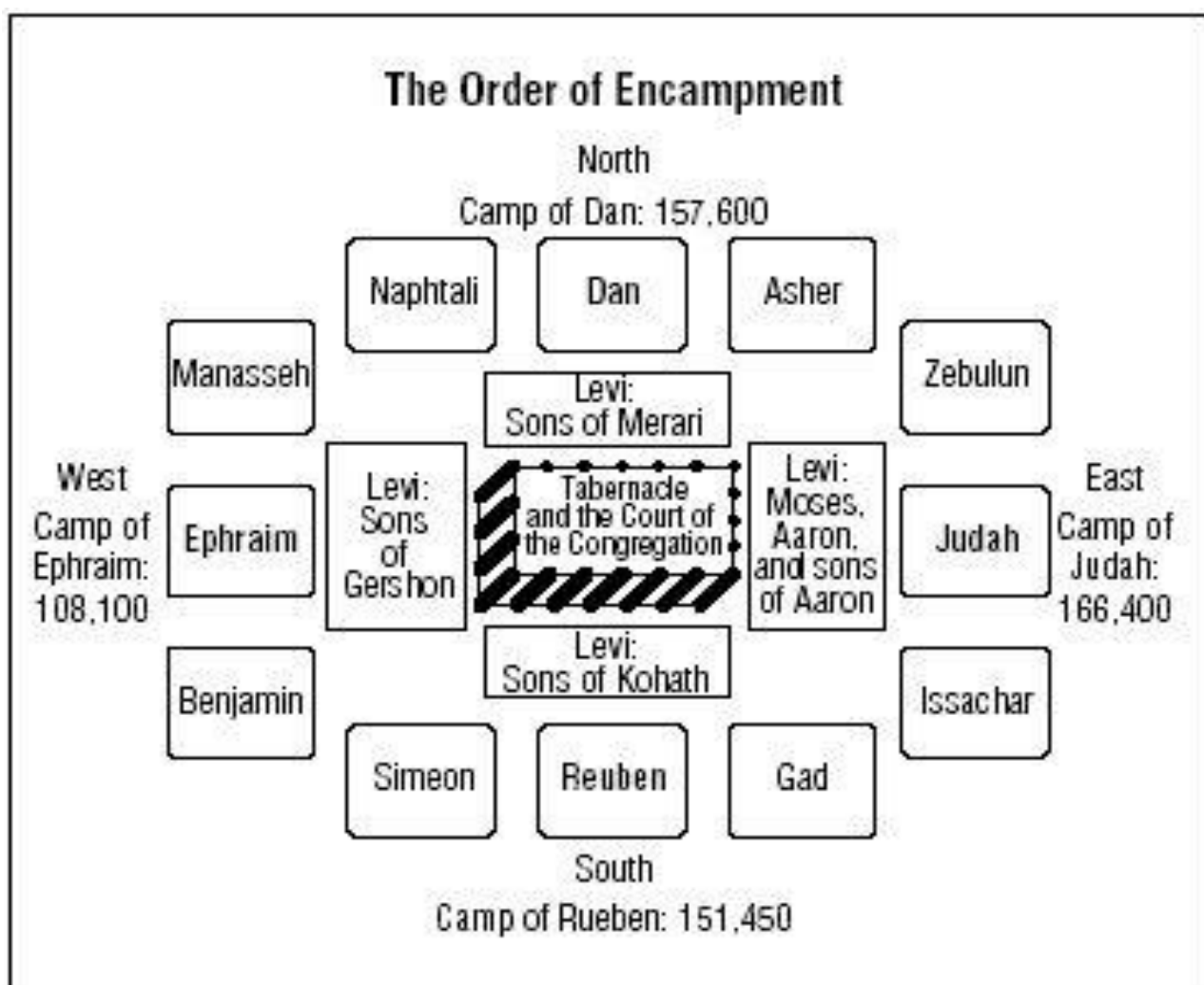


The journeys of the Israelites from Egypt to the plains of Jordan near Jericho. The journeys were recorded by Moses himself, the starting point was in Egypt and there are forty camps listed Numbers 33.

The camps were set up in an orderly manner and were situated around the Tabernacle, so that it was at the centre of the encampment. The front of the

Tabernacle was toward the east and the sun's rising, Moses, Aaron and his sons had their tents pitched in front of the Tabernacle while the families the tribe of Levi pitched their tents along the sides and rear of the tabernacle.; the Merarites on the north side, the Kohathites on the south side and the Gershonites on the west side. The main body of the Israelites were encamped around the Tabernacle but at a distance on each side of about a half mile, described as (afar off). This was to emphasise that though Yahweh was willing to be the God of Israel, there was to be no easy familiarity with him, as Psalm 89:7 makes clear "God is **greatly to be feared** in the assembly of the saints, and **to be had in reverence** of all *them that are* about him." **Eccl. 5:1** Keep your foot when you go to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they do not consider that they do evil.

The tribes had an allotted place each for their camp. On the eastside toward the suns rising, the tribes of Issachar, Judah and Zebulun were camped; on the north side the tribes Asher, Dan and Naphtali, were camped; on the south side the tribes of Gad Reuben and Simeon were camped, and on the west side the tribes of Benjamin, Ephraim and Manasseh were camped.



Every one of the tribes of the children of Israel were to be pitch their tents by their own standard or Banner. These banners marked the four divisions of the entire encampment. Each tribe had their own appointed banner or flag. Below you can see how the Jews in Israel are mindful of their past and have published postage stamps with the designs for each tribe.



This relation ship between the twelve tribes was provided by Yahweh who regarded himself as the Father of the Israelites, all of whom were linked together in family groups. They fought together in families for a common cause, supporting one another in battle. In the first chapter we were reminded of names of the men who were appointed as princes and leaders to the three tribes under their control. The first group comprised of Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun were led by Nahshon, Nethaneel and Eliab. The second group consisted of Reuben Simeon and Gad, led byElizur, Shelumiel and Eliasaph. The third group were Ephraim, Mannasseh and Benjamin under Elishama, Gamaliel and Abidan. The fourth group were led by Dan, Asher, and Naphtali under their leaders Ahiezer, Pagiel and Ahira.

Collectively the total of Israel's warriors at this time is given as 603,550 comprised of :- the First Division:- JUDAH: 74,600, ISSACHAR: 54,400 and ZEBULUN: 57,400. The second division:- REUBEN: 46,500, SIMEON: 59,500 and Gad:45,650. The Third Division:- EPHRAIM:40,500 MANASSEH:32,200 and BENJAMIN: 35,400. The forth Division:-DAN:-62,700 ASHER:- 41,500 and NAPHTALI:-53,400

These armies of the living God, were comprised of men able to go forth to war, physically and mentally able. Each of these warriors belonged to an identifiable family, and so be bonded together in their determination to overcome their enemies. Similar to the bonding in Israel's forces today apart from the fact that Israeli young women are trained to fight in the army and it is nothing to see young women carrying lethal weapons around Jerusalem and other cities. We are reminded here of the prophet Nehemiah's battle cry (Neh 4:14) "Remember Yahweh, who is great and terrible, Fight for your brethren, your sons and your daughters and your wives and your families."



Each of the tribes pitched their tents around the standard or flag of their tribe. The four leading tribes flags together proclaimed the the purpose of Yahweh in

Israel. The Lion, the Man, the Ox and the Eagle were the four faces of the Cherubim in Ezekiel's prophecy and pre-eminently they signify aspects of the character of the Lord Jesus Christ. Matthew revealed the aspect of the Lion which signified Rulership and Jacob prophesied that "out of Judah would spring the royal tribe from which the Messiah would come. "The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet until Shiloh come" (Gen. 49: 9 & 10). "Behold the Lion of the tribe of Judah" (Rev. 5:5). "Which was the son of Judah" (Luke 3:23, 33). Mark writes of Jesus as the burden bearer and servant symbolised by the Ox, and dedicated as the sin offering (Lev.8:17). Luke writes of Jesus as a Man, tracing his genealogy back to Adam(3:38), while John depicts him as an Eagle, seeing far into the future, to the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple, to the time when he would return to gather his elect together, and John also recorded all that the Lord Jesus had revealed to him in the Book of Revelation, from the fall Roman Paganism and the rise of the Roman Catholic apostacy, the rise of Islam and the rise of European and Asian

Empire builders, and the First and Second World Wars and the beginning of the Nuclear Age, and the revival of the State of Israel.

The Cherubim prophecy is not confined to the Lord Jesus, for it includes all who become an extension of himself, as John testifies of Jesus's request to his Father(John 17:20-23) "**Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word**; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, *art* in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gave me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

Brothers and Sisters as saints today, need the same thought processes and characteristics. They must, while in the flesh (MAN) serve Yahweh; and continually meditate upon His word (OX); ruling ourselves by that word (LION); and be guided by the **Spirit** Word (EAGLE). In this way we as the Cherubim, looking toward the MERCY SEAT that is Christ. When we as those sanctified by God by the one Great Offering (Heb.10:13) assemble at the Memorial Table our mutual focus is toward our Mercy Seat, which is our Lord Jesus Christ

Returning to the order of the tribes in Moses day, it has been shown how the full names of the princes chosen to lead the twelve tribes, in Hebrew, reveal some remarkable significances.

REUBEN: See the Son revealing that EL (God) is a rock and the Shaddai (Almighty) is a Light

SIMEON: Hear him for EL provides peace and the Shaddai will be a Rock.

JUDAH: Praise him, for the Oracle (the Word) will develop the people of liberality

ISSACHAR: The reward will be given of God to the humble

ZEBULUN: He will provide a strong dwelling, for god is a Father to the strong

JOSEPH: The children of the Increaser will produce double fruit, for God hears the people of glory, causing them to forget, recompensing them through the ransomed Rock

BENJAMIN: The son of His right hand is a Father of judgment to the warlike

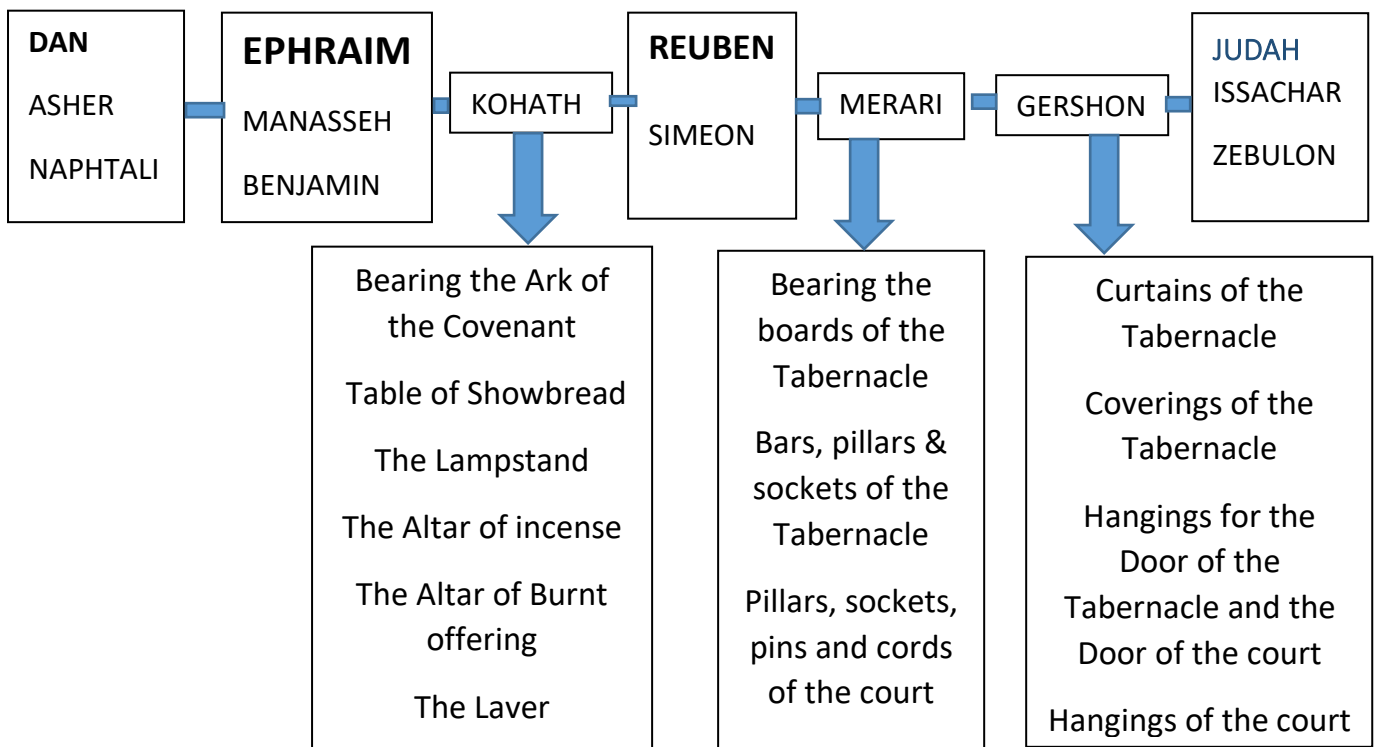
DAN: The judgment through the helping brother will reveal the people of the Shaddai

ASHER: The blessing will come as God meets to subdue the troubler.

GAD: The company God will gather will be all known to him.

NAPHTALI: He will successfully wrestle with the evil brother for he has eyes to discern.

THE ORDERS OF THE MARCHING TRIBES



JUDAH: 74,600, ISSACHAR: 54,400 ZEBULUN: 57,400 REUBEN: 46,500

SIMEON: 59,300 GAD: 45,650 EPHRAIM 40,500 MANASSEH 32,200

BENJAMIN: 35,400, DAN: 62,700 ASHER: 41,500 NAPHTALI: 53,400

These *are* those which were numbered of the children of Israel by the house of their fathers: all those that were numbered of the camps throughout their hosts **were six hundred thousand and three thousand and five hundred and fifty.**

Numbers 2:32)