

The camp of Israel was a living manifestation of the glory of God. In so far as God's people reflected the characteristics and attributes of their heavenly Father, they wore that mantle.

This camp was highly organised. There were standards and ensigns, but the details are not supplied. Some attribute these to the commonly represented motifs as follows

Sun, tower, ephod, lion, galley, ass, scales, tent, gazelle, wolf, tree, sheaf as depicted in the attached picture from an official medal struck by the state of Israel when I was born in 1961. Levi is included in these ensigns but the chapter splits Joseph into the two separate tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh.

These are also represented as

In Numbers 23v10 the fourth part of Israel is mentioned this equates with one of the four quarters each of three tribes which took up position surrounding the tabernacle and the tribe of Levi when they camped.

On the east, towards the rising of the sun was Judah, together with Issachar and Zebulun. The Lion was their symbol, Genesis 49v9, see also Isaiah 59v19 *"so shall they fear the name of the LORD from the West, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him."* The Lion is one of the four faces of the Cherubim.

On the South, was Reuben together with Simeon and Gad. Their symbol was that of a man. Reuben means "see a sun" and In Ezekiel 1v10 another of the phases of the Cherubim was that of a man and this was the first of the four faces seen as it approached from the north. The southern face was there for that of a man. This equates with the camp of Reuben which pitched on the Southside.

On the West was Ephraim together with Manasseh and Benjamin. Their symbol was that of an ox. See Deuteronomy 33 v 17 *"His glory is like the firstling of his Bullock, and his horns are like the horns of unicorn's: with them he shall push the people together to the ends of the earth: and they are the ten thousands of Ephraim and they are the thousands of Manasseh."* Again, the ox is one of the four faces of the Cherubim.

The north Was Dan together with Asher and Naphtali. Their symbol was that of an eagle. In Ezekiel 1v10 the last face of the cherubim was that of an eagle. this was on the north side furthest from view from the prophet and therefore equates with the camp of Dan. In Genesis 49 v 17 then is equated with a serpent or adder, this appears to have been eclipsed by the eagle representation in the faces of the cherubim which is more fitting as a positive symbol of spirituality. The name Dan means "judgement", and the eagle is far-seeing. It should also be remembered that the eagle is an unclean bird, however this does not distract from it being used as a representation of the clean House of Israel, even as it is recorded in Exodus 19v4 that God himself compared himself to an eagle in respect of their deliverance from Egypt.

Grouped together the four camps were in size order: Judah 186,400, Dan 157,600, Reuben 151,450, Ephraim 108,100. A total of 603,550 which were all men of war, the

host or army of Israel. Adding in an equal number of female wives and an additional number for children and those older than fighting age, does produce a total population in excess of 3 million. There can be no certainty of this aggregate figure, however we do know that this population size was not considered particularly excessive or even significant. In Deuteronomy 7v7 it says, *“the LORD did not set His love upon you, nor choose you, because you were more in number than any people; For you were the fewest of all people:”* Other peoples were therefore certainly more numerous at that time than the Hebrew nation, comprising of the 12 tribes of Israel, assembled in their four camps.

Each of these 12 tribes were headed by a named individual, designated as their captain.

Nahshon son of Amminadab of Judah

Nethaneel son of Zuar of Issachar.

Eliab son of Helon of Zebulun.

Elizur son of Shedeur of Reuben.

Shelumiel son of Zurishaddai of Simeon.

Eliasaph son of Reuel of Gad.

Elishama son of Ammihud of Ephraim.

Gamaliel son of Pedahzur of Manasseh.

Abidan son of Gideoni of Benjamin.

Ahiezer son of Ammishaddai of Dan.

Pagiel son of Ocran of Asher.

Ahira son of Enan of Naphtali.

These were all men of renown, reputation and rank Who would have fought against the enemies of Israel such as the Amalekites, See Exodus 17. While now is not the time for violence and physical warfare, we can nevertheless revere these individuals whom God honoured for their service to His nation. They all marched in a specific order.

Many, at this time of year, honour their so-called glorious dead, who died in battle pursuing the agendas of godless nations and peoples as they fought each other in the last century in great conflicts. However, these men, and those they captained were God's army, doing God's work at a time when the iniquity of the Amorites had become full.

In Psalm 149v7-9 it says, *“to execute vengeance upon the heathen, and punishments upon the people; To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; to execute upon them the judgement written: this honour have all his Saints.”* This speaks of another future time when this Cherubic host will be reassembled under the leadership of the great captain of their salvation, the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the great vanquishing general of the Kingdom age. Will we be among that number?