

The **twelve tribes of Israel**, derived from the twelve sons of Jacob (also known as Israel), are listed in order of birth with their respective meanings as follows:

1. **Reuben** – "Behold, a son" or "See, a son!" , reflecting Leah's joy at being heard by God.
2. **Simeon** – "Heard" or "God has heard," signifying that God heard Leah's affliction.
3. **Levi** – "Joined" or "Attached," expressing Leah's hope that Jacob would now be bound to her.
4. **Judah** – "Praise," as Leah praised God for giving her this son.
5. **Dan** – "Judge," derived from Rachel's declaration that God had vindicated her.
6. **Naphtali** – "My struggle" or "My wrestling," referring to Rachel's rivalry with Leah.
7. **Gad** – "Good fortune" or "Troop," reflecting Leah's exclamation of blessing.
8. **Asher** – "Happy" or "Blessed," indicating Leah's joy at her good fortune.
9. **Issachar** – "There is a reward" or "He will bring a reward," alluding to God's reward for Leah.
10. **Zebulun** – "Dwelling" or "Habitation," expressing Leah's hope that Jacob would now dwell with her.
11. **Joseph** – "He will add," meaning God would add another son to Rachel.
12. **Benjamin** – "Son of my right hand," denoting a favored position; originally named Ben-oni ("son of my sorrow") but renamed by Jacob.

It is important to note that while Levi was one of the twelve sons, the tribe was set apart for priestly duties and did not receive a territorial inheritance like the others. Additionally, Joseph's lineage split into two tribes—Ephraim and Manasseh—due to his sons being blessed by Jacob, which is why the final list of tribes includes Ephraim and Manasseh instead of Joseph.

[Genesis 29:32–30:24](#), The Scriptures record that the gospel was preached not only to the first century believers, but to ancient Israel ([Heb 4:2](#)), as well the Patriarchs ([Gal 3:8](#)). Here is another

example of this in the meanings of the names of the twelve sons of Jacob. They are: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph and Benjamin (who was not born until [Gen 35:18](#)). Translated their names mean:



- Reuben/"See, a Son," (this points to Yeshua).
- Simeon/"Hearing" (hear the Son or gospel/good news).
- Levi/"Joined" (referring to the union by which the Set-Apart Spirit makes us one with the Son through the hearing of the gospel).
- Judah/"Praise" (the response of the redeemed upon being joined to Yeshua and becoming regenerated spiritually or born from above).
- Dan/"Judgment" (the believer, though worthy of judgment for his sin, has passed from judgment to life through the atoning blood of Yeshua).
- Naphtali/"Wrestling" (this speaks of the believer's life as he struggles against the world, flesh and the devil endeavoring to walk righteously).
- Gad/"Troop, Company" (this speaks of the fellowship of believers in the household of faith), the result of fellowship is Asher/"Happiness."
- Issachar/"Hire" (once a part of the spiritual body of believers, one is equipped for works of service in advancing the kingdom of Elohim as a bondservant).

- Zebulun/“Dwelling, Exalt, Honor” (we are to occupy until Yeshua comes again while we honor and exalt him before the Gentiles).
- Joseph/“Adding” (can refer to adding to the body of believers in Yeshua through outreach or to rewards in YHVH’s eternal kingdom for a job well done laboring in YHVH’s spiritual field).
- Benjamin/“Son of My Right Hand” (a reference to Yeshua who sits at the right hand of YHVH and to believers who are seated with Yeshua in heavenly places, by faith).

Or another way to look at it is this:

- Judah means “Now I will praise YHVH.” ([Gen 29:35](#))
- Reuben means “Surely YHVH has looked upon my affliction.” ([Gen 29:32](#))
- Gad means “What good fortune.” ([Gen 30:11](#))
- Asher means “Happy am I.” ([Gen 30:13](#))
- Naphtali means “With great wrestlings have I wrestled.” ([Gen 30:8](#))
- Manasseh means “For Elohim [said he], ‘has made me forget all my toil.’” ([Gen 41:51](#))
- Simeon means “Because YHVH has heard that I was hated.” ([Gen 29:33](#))
- Levi means “Now this time will my husband be joined to me.” ([Gen 29:34](#))
- Issachar means “Elohim has given me my wages.” ([Gen 30:18](#))
- Zebulon means “Elohim has endowed me with a good gift, now my husband will dwell with me.” ([Gen 30:20](#))
- Joseph means “YHVH shall add to me.” ([Gen 30:24](#))
- Benjamin means “You shall have this son. ([Gen 35:17–18](#))
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Combined the names tell the following story: Now will I praise YHVH. Surely YHVH has looked upon my affliction. What good fortune. Happy am I. With great wrestlings have I wrestled and I have prevailed. For Elohim has made me forget all my toil because YHVH has heard that I was hated. Now this time will my husband be joined unto me. Elohim has given me my wages. Elohim has endowed me with a good gift. Now my husband will dwell with me. YHVH shall add to me. You shall have this son.

It starts with Yeshua and ends with him. He is the *Aleph* and the *Tav* (or the *Alpha* and *Omega*), the Beginning and the End, the Author and Finisher of our faith! Give him glory! Pause and reflect on these names. Is it possible that the mind of man could have cleverly contrived these names and their order about 1800 years before the birth of Yeshua?

Where are you in this prophetic scenario? In your spiritual walk have you passed through the reality of each of the twelve steps? Perhaps this is the world’s original “twelve-step program”!