# GENESIS

## FOUNDATIONS OF OUR FAITH

Genesis 49:1-27, Part 1 of 2

The last words of a dying father

“the twelve tribes of Israel”

GENESIS

# The Twelve Tribes of Israel in the Bible

| **Genesis account** | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Reuben |
| 2 | Simeon |
| 3 | Levi |
| 4 | Judah |
| 5 | Zebulun |
| 6 | Issachar |
| 7 | Dan |
| 8 | Gad |
| 9 | Asher |
| 10 | Naphtali |
| 11 | Joseph |
| 12 | Benjamin |

| Deuteronomy account | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Reuben |
| 2 | Judah |
| 3 | Levi |
| 4 | Benjamin |
| 5 | Joseph |
| 6 | Zebulun |
| 7 | Issachar |
| 8 | Gad |
| 9 | Dan |
| 10 | Naphtali |
| 11 | Asher |
| 12 | Simeon |

Simeon

| Division of Canaan | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Reuben |
| 2 | Simeon |
| 3 | Judah |
| 4 | Dan |
| 5 | Naphtali |
| 6 | Gad |
| 7 | Asher |
| 8 | Issachar |
| 9 | Zebulun |
| 10 | Benjamin |
| 11 | Ephraim |
| 12 | Manasseh |

Levi

| **Revelation 7** | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Judah |
| 2 | Reuben |
| 3 | Gad |
| 4 | Asher |
| 5 | Naphtali |
| 6 | Manasseh |
| 7 | Simeon |
| 8 | Levi |
| 9 | Issachar |
| 10 | Zebulun |
| 11 | Joseph (Ephraim) |
| 12 | Benjamin |

Dan

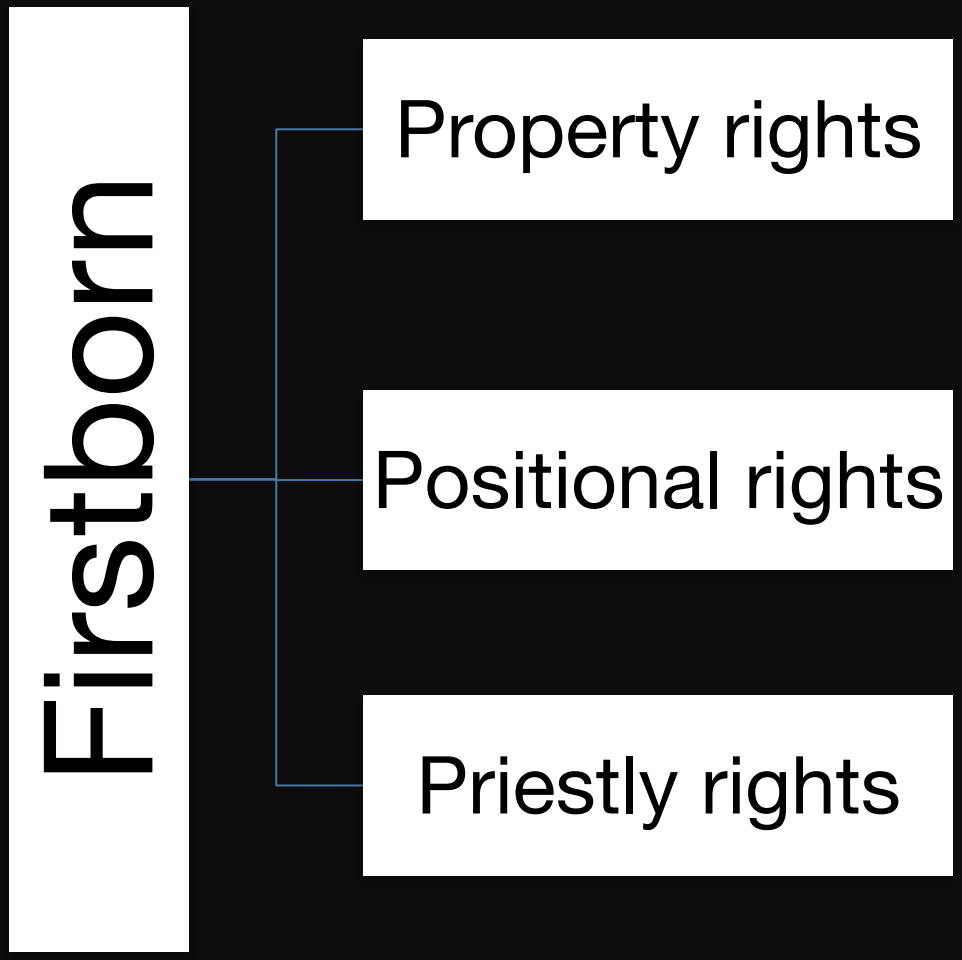
# Contents of Gen 49

- ✓ Prophetic utterances on the 12 tribes. Would be fulfilled…
  - centuries later
  - during NT times
  - Messianic prophecy
  - during millennium
- ✓ Blessings
- ✓ Manifestation of God's grace
- ✓ Impact of decisions on future generations

# 1. Reuben

- ✓ My first born
- ✓ My might
- ✓ The beginning of my strength
- ✓ Preeminent in dignity
- ✓ Preeminent in power

# The first born privileges



# Reuben, … uncontrolled as water…

- ✓ Ineffective
- ✓ Irresponsible
- ✓ Unstable

**1Ch 5:1-2** *Now the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel (for he was the firstborn, but because he defiled his father's bed, his birthright was given to the sons of Joseph the son of Israel; so that he is not enrolled in the genealogy according to the birthright. 2 Though Judah prevailed over his brothers, and from him came the leader, yet the birthright belonged to Joseph)*

# The first born privileges



- ✓ Reubenites were never leaders
- ✓ Were a source of discouragement to Joshua's men
- ✓
- ✓

**<u>Prophecy:</u>** "You shall not have preeminence…"


THE TWELVE TRIBES OF ISRAEL
Around 1200-1050 B.C.
(according to the Book of Joshua)
0 (km) 100
0 (mi) 60
Mediterranean Sea
Sidon
Tyre
ARAMEANS
Iion
Dan
ASHER
NAPHTALI
Cedes
Hazor
Kinneret
Astarot
BASAN
Acsaf
Cammat
ZEBULUN
Helcat
Mount Tabor
Jocneam
ISSACHAR
Edrei
Dor
Jafia
Kamon
Megiddo
Jezreel
Ramot de Galaad
Taanach
Beit Shean
MANASSEH
MANASSEH
Tirza
Samir
Zafon
River Jordan
Siquem
Mahanaim
Piraton
Gat-Rimon
Afec
Silo
Jaffa
GAD
AMON
EPHRAIM
DAN
Betel
Jazer
Rabbath Amon
Elteke
Bet-Horon
Ai
Gilgal
Gezer
Gabaon
Jericho
Gibeton
BENJAMIN
Hesbon
Mefaa
Ashdod
Ekron
Jerusalem
Beser
Mount Nebo
Ashkelon
Gat
Jarmut
Bethlehem
REUBEN
PHILISTIA
JUDAH
Laquís
Jahaza
Gaza
Hebron
Debir
Estemoa
Dead Sea
Gerar
Beersheba
Arad
MOAB
SIMEON
Kir-Hareset
AMALEC
Zoar
Wilderness of Zin
EDOM
Tamar
Zalmona
Bosra
Kadesh
Punon

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- ✓ Reubenites were never leaders
- ✓ Were a source of discouragement to Joshua's men
- ✓ No king, No judge, no prophet, no savior
- ✓ The rebellion of Dathan and Abiram (Num 16)

**Prophecy:** "You shall not have preeminence…"

**Grace:** "May Reuben live and not die,
Nor his men be few." (Deut. 33:6)

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# 2 & 3. Simeon and Levi (vv. 5-7)

- 5 "Simeon and Levi are brothers; Their swords are implements of violence.
- 6 "Let my soul not enter into their council; Let not my glory be united with their assembly; Because in their anger they slew men, And in their self-will they lamed oxen.
- 7 "Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce; And their wrath, for it is cruel. I will disperse them in Jacob, And scatter them in Israel.
- 8 "Judah, your brothers shall praise you; Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; Your father's sons shall bow down to you. (Gen. 49:5-8 NAU) 5 "Simeon and Levi are brothers; Their swords are implements of violence.
- 6 "Let my soul not enter into their council; Let not my glory be united with their assembly; Because in their anger they slew men, And in their self-will they lamed oxen.
- 7 "Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce; And their wrath, for it is cruel. I will disperse them in Jacob, And scatter them in Israel.

**James 1:19-20** *This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to* ***anger****;*

*[20] for the* ***anger*** *of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.*

**Col 3:8** *But now you also, put them all aside:* ***anger****, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth.*

**Prophecy:** “I will disperse them in Jacob, And scatter them in Israel”

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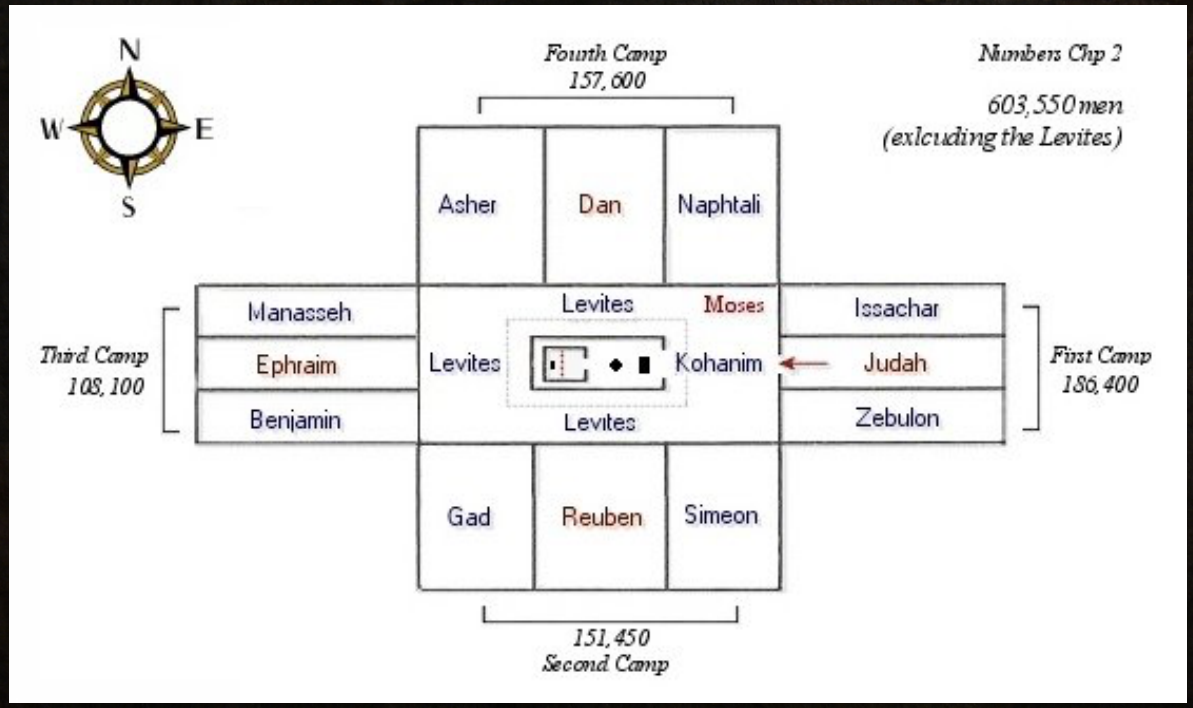
# Simeon




- ✓ Separated from Levi
- ✓ 2nd census, tribe of Simeon was the smallest

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# Simeon

- ✓ Further separated from Reuben and Gad
- ✓ No inheritance (Josh 19:9)
- ✓ Beersheba belonged to Judah (1 Kings 19:3)
- ✓ Further scattered (1 Ch 4:39-43)
- ✓ Further scattered (2 Ch 34:6)

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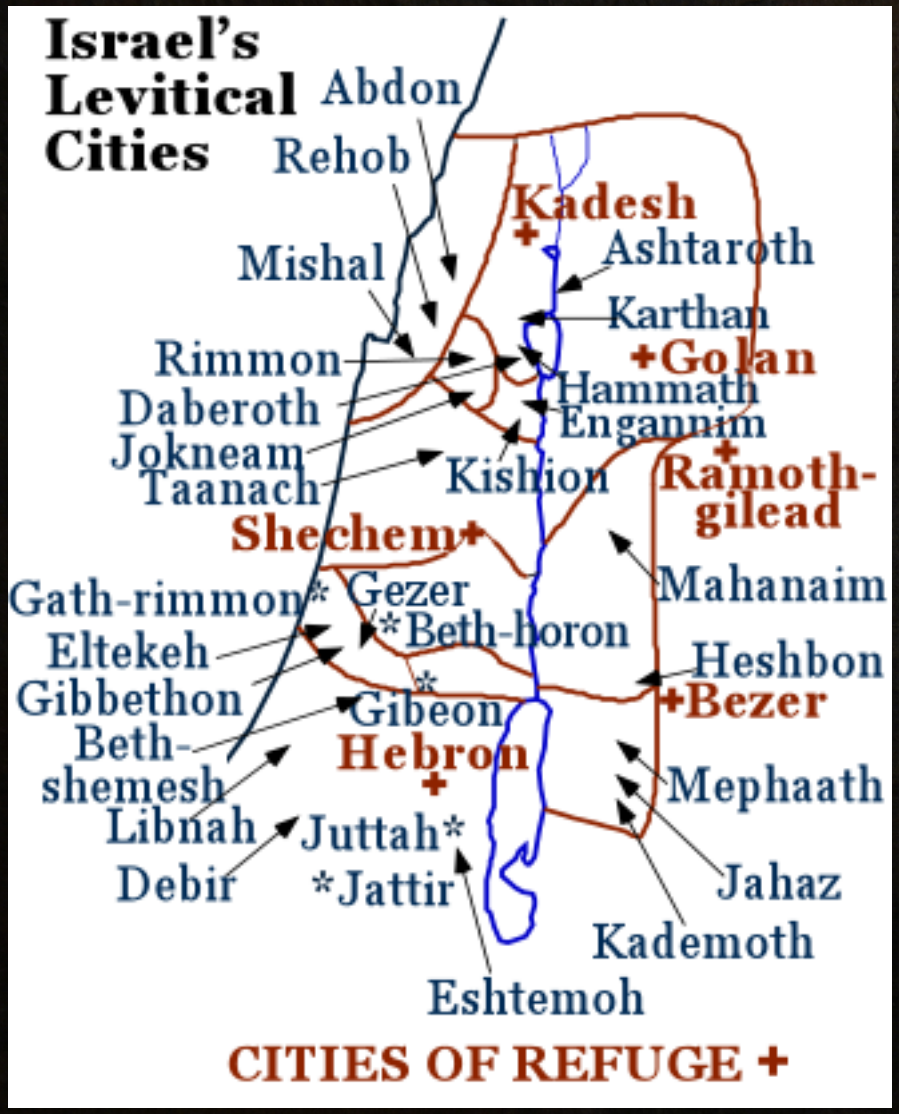


# Levi

- ✓ No inheritance
- ✓ 48 cities scattered all over the country

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- ✓ Placed in the midst of the territory of Judah
- ✓ The gained strength to destroy the Amalekites who escaped (1 Ch 4:43)

**<u>Grace to Simeon:</u>** “so the sons of Simeon received *an* inheritance in the midst of Judah's inheritance.” (Jos. 19:9)

- ✓ Levites were given the place of the firstborn privilege
- ✓ Theirs was the priestly service

"*You shall take the Levites for Me, I am the LORD, instead of all the firstborn among the sons of Israel, and the cattle of the Levites instead of all the firstborn among the cattle of the sons of Israel*." (Num. 3:41)

**Grace to Levi:** Service to God

# Privileged responsibilities of the Levites

1. High priestly service
2. Priestly duties
3. They carried the ark of the covenant
4. Singers, Musicians, doorkeepers at the temple
5. Teachers of Israel
6. Mediators between God and people
7. Camped around the tabernacle
8. Great men of God arose from the tribe: Moses, Aaron, Phinehas, Samuel, Ezra, John the Baptist, many of the prophets

# Privileged responsibilities of the believers

1 Pet 2:9-10 [9] But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR *God's* OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

[10] for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.