



THE CHARACTER OF THE 12 TRIBES OF ISRAEL AND THE CHARACTER OF THE 144000

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PURPOSE

To demonstrate:

- The similitude between the character of the twelve tribes of Israel and the 144000.
- Through the plan of salvation: justification, sanctification, purification and glorification, the character is brought to perfection.
- Any other character study is a counterfeit of the way the Savior evaluates our characters with the Law of God.

INTRODUCTION

The law of God is the standard of the judgment at the time of the Investigative Judgment. Any other way of evaluating the character and categorizing it, for example in: sanguine, choleric, phlegmatic or melancholic, is a depressing counterfeit of the enemy of souls to keep the mind in a state of predestination, giving no hope that the character can be transformed and changed through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Although these traits of character may exist and may be identified as a general overall representation of the different types of character in individuals, this pattern or way of thinking and being can be changed as demonstrated through the study of the brain nerves in the previous files 5, 11, 17 and 22.

Through the study of the twelve tribes, as first presented in Genesis 49 and last heard of in Revelation 7 and 21, it behooves us to take heed how the Creator of all men, through the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, can transform a group of twelve men having major defects of character, ending up having their names written on the twelve gates of the Holy City, on the earth made new.

NAMES OF THE TWELVE TRIBES IN GENESIS 49 COMPARED TO THE NAMES OF THOSE MENTIONED IN REVELATION 7

GENESIS 49 AND	REVELATION 7
Reuben	Reuben
Simeon	Simeon
Levi	Levi
Judah	Judah
Zebulun	Zabulon
Issachar	Issachar
Dan	Manasses*
Gad	Gad
Asher	Aser
Naphtali	Nephtalim
Joseph	Joseph**
Benjamin	Benjamin

NOTE:

*The tribe of Dan is missing at the end and is replaced by the name of the eldest son of Joseph who received part of the Double Portion.

**Instead of Joseph's name, it should show the name of Ephraim who received the birthright rather than Manasseh; however unlike his uncle Esau, Manasseh did nothing to forfeit his privileges in the family blessing. The Bible says that Jacob blessed Ephraim the younger son of Joseph in place of Manasseh (Gen. 48:17), to the dismay of Joseph. Ephraim could have had his name on one of the gates of the Holy City but the Bible clearly gives the reason of this absence: "Ephraim is joined to idols: let him alone." Hosea 4: 17.

CHARACTER OF THE TWELVE TRIBES BEFORE AND AFTER COMPLETE PERFECTION: COMPARE GENESIS 49 & DEUTERONOMY 33 TO REVELATION 7

Based on the Book: The Cross and Its Shadow by S. N. Haskell

BEFORE	AFTER
1. Reuben: Unstable as water	1. Great searching of heart
2. Simeon: cruel, murderer	2. Repentant
3. Levi: participated in murder	3. Faithful in crisis
4. Judah: tendency to selfishness	4. Integrity
5. Zebulun: self-centered	5. Ready to die for Christ
6. Issachar: natural bent to evil	6. Strong, burden bearer
7. Dan: backbiter	7. Manasses the just
8. Gad: backslider	8. Mighty in battle
9. Asher: natural propensities	9. Giving all to the cause
10. Naphtali: free from responsibility	10. Comforter, giver
11. Joseph: tendency to self-elevation	11. Faithfulness, self-sacrifice
12. Benjamin: gluttony, passionate	12. Missionary spirit of Paul

CONCLUSION

"The world is fast approaching that point in iniquity and human depravity when God's interference will become necessary. And at that time His professed followers should be more marked for their fidelity to His holy law. Their prayer will be as that of David: "It is time for Thee, Lord, to work: for they have made void Thy law." And by their conduct they will say: "Therefore I love Thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold." The very contempt that is shown to the law of God is sufficient reason why His commandment-keeping people should come to the front and show their esteem and reverence for His downtrodden law.

"And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." The very atmosphere is polluted with sin. Soon God's people will be tested by fiery trials, and the great proportion of those who now appear to be genuine and true will prove to be base metal. Instead of being strengthened and confirmed by opposition, threats, and abuse, they will cowardly take the side of the opposers. The promise is: "Them that honor Me I will honor." Shall we be less firmly attached to God's law because the world at large have attempted to make it void?

Already the judgments of God are abroad in the land, as seen in storms, in floods, in tempests, in earthquakes, in peril by land and by sea. The great I AM is speaking to those who make void His law. When God's wrath is poured out upon the earth, who will then be able to stand? Now is the time for God's people to show themselves true to principle. When the religion of Christ is most held in contempt, when His law is most despised, then should our zeal be the warmest and our courage and firmness the most unflinching. To stand in defense of truth and righteousness when the majority forsake us, to fight the battles of the Lord when champions are few--this will be our test. At this time we must gather warmth from the coldness of others, courage from their cowardice, and loyalty from their treason. The nation will be on the side of the great rebel leader.

The test will surely come; that what is now transpiring would take place that the observance of an institution of the papacy would be enforced upon the people by a Sunday law, while the sanctified rest day of Jehovah would be trampled underfoot.

The Captain of our salvation will strengthen His people for the conflict in which they must engage. How often when Satan has brought all his forces to bear against the followers of Christ, and death stares them in the face, have earnest prayers put up in faith brought the Captain of the Lord's host upon the field of action and turned the tide of battle and delivered the oppressed.

Now is the time when we should closely connect with God, that we may be hid when the fierceness of His wrath is poured upon the sons of men. We have wandered away from the old landmarks. Let us return. If the Lord be God, serve Him; if Baal, serve him. Which side will you be on?" Testimonies Vol. 5, p. 136, 137.