

Summary of the Tribes of Israel

Name & Meaning	Birth & Mother, Gen	Jacob's Blessing on the Son, Gen 49:	Moses' Blessing on the Tribe, Deut 33:	Territory & Cities, Josh	Key People	Events
Reuben "Behold, a son!"	29:32, Leah "Surely the LORD hath looked upon my affliction"	3 Reuben, thou [art] my firstborn, my might, and the beginning of my strength, the excellency of dignity, and the excellency of power: 4 Unstable as water, thou shalt not excel; because thou wentest up to thy father's bed; then defiledst thou [it]: he went up to my couch.	6 Let Reuben live, and not die; and let [not] his men be few.	13:15-23, Arnon to Heshbon		2K 10:32-33; 1C 5:18-22, Hagarites; Jd 5:15-17, Barak's war; Josh 22, altar named Ed
Gad, "Good Fortune" (pun "Troop")	30:10,11, Zilpah (Leah) "With good fortune" (AV "a troop cometh")	19 Gad, a troop shall overcome him: but he shall overcome at the last	20 ... Blessed [be] he that enlargeth Gad: he dwelleth as a lion, and teareth the arm with the crown of the head. 21 And he provided the first part for himself, because there, [in] a portion of the lawgiver, [was he] seated; and he came with the heads of the people, he executed the justice of the LORD, and his judgments with Israel	13:24-28, Heshbon to Jabbok	Judge Jephthah (12:1)	2K 10:32-33; 1C 5:18-22, Hagarites; Jd 5:15-17, Barak's war; Josh 22, altar named Ed; Num 32:2, led delegation to request land
Manasseh/2 "Forgetfulness"	41:51	[under Joseph]	[under Joseph]	13:29-31, Jabbok & North	Judge Jair (10:3), Elijah (1K 17:1 LXX)	2K 10:32-33; 1C 5:18-22, Hagarites; Jd 5:15-17, Barak's war; Josh 22, altar named Ed
Judah "Praise"	29:34, Leah "Now will I praise the LORD"	8 Judah, thou [art he] whom thy brethren shall praise: thy hand [shall be] in the neck of thine enemies; thy father's children shall bow down before thee. 9 Judah [is] a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up? 10 The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him [shall] the gathering of the people [be]. 11 Binding his foal unto the vine, and his ass's colt unto the choice vine; he washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes: 12 His eyes [shall be] red with wine, and his teeth white with milk	7 ... Hear, LORD, the voice of Judah, and bring him unto his people: let his hands be sufficient for him; and be thou an help [to him] from his enemies.	14:6-15:63, southern part up to Jerusalem: Hebron, Bethlehem-Judah	Caleb, Judge Othniel (3:9), King David, our Lord Jesus Christ	Events from Jerusalem south: life of David; Ruth. Heart of Southern Kingdom.

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Joseph "Remov-ing & Adding"	30:24, Rachel "God hath taken away my reproach: ... The LORD shall add to me another son"	22 Joseph [is] a fruitful bough, [even] a fruitful bough by a well; [whose] branches run over the wall: 23 The archers have sorely grieved him, and shot [at him], and hated him: 24 But his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty [God] of Jacob; (from thence [is] the shepherd, the stone of Israel:) 25 [Even] by the God of thy father, who shall help thee; and by the Almighty, who shall bless thee with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lieth under, blessings of the breasts, and of the womb: 26 The blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills: they shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him that was separate from his brethren	13 ... Blessed of the LORD [be] his land, for the precious things of heaven, for the dew, and for the deep that coucheth beneath, 14 And for the precious fruits [brought forth] by the sun, and for the precious things put forth by the moon, 15 And for the chief things of the ancient mountains, and for the precious things of the lasting hills, 16 And for the precious things of the earth and fulness thereof, and [for] the good will of him that dwelt in the bush: let [the blessing] come upon the head of Joseph, and upon the top of the head of him [that was] separated from his brethren. 17 His glory [is like] the firstling of his bullock, and his horns [are like] the horns of unicorns: 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.	16-17		
Ephraim "Fruitful"	41:52 (named by Joseph)	[under Joseph]	[under Joseph]	16:5-10 Bethel to Shechem: Shiloh	Joshua, Judges Deborah? (4:4-5) & Abimelech (via mother, 9:1)	Heart of Northern Kingdom
Manas-seh/2 "Forget-fulness"	41:51 (named by Joseph)	[under Joseph]	[under Joseph]	17:1-13 Shechem to plain of Jezreel: Megiddo, Bethshean, Mt Carmel	Zelophehad & daughters; Judge Gideon (6:11; cf. Josh 17:2) and son Abimelech (8:31), Elisha (1K 19:16)	1K 18, Elijah's contest with Baal; 1K 6, Elisha's miracle at Dothan
Benjamin "Right-Hand Son"	35:18, Rachel (named by Jacob)	27 Benjamin shall ravin [as] a wolf: in the morning he shall devour the prey, and at night he shall divide the spoil.	12 ... The beloved of the LORD shall dwell in safety by him; [and the LORD] shall cover him all the day long, and he shall dwell between his shoulders	18:11-18 Jerusalem to Bethel: Jericho	Judge Ehud (3:15), King Saul, Saul of Tarsus	Jd 19-21, rape of the Levite's concubine

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Simeon "Hearing"	29:33, Leah "the LORD hath heard that I [was] hated"	5 Simeon and Levi [are] brethren; instruments of cruelty [are in] their habitations. 6 O my soul, come not thou into their secret; unto their assembly, mine honour, be not thou united: for in their anger they slew a man, and in their selfwill they digged down a wall. 7 Cursed [be] their anger, for [it was] fierce; and their wrath, for it was cruel: I will divide them in Jacob, and scatter them in Israel	<<none>>	19:1-9 Scattered in southern Judah; Ziklag, Beersheba.		Associated with Northern Kingdom after the schism: 2 Chr 15:9; 34:6; Amos 5:5; 8:14
Zebulun "Palace"	30:20, Leah "God hath endued me [with] a good dowry; now will my husband dwell with me"	13 Zebulun shall dwell at the haven of the sea {Galilee; fulfilled in NT}; and he [shall be] for an haven of ships; and his border [shall be] unto Zidon.	18 ... Rejoice, Zebulun, in thy going out; ... 19 They shall call the people unto the mountain; there they shall offer sacrifices of righteousness: for they shall suck [of] the abundance of the seas, and [of] treasures hid in the sand.	19:10-16 central hills of lower Galilee: Nazareth	Jonah (2K 14:25)	Childhood home and early ministry of the Lord Jesus
Issachar "There is a reward"	30:18, Leah "God hath given me my hire, because I have given my maiden to my husband"	14 Issachar [is] a strong ass couching down between two burdens: 15 And he saw that rest [was] good, and the land that [it was] pleasant; and bowed his shoulder to bear, and became a servant unto tribute.	18 ...Rejoice, ... Issachar, in thy tents. 19 They shall call the people unto the mountain; there they shall offer sacrifices of righteousness: for they shall suck [of] the abundance of the seas, and [of] treasures hid in the sand.	19:17-23 plain of Jezreel: Shunem, Jezreel, Mt Tabor	Judge Tolah (10:1), Kings Baasha & Elah (1K 15:27-16:14), Naboth (1K 21), Shunemmite (2K 4,8)	Naboth's Vineyard; Shunemmite's son
Asher "Happy"	30:12,13, Zilpah (Leah) "Happy am I, for the daughters will call me blessed."	20 Out of Asher his bread [shall be] fat, and he shall yield royal dainties.	24 ... [Let] Asher [be] blessed with children; let him be acceptable to his brethren, and let him dip his foot in oil.	19:24-31 coastal plain N of Carmel to Tyre & Sidon	Anna the Prophetess (Lk 2:36)	Trade via Tyre & Sidon

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Naphtali "My Wrestling"	30:7,8, Bilhah (Rachel) "With great wrestlings have I wrestled with my sister, and I have prevailed"	21 Naphtali [is] a hind let loose: he giveth goodly words	23 ... O Naphtali, satisfied with favour, and full with the blessing of the LORD: possess thou the west and the south.	19:32-39 mts and Jordan valley north from Issachar: Chinnereth, Capernaum	Judges Barak (4-5) & Shamgar? (3:31, cf. Josh 19:38? or Judah, 15:59?)	Early ministry of the Lord Jesus
Dan "Judge"	30:5,6, Bilhah (Rachel) "God hath judged me, and hath also heard my voice"	16 Dan shall judge his people, as one of the tribes of Israel. 17 Dan shall be a serpent by the way, an adder in the path, that biteth the horse heels, so that his rider shall fall backward.	22 ... Dan [is] a lion's whelp: he shall leap from Bashan.	19:40-48 coastal plain between Ajalon and Sorek valleys; migrated north to foot of Mt. Hermon	Judge Samson (13-16)	Jd 17-18, migration north & theft of Micah's house sanctuary
Levi "Attach-ment"	29:34, Leah "Now this time will my husband be joined unto me"	5 Simeon and Levi [are] brethren; instruments of cruelty [are in] their habitations. 6 O my soul, come not thou into their secret; unto their assembly, mine honour, be not thou united: for in their anger they slew a man, and in their selfwill they digged down a wall. 7 Cursed [be] their anger, for [it was] fierce; and their wrath, for it was cruel: I will divide them in Jacob, and scatter them in Israel	8 ... [Let] thy Thummim and thy Urim [be] with thy holy one, whom thou didst prove at Massah, [and with] whom thou didst strive at the waters of Meribah; 9 Who said unto his father and to his mother, I have not seen him; neither did he acknowledge his brethren, nor knew his own children: for they have observed thy word, and kept thy covenant. 10 They shall teach Jacob thy judgments, and Israel thy law: they shall put incense before thee, and whole burnt sacrifice upon thine altar. 11 Bless, LORD, his substance, and accept the work of his hands: smite through the loins of them that rise against him, and of them that hate him, that they rise not again.	21, Levitical cities	Priests: Aaron, Phineas, Eli, Ahimelech, Zadok, Abiathar, Ezekiel, Ezra	Jer 32, the field in Anathoth