

CLASS

LESSON NUMBER

71 A

THOUGHT PROVOKING BIBLE STUDIES



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THE TRIBES OF OT ISRAEL

The *family* in ancient times was often comprised of *several families* living together forming *one household* (Num. 3:24). A group of these households constituted a *clan*. Numerous *clans* made up each tribe. The various *tribes* comprised the *nation*. Israel was a sovereign nation, both civilly and spiritually. The Ten Commandments and the Mosaic Law was a *national* law for Hebrews only. The law of Christ is for everyone, thus *international* in scope. It differs from the Mosaic in that it is altogether spiritual and not civil (ie: secular).

- God's Promise To Abraham** (Gen 12) What was the first promise? _____ Verse? ____ This would take time. Why? _____
- Isaac** It would involve Abraham's offspring. First would be his son _____. Proof text? _____ Isaac married _____ (Gen. 24), who bore him twin sons, _____ and _____ (Gen. 25:21-28).
- Jacob** He was the son of Isaac and _____, younger _____ brother of Esau, and husband of Leah and Rachel (Gen. 25:21-26; 29:21-30). God changed his name to _____ (Gen. 32:28; 49:2).
- Jacob's Sons (The sons of Israel)** Jacob's family originated in northern Syria. Jacob stayed with his uncle, Laban, at Haran, the birthplace of his first eleven sons. The twelfth son, Benjamin, was born after Jacob's return to Canaan. List Jacob's children by the correct mother:
Leah (Gen 35; 30:19-21) _____
Rachel (Gen 30:22-24) _____
Zilpah (Leah's maid) (Gen 30:9-13) _____
Bilhah (Rachel's maid) (Gen 30:1-8) _____
- Joseph's Sons** (Gen 41:50-52) "*And unto Joseph were born _____ before the years of famine came, which _____ the daughter of _____ priest of On bare unto him. And Joseph called the name of the firstborn _____: For God, said he, hath made me forget all my toil, and all my father's house. And the name of the second called he _____: For God hath caused me to be fruitful in the _____ of my affliction.*"
- The Tribe of Reuben** The firstborn of Jacob by Leah. Because of an illicit affair with his father's concubine Bilhah (Gen. 35:22), Reuben nullified his right as firstborn to leadership. Jacob condemned Reuben: (Gen 49:4) "*Unstable as _____, thou shalt not excel; because thou wentest up to thy _____; then defiledst thou it: he went up to my couch.*" The tribe of Reuben occupied the Trans Jordan, the highland plateau region east of the Jordan River (Josh. 13:8-31).
- The Tribe of Simeon** Jacob's second son by Leah. He played a key role in avenging his sister Dinah's defilement by Shechem (Gen 34:1-2). Shechem desperately wanted to _____ Dinah. He and his people consented to being circumcised to prove their willingness to be like the Israelites. This was a deception perpetrated by Simeon and Levi. While the Hivites were _____ the brothers _____. This area was in the westernmost and southernmost parts of Palestine.