

Sunday School Handout, 9-24-23

The Twelve Sons of Jacob

- Reuben, 1st son of Jacob, his mother was Leah -wife of Jacob
- Simeon, 2nd son of Jacob, his mother was Leah -wife of Jacob
- Levi, 3rd son of Jacob, his mother was Leah -wife of Jacob
- Judah, 4th son of Jacob, his mother was Leah -wife of Jacob (Bloodline of Christ)
- Dan, 5th son of Jacob, his mother was Bilhah, handmaid of Rachel
- Naphtali, 6th son of Jacob, his mother was Bilhah, handmaid of Rachel
- Gad, 7th son of Jacob, his mother was Zilpah, handmaid of Leah
- Asher, 8th son of Jacob, his mother was Zilpah, handmaid of Leah
- Issachar, 9th son of Jacob, his mother was Leah -wife of Jacob
- Zebulun, 10th son of Jacob, his mother was Leah -wife of Jacob
- Joseph, 11th son of Jacob, his mother was Rachel -wife of Jacob
- Benjamin, 12th son of Jacob, his mother was Rachel -wife of Jacob (King Saul)

The Twelve Tribes of Israel

- Often, we hear and read references to the twelve sons of Jacob, as being the twelve tribes of Israel.
- Technically, when speaking of the twelve tribes of Israel, it is a reference to the tribes of Israel that were given a land allocation in the Promised Land.
- The land allocations plans were given to Moses by God, but distributed by Joshua.
- Ten of the twelve tribes of Israel given land allocations in the Promised Land were sons of Jacob.
- The other two tribes of Israel that were given land allocations were sons of Joseph.
- The two sons of Jacob that were not given land allocations were Levi and Joseph.
- Moses and his brother Aaron were descendants of Levi, son of Jacob. The tribe of Levi was set apart by God, to serve God and the people as priests, to carry the Ark of the Covenant, and pronounce blessings in His Name. They were not given a land allocation, but rather were divided and sent among the twelve tribes given land allocations.
- Joseph was not given a land allocation in the Promised Land, but instead his inheritance of land went to his sons Manasseh and Ephraim. In Genesis 48, we read that Jacob, Joseph's father, gave Joseph a double portion in the land of Canaan, transferring the firstborn's rights to him, instead of to Reuben the oldest son. Jacob tells Joseph that Manasseh and Ephraim, who were sons born to Joseph in Egypt, that these boys are his (Jacob's). A few verses later, Jacob says to Joseph that he has given him one more portion than his brothers (birthright).