

## Twelve Tribes

Reuben (רְאוּבֵן)

Birth - Leah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Reuben, as she had declared, "Because Hashem has discerned my humiliation, for now my husband will love me." (Genesis 29:32)

Blessing - lost his right to national leadership due to the incident with Bilhah

Census - 46,500 (Numbers 1:21); 43,730 (Numbers 26:7)

Territories - Joshua 13:15-23

Breastplate Gem - Odem (Ruby)

Symbol - Dudaim (Mandrakes)

Color - Red

Astrological Sign - Cancer

Month - Tammuz

Hebrew Letter - Chet (ח)

Simeon (שִׁמְעוֹן)

Birth - And she conceived again and bore a son and declared, "Because Hashem has heard that I am unloved, He has given me this one also," and she called his name Simeon. (Genesis 29:33)

Blessing - lost his right to national leadership due to his rage

Census - 59,300 (Numbers 1:23); 22,200 (Numbers 26:14)

Territories - Joshua 19:1-9

Breastplate Gem - Pitedah (Emerald)

Symbol - City of Shechem

Color - Green

Astrological Sign - Leo

Month - Av

Hebrew Letter - Tet (ט)

Levi (לֵוִי)

Birth - Again she conceived, and bore a son and declared, "This time my husband will become attached to me for I have borne him three sons"; therefore, He called his name Levi. (Genesis 29:34)

Blessing - lost his right to national leadership due to his rage

Census - not counted (Numbers 1:47); 23,000 (Numbers 1:62)

Territories - none

Breastplate Gem - Bareket (multi-colored stone)

Symbol - Choshen (Breastplate)

Color - Red, White, and Black

Astrological Sign - none

Month - none

Judah (יְהוּדָה)

Birth - She conceived again, and bore a son and declared, "This time let me gratefully praise Hashem"; therefore she called his name Judah; then she stopped giving birth. (Genesis 29:35)

Blessing - gained the right to national leadership and royalty as well as the ancestor of the Mosiach (Messiah)

Census - 74,600 (Numbers 1:27); 76,500 (Numbers 26:22)

Territories - Joshua 15:1-63

Breastplate Gem - Nofech (Carbuncle)

Symbol - Lion

Color - Sky Blue

Astrological Sign - Aries

Month - Nissan

Hebrew Letter - Hey (ה)

Dan (דן)

Birth - Bilhah conceived and bore Jacob a son. Then Rachel said, "God has judged me, He has also heard my voice and has given me a son." She therefore called his name Dan. (Genesis 30:5-6)

Blessing - the defender of the people

Census - 62,700 (Numbers 1:39); 64,400 (Numbers 26:43)

Territories - Joshua 19:40-48

Breastplate Gem - Tarshish (Chrysolite Amber)

Symbol - Snake

Color - Sapphire Blue

Astrological Sign - Capricorn

Month - Tevet

Hebrew Letter - Ayin (ע)

Naphtali (נפתלי)

Birth - Bilhah, Rachel's maidservant, conceived again and bore Jacob a second son. And Rachel said, "Sacred schemes have I maneuvered to equal my sister, and I have also prevailed!" And she called his name Naphtali. (Genesis 30:7-8)

Blessing - swift on his feet and able to praise and give thanks with beautiful words

Census - 53,400 (Numbers 1:43); 45,400 (Numbers 26:50)

Territories - Joshua 19:32-39

Breastplate Gem - Shevo (Turquoise)

Symbol - Deer

Color - Burgundy

Astrological Sign - Pisces

Month - Adar

Hebrew Letter - Kof (כ)

Gad (גד)

Birth - Zilpah, Leah's maidservant, bore Jacob a son. And Leah declared, "Good luck has come!" So she called his name Gad. (Genesis 30:10-11)

Blessing - warrior and defender of the people

Census - 45,650 (Numbers 1:25); 40,500 (Numbers 26:18)

Territories - Joshua 13:24-28

Breastplate Gem - Achlamah (Calf-Eye or Crystal or Amethyst)

Symbol - Army  
Color - Gray  
Astrological Sign - Virgo  
Month - Elul  
Hebrew Letter - Yud (י)

Asher (אָשֶׁר)

Birth - Zilpah, Leah's maidservant, bore a second son to Jacob. Leah declared, "In my good fortune! For women have deemed me fortunate!" So she called his name Asher. (Genesis 30:12-13)

Blessing - successful farmer (specifically olive trees)  
Census - 41,500 (Numbers 1:41); 53,400 (Numbers 26:47)  
Territories - Joshua 19:24-31  
Breastplate Gem - Leshem (Topaz or Opal)  
Symbol - Olive Tree  
Color - Pearl  
Astrological Sign - Aquarius  
Month - Shivat  
Hebrew Letter - Tsadi (צ)

Issachar (יִשָּׂשכָר)

Birth - God hearkened to Leah; and she conceived and bore Jacob a fifth son. And Leah declared, "God has granted me my reward because I gave my maidservant to my husband." So she called his name Issachar. (Genesis 30:17-18)

Blessing - great Torah scholar, decider of Torah laws, and determine the Jewish calendar (specifically leap years)  
Census - 44,400 (Numbers 1:29); 64,300 (Numbers 26:25)  
Territories - Joshua 19:17-23  
Breastplate Gem - Sapir (Sapphire)  
Symbol - Sun and Moon  
Color - Bluish Black  
Astrological Sign - Taurus  
Month - Iyar  
Hebrew Letter - Vav (ו)

Zebulun (זְבֻלֹן)

Birth - Then Leah conceived again and bore Jacob a sixth son. Leah said, "God has endowed me with a good endowment; now my husband will make his permanent home with me for I have borne him six sons." So she called his name Zebulun. (Genesis 30:19-20)

Blessing - fisherman, keeper of harbors, and Torah scholar  
Census - 57,400 (Numbers 1:31); 60,500 (Numbers 26:27)  
Territories - Joshua 19:10-16  
Breastplate Gem - Yahalom (Pearl or Diamond)  
Symbol - Ship  
Color - White  
Astrological Sign - Gemini

Month - Sivan  
Hebrew Letter - Zayin (ז)

Joseph (יוסף)

Birth - God remembered Rachel; God hearkened to her and He opened her womb. She conceived and bore a son, and said, "God has taken away my disgrace." So she called his name Joseph, saying, "May Hashem add on for me another son." (Genesis 30:22-24)

Blessing - inherits the heritage of Jacob (and by extension Abraham)

Census - 40,500 (Ephraim-Numbers 1:33), 32,200 (Manasseh-Numbers 1:35); 32,500 (Ephraim-Numbers 26:37), 52,700 (Manasseh-Numbers 26:34)

Territories - Ephraim-Joshua 16:1-10; Manasseh-Joshua 13:29-32;17:7-18

Breastplate Gem - Shoham (Onyx or Emerald)

Symbol - Ox; Young Bull (Ephraim); Wild Ox (Manasseh)

Color - Black; Red-Violet (Ephraim); Violet (Manasseh)

Astrological Sign - Libra (Ephraim); Scorpio (Manasseh)

Month - Tishrei (Ephraim); Chesvan (Manasseh)

Hebrew Letter - Lamed (ל) (Ephraim); Nun (נ) (Manasseh)

Benjamin (בנימין)

Birth - They journeyed from Beth-el and there was still a stretch of land to go to Ephrath, when Rachel went into labor and had difficulty in her childbirth. And it was when she had difficulty in her labor that the midwife said to her, "Have no fear, for this one, too, is a son for you. And it came to pass, as her soul was departing - for she died - that she called his name Ben Oni, but his father called him Benjamin. (Genesis 35:16-18)

Blessing - warrior and defender of the people

Census - 35,400 (Numbers 1:37); 45,600 (Numbers 26:41)

Territories - Joshua 18:11-28

Breastplate Gem - Yashfeh (Jasper)

Symbol - Wolf

Color - All colors of the other 11 tribes

Astrological Sign - Saggitarius

Month - Kislev

Hebrew Letter - Samech (ס)

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