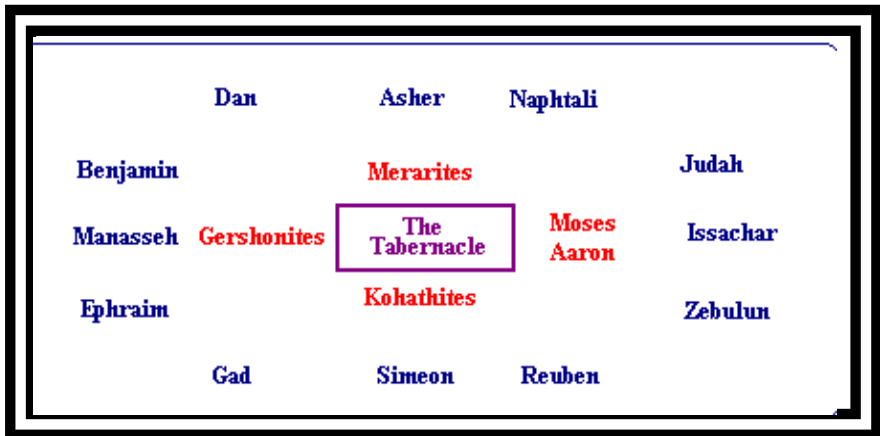


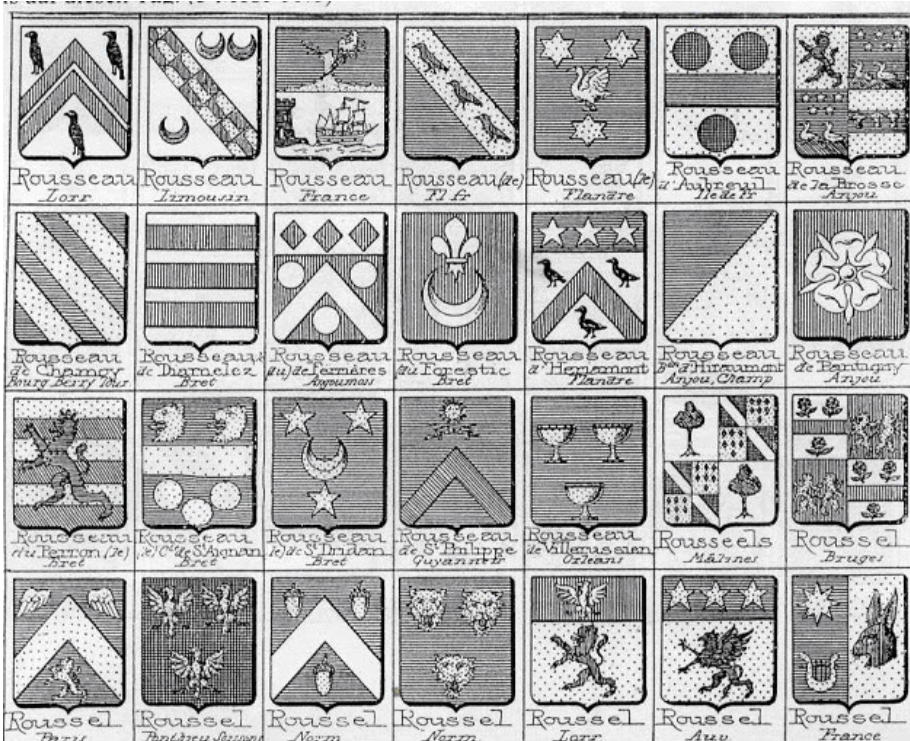
Tribe of Levi

Where Do We Find Levites?

By
Ria Splinter



Above: the positions of the tribes
together with the 4 courses of Levi
round the Tabernacle



Above - Some of the coats of arms associated with the tribe of Levi



Ria Splinter delivering this lecture in Bad Teinach - Germany

Tribe of Levi Where Do We Find Levites?

Please note that this is a translation from Ria's notes for a lecture given in German to an assembly of Christian brothers gathered in Bad Teinach on 30th October 2007, for a 5 day conference, the theme of which was The House of Judah and the House of Israel, and is not a verbatim word for word translation as given in the Lecture.

In the beginning was the Word. In our study into what happened to the tribe of Levi it is first necessary to study the Hebrew alphabet which has great significance in respect to the tribe of Levi. The Hebrew alphabet, as well as having numerical values, each letter also represents an object.

Third Letter of the Alphabet

With the third letter of the Hebrew alphabet, we think of oneness – Father, Son and Holy Ghost. This letter named camel in numerical value is 113 (3+40+40+30), which is connected with worship, praise and hope. Psalm 113 clearly shows these attributes. Let us now read this Psalm:

"1 Praise ye the LORD. Praise, O ye servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD.

2 Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and for evermore.

3 From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the LORD's name is to be praised.

4 The LORD is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens.

5 Who is like unto the LORD our God, who dwelleth on high,

6 Who humbleth himself to behold the things that are in heaven, and in the earth!

7 He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth the needy out of the dunghill;

8 That he may set him with princes, even with the princes of his people.

9 He maketh the barren woman to keep house, and to be a joyful mother of children. Praise ye the LORD."

The symbol of the camel turns our thoughts to a burden carrier (Matth. 19:24). But here again is yet another hidden meaning! The first and the last letters of the Hebrew word camel form the word Ga'al which means redeemer, value 61 = (30+1+30). Another word is Gal value, 33 (3 +30), which means a heap/exile. From this we get the understanding that without God (No. 1) we are without a leader and only just a heap of people.

Jesus is Israel's redeemer, when we are at one with him, then will he lead us on the road to **LIFE**.

Levi was the third son born to Jacob and Leah. Leah said, "well, this time will my husband follow me". For this reason was the name Levi given to him.

For Levi, the number 3 would become very important! The number for Levi is 46 and is connected to building and the blending in of other things. Some Levites are aware of the number three because it is depicted on their coats of arms, while others are not aware of this fact.

The name Levi can also be expressed as Lev = heart, therefore Levi means my heart. In God's heart there was a great love for Levi: Deuteronomy 33:10:

"They (the Levites) shall teach Jacob thy judgments, and Israel thy law: they shall put incense before thee, and whole burnt sacrifice upon thine altar."

Deuteronomy 10:8:

"At that time the LORD separated the tribe of Levi, to bear the ark of the covenant of the LORD, to stand before the LORD to minister unto him, and to bless in his name, unto this day."

Because the Levites were not occupied in temple service for the whole year, they needed to occupy themselves, and for this reason were involved in fishing, farming etc.

After 70 AD, they were in Asia Minor under the name “Longobarden” as the Levites were then known as because of their long beards. Tacitus wrote of them that they were brave in battle and that a small group of them, giving heed to Jesus’ warning to flee from Jerusalem, had indeed fled to the mountains. Niebuhr named the group the “Ligature Levites”. They clothed themselves in white linen gaiters (the lower part of the travelling Levites dress), and then wrapped themselves around with a long protective garment rather similar to that of the Saxons.

In 568 AD they acquired an area in north Italy in which they settled and where they became known as Lombardi on account of their long beards. The Lombardi became architects, traders, goldsmiths, bankers, landlords etc. The emblem over those businesses that were banks was 3 golden balls, and the three points come from the flesh fork used in connection with the Levitical sacrifices on the altar and this is where one could borrow money. The emblem of the “fleur-de-lis”, with its 3 points was imported in Normandy and was frequently used on royal coats of arms. The third child of Queen Elizabeth had 3 feathers in his coat of arms. The signs, 3 rods or rays of light, were the emblems of the old Celtic kings indicating their power over religious and political matters. Druidism was a Levitical religion. The priests, however, were superior to Levites. There was also corruption. With this additional mixture, the tribe to this day is very cunning as well. In Malachi 2:2 we read:

2 "If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto my name, saith the LORD of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay it to heart."

That is indeed verse 7:

7 "For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts."

But God be thanked, for in Malachi 3.3, we read:

3 "And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness."

The tribe of Levi is spread amongst all the other tribes of Israel and it is for this reason that it is not possible to assign a particular territory to Levi. Generally speaking, it can be said that where there are Israelites living, there also will be found those of the tribe of Levi. Whether with or without knowledge of their origin, those of the tribe of Levi busy themselves with the inherited qualities programmed into their genes by God. These Bible teachers display a great zeal in making known God's great deeds in every time and every place and in spreading His Word! On account of the Levitical service through the slaughtering of offerings, it is not at all unthinkable that butchers are descended from the Levites, and even surgeons, soldiers and officials to mete out corporal punishment.

Jeremiah 33:20-26

20 "Thus saith the LORD; If ye can break my covenant of the day, and my covenant of the night, and that there should not be day and night in their season;

21 Then may also my covenant be broken with David my servant, that he should not have a son to reign upon his throne; and with the Levites the priests, my ministers.

22 As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, neither the sand of the sea measured: so will I multiply the seed of David my servant, and the Levites that minister unto me.

23 Moreover the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, saying,

24 Considerest thou not what this people have spoken, saying, The two families which the LORD hath chosen, he hath even cast them off? thus they have despised my people, that they should be no more a nation before them.

25 Thus saith the LORD; If my covenant be not with day and night, and if I have not appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth;

26 Then will I cast away the seed of Jacob and David my servant, so that I will not take any of his seed to be rulers over the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob: for I will cause their captivity to return, and have mercy on them."

The servants are also women as we read in Psalm 68:11 (See Companion Bible)

The Lord gave the word: great was/is the company of those that published it (please note that in its original language and many continental translations this word “those” is in the feminine gender).

Actually the tribe of Levi led Israel under the guidance of God and later when Israel became a Kingdom they had the same leadership, but this time under the king and Levites. It should therefore not be surprising that today the Levites are also there to serve the people although being unaware of it, for example as trainers/teachers, in the judiciary and as lawyers etc.

The Testament of Levi's last Will, which can be read in the book “*The Testament of the 12 Patriarchs*” which was translated by R. A. Charles, who was a church official at Westminster, London. Among other things stated therein, we read:

“I was disturbed on account of the lawlessness and wickedness of the children of men and prayed to God that I might remain free from this. Whereupon I fell asleep and had a vision and the angel of the Lord said to me, “You will stand for the Lord and will be His servant and you shall explain His secrets to mankind and that He will be Israel’s Saviour. Through thee and Judah will the Lord appear among mankind and the portion of the Lord will be thy life. The light of recognition in Jacob will you kindle and you will be the sun for the whole of Israel. You will receive advise and insight therewith in order to achieve these things.” Then spoke the Almighty to me, “Levi, I have given you the blessing of the priestly office, until I shall come and dwell in the midst of Israel. I am the angel that is the advocate for the people of Israel so that they shall not be completely destroyed when under attack from evil spirits – for this I watch out for”.

His testament is too long for me to translate. It would be wonderful if you could all read English as there is so much to learn that is not available in the German language.

Levi personally warned his children to choose between light and darkness, that is, the law of the Father or the works of Belial or Satan. Now we shall read Matthew 13, where Jesus explains in a parable the Kingdom of Heaven in verses 51 & 52:

51 "Jesus saith unto them, Have ye understood all these things? They say unto him, Yea, Lord.

52 Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old."

Jesus spoke to his apostles as learned scribes, but they were all Levites. It was Jesus who sought out his apostles (His body does what the one above wills). It was the Levites' task to inform and teach the people because they lived in all areas where the tribes were, we understand that Paul was of the tribe of Benjamin, but he received special training under

a Pharisee by the name of Gamaliel who had a very high position in that order. It is unlikely that a non-Levite would have received such training (Acts 22:3). Even though Levi only had the commission to teach the Law (Acts 5.34), Gamaliel was an instructor in law within the Sanhedrin.

Also, Levites were often called Jews in order to give them more importance. High priests out of Levi were always from the house of Aaron and received the same respect as kings. They gladly took wives of the king's daughters and likewise kings took wives of the Levite's daughters. Let us think for example about the parents of John the Baptist, his father was a priest and the mother was from the tribe of Judah (Mary's niece). John the herald of Jesus was a Levite. God's order never changes.

As part of their commission Jesus sent the disciples out to preach the gospel of the Kingdom. However, they were not to take money and items of value whereby their faith could be severely tested as they must be solely dependent on the heavenly Father for supplying all necessities needed for their work. This was also a great lesson. Later, a further 70 Levites would be sent out. Luke 10:17 says; **“They returned with joy”**.

The 12 apostles would be judges of the tribes of Israel in God's Kingdom here on earth. Let us read 1 Chronicles, 23:4. In King David's Kingdom, 24000 Levites had to lead the oversight over the work of the House of Judah with 6000 as managers and judges. In addition to these, there would be 4000 musicians to accompany praise to Yahweh with their instruments which they themselves had made for this purpose. Again, this is another indication that the disciples were Levites.

Because the Levites were not occupied with temple service for the whole year, in their spare time they busied themselves in pursuits such as fishing and farming etc.

It would be appropriate at this juncture to have a look at the Sonnini document which is the lost chapter of the book of Acts – chapter 29, which reads as follows:

Verse 1: "And Paul, full of the blessings of Christ, and abounding in the spirit, departed out of Rome, determining to go into Spain, for he had a long time purposed to journey thitherward, and was minded also to go from thence into Britain.

Verse 2: For he had heard in Phoenicia that certain of the children of Israel, about the time of the Assyrian captivity, had escaped by sea to "the isles afar off," as spoken by the prophet, and called by the Romans Britain.

Verse 3: And the Lord commanded the gospel to be preached far hence to the Gentiles, and to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.

Verse 4: And no man hindered Paul; for he testified boldly of Jesus before the tribunes and among the people; and he took with him certain of the brethren which abode with him at Rome, and they took shipping at Ostium, and having the winds fair were brought safely into an haven of Spain.

Verse 5: And much people were gathered together from the towns and villages, and the hill country: for they had heard of the conversion of the apostle, and the many miracles which he had wrought.

Verse 6: And Paul preached mightily in Spain, and great multitudes believed and were converted, for they perceived he was an apostle sent from God.

Verse 7: And they departed out of Spain, and Paul and his company finding a ship in Armorica sailing unto Britain, they went therein, and passing along the South coast they reached a port called Raphinus.

Verse 8: Now when it was noised abroad that the apostle had landed on their coast, great multitudes of the inhabitants met him, and they treated Paul courteously, and he entered in at the east gate of their city, and lodged in the house of an Hebrew and one of his own nation.

St. Paul's Cathedral, which stands on the top of Ludgate Hill in London, is believed to have been sited on or near the place where Paul preached.



Verse 9: And on the morrow he came and stood upon Mount Lud; and the people thronged at the gate, and assembled in the Broadway, and he preached Christ unto them, and many believed the word and the testimony of Jesus.

Verse 10: And at even the Holy Ghost fell upon Paul, and he prophesied, saying, Behold in the last days the God of Peace shall dwell in the cities, and the inhabitants thereof shall be numbered; and in the seventh numbering of the people, their eyes shall be opened, and the glory of their inheritance shine forth before them. And nations shall come up to worship on the Mount that testifieth of the patience and long suffering of a servant of the Lord.

Verse 11: And in the latter days there shall be wars and rumours of wars; and a king shall rise up, and his sword shall be for the healing of the nations, and his peace-making shall abide, and the glory of his kingdom a wonder among princes.

Verse 13: And it came to pass that certain of the Druids came unto Paul privately, and showed by their rites and ceremonies they were descended from the Jews which escaped from bondage in the land of Egypt, and the apostle believed these things, and he gave them the kiss of peace.

Verse 14: And Paul abode in his lodgings three months, confirming in the faith and preaching Christ continually.”

Verse 15: And after these things Paul and his brethren departed from Raphinus, and sailed unto Atium in Gaul.

Verse 16: And Paul preached in the Roman garrisons and among the people, exhorting all men to repent and confess their sins.

Verse 17: And there came to him certain of the Belgae to enquire of him of the new doctrine, and of the man Jesus; and Paul opened his heart unto them, and told them all things that had befallen him, how be it that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; and they departed, pondering among themselves upon the things which they had heard."

There was in the old kingdom of Lombardy, now a region of Italy, still something very interesting to see: tourists are astounded, if they happen to venture into the old church in Piazzini Bianchi in Genoa. In a niche behind the altar there is a very old statue of Aaron carved out of marble in the dress of a high priest stretching out his hands to bless with masculine watching eyes. Everything about him is as described in the Bible including the 12 jewelled breastplate representing the 12 tribes of Israel.

In Milan in the church of St. Ambrosius on a round pillar is a copper snake! So have all of the tribes come into Europe from whence they have gone out into the entire world to serve Him. Isaiah 43:21 tells us. "**This people which I have built for myself, shall declare my glory**" and in Isaiah 44:8; "**you are my witnesses**". Levites have brought this witness to all the Israelite nations. Unfortunately, also many have come with false teachings. For this reason the Lord Jesus sent his Holy Spirit to enable us to discern between what is true and what is false. It is for us to keep trusting in the Lord! Light and darkness cannot stay together. Where there is truth then must lies flee.

In Switzerland I learnt this song:

*Come here, come here, since yours' is the inheritance.
Come here, partake, for God is there
Come here, follow on, for you are the witness
Yours is the Kingdom of the Lord, it is accomplished
All encompassing, all powerful, all glorious.
We are the Kingdom of the Lord, it is accomplished.*

The prevailing of God's writ will come and thence for evermore through the ages to come.

We read in Genesis 15:13-16, how God spoke to Abraham about the future. Of the 4th line from Abraham, there is Levi (one of Jacob's sons), Kohath, Amran and Moses. From the calling out of Moses to the giving of the law at Sinai is 430 years. When Jacob's family was enticed into Egypt, 215 years had already passed. Moses as the 4th generation led his people out into the desert where they confirmed that they would abide by his laws (Exodus 19:5-8).

Now let us look at the circumstances surrounding the birth of Moses. The Pharaoh had ordered all new born children to be killed by drowning. However, 2 midwives refused to do this, for they trusted God (Exodus 1:15-22). The devil wanted to destroy the 4th generation to which Moses belonged, but because of the unfaithfulness of Israel in their desert wanderings, 4 generations must die before, because it would be the 5th generation that would enter into the promised land.

Moses was rescued from the water, we can see the symbolism of water for the nation, so let us look at Ezekiel 26:3

3 "Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Tyrus, and will cause many nations to come up against thee, as the sea causeth his waves to come up."

Although the 4th generation was brought out of slavery, indeed they could not enter into the "homeland" because of disobedience. Then much later, again because of disobedience, 11½ tribes were taken into captivity in Assyria as God's punishment (2 Kings 17:18-23). Some 150 years later the remainder of the tribe of Judah was taken into captivity but this time to Babylon.

Royal children such as Daniel came to Babylon and had to serve Nebuchadnezzar in his palace. (Daniel 1:3,4,17) Chapter 2 relates to us how the King and Daniel had a dream and how Daniel was able to interpret it. (Daniel 2:28-35). His interpretation is of very great importance **also for us today**. There were to arise 4 world empires – Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome. In Jesus' time, it was the period of Roman rule. Greek

at this time was not understood everywhere. In the Greek empire there was freedom to travel without documents. Rome adopted this policy so it was therefore possible for the disciples to travel freely within the Roman Empire to acquaint the lost sheep of Israel with the Gospel.

We still live in the 4th empire where the papacy has declared itself supreme. The European idea comes indeed from Rome! Because we live in the time of the 10 toes, we can expect the stone, which will destroy all four world systems from off the earth and then shall fill the whole earth (1 Peter, 2:4-5). It should be noted that stone in Hebrew is ABN, from which we get AB = Father and BN = Son. **"His will be done in earth as it is in heaven."**

Let us read Revelation, 12:13-17:

13 "And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.

14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

15 And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.

16 And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.

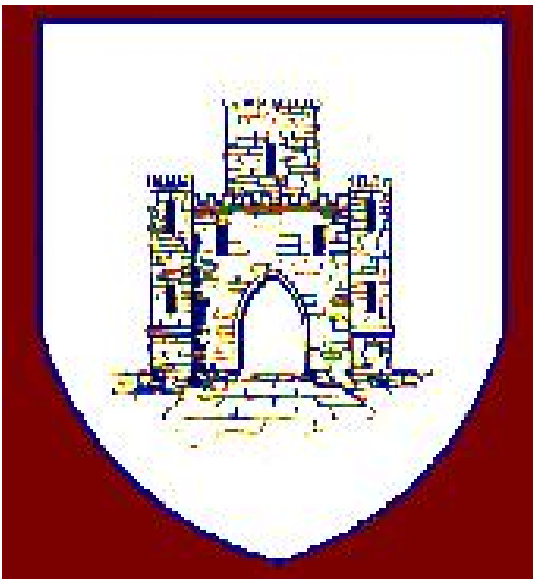
17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."

The woman Israel gave birth to the church or evangelism after the wandering of the people in the desert for a time period of 1260 years (3½

times or 3½ days long under the Papal system - a time is 360 years). Exactly 1260 years after the start of the papal system came Martin Luther with his opposition to the false Romish teachings.

Today Israel is symbolised in the waters of the European people whom Jesus will rescue out of the clutches of the 4th world empire. This “stone” (Hebr. ABN) will also destroy our present world system and power of religion, economics and politics etc. The 12 tribes of his people Israel will take the lead in the work of bringing the world under his rulership. 1 Peter 2:9-10: **"Till every knee shall bow."** Philippians 2:9-11. This will give rise to the 5th empire. Interestingly 5 = mercy.

Hallelujah Lord Jesus, thy will be done on earth as in heaven! But like the 4th generation at that time which did not enter into the promised land, so will also many not come into Jesus' kingdom on account of continuing unbelief. Great is our Lord Jesus. His counsel is sure. He will come and so will his kingship and lordship come! **Amen.**



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