**Glossary definitions of the twelve children of Jacob**

**(the twelve tribes of Israel)**

Each child was named by his mother showing that the mother’s character determined the nature of the child. Each tribe expresses a specific quality of thought, from the lowest “Dan” to the most spiritually minded “Joseph.” Jacob gave prophetic pronouncements concerning each son, and Mrs. Eddy saw the nature of Jacob and his sons so clearly that she gives us definitions for nine of them.

**JACOB.** A corporeal mortal embracing duplicity, re-

pentance, sensualism. Inspiration; the revelation of

Science, in which the so-called material senses yield to

the spiritual sense of Life and Love. SH 589:4-7

(Israel probably is the 2nd part of the definition of Jacob.)

LEAH (means weariness; painful; languid. She unites with Jacob and produces a lower type of manhood.)

SH 589:1-3

**ISSACHAR** (Jacob's son). A corporeal belief; the

offspring of error; envy; hatred; selfishness; self-will;

lust.

SH 590:11-13

**LEVI** (Jacob's son). A corporeal and sensual belief;

mortal man; denial of the fulness of God's creation;

ecclesiastical despotism.

***Simeon*** *is not in the Glossary, although both are named as instruments of cruelty by Jacob, so Levi’s definition could probably also refer to Simeon.*

SH 593:12-13

**REUBEN** (Jacob's son). Corporeality; sensuality; de-

lusion; mortality; error.

**ZEBULON**. No definition given by Mrs Eddy. He and Issachar represent the same thought.

SH 589:23-25

**JUDAH.** A corporeal material belief progressing and

disappearing; the spiritual understanding of God and

man appearing.

*Leah united with Israel, a higher consciousness of manhood and produced Judah. (Leah said, “Now I will praise the lord: therefore she called his name Judah;” Gen. 29:35)*

(It was through the tribe of Judah through which Christ Jesus was to trace his lineage.)

ZILPAH: (Leah’s handmaid would have united with Israel and not Jacob. Her name means to “trickle, as myrrh: fragrant dropping.”

SH 581:15-16

**ASHER** (Jacob's son). Hope and faith; spiritual com-

pensation; the ills of the flesh rebuked.

SH 586:21-22

**GAD** (Jacob's son). Science; spiritual being under-

stood; haste towards harmony.

RACHEL (means a sheep; a ewe; serene; meek) Rachel’s thought was much more spiritual type of thought than the other wives and concubines. Jacob’s love for Rachel was unbounded and his best thoughts were with her. Her children were of Israel, of love, and not f sensualism.

**BENJAMIN** (Jacob's son). A physical belief as to life,

substance, and mind; human knowledge, or so-called mortal mind, devoted to matter; pride; envy; fame; illusion; a false belief; error masquerading as the possessor of life, strength, animation, and power to act.

Renewal of affections; self-offering; an improved

state of mortal mind; the introduction of a more spiritual

origin; a gleam of the infinite idea of the infinite Principle; a spiritual type; that which comforts, consoles,

and supports.SH 589:19-22

Jacob renames his son from ‘Benomi’ to Benjamin after Rachel’s death, through pride and self-righteousness.

**JOSEPH.** A corporeal mortal; a higher sense of Truth

rebuking mortal belief, or error, and showing the immor-

tality and supremacy of Truth; pure affection blessing

its enemies.

(through Joseph’s lineage the second appearing of the Christ idea is to be realized, carrying forth the spiritual seed of the woman)

BILHAH (Rachel’s handmaid) means “terror; great fear; failure; alarm; timidity” Bilhah could not unite with Israel. She united with Jacob (duplicity, sensualism, and the result was dreadful.

SH 583:26-28

**DAN** (Jacob's son). Animal magnetism; so-called mor-

tal mind controlling mortal mind; error, working out

the designs of error; one belief preying upon another.

**Naphtali** (no definition was given by Mrs. Eddy. Maybe nothing could be said, he was a neutral nothing)

Only two of the twelve tribes are not named “Jacob’s son”. These two, Judah and Joseph, had extremely important missions given to them by God. Joseph was to retain the spiritual seed of the woman and pass it to its fulfillment.

The type of mortal thinking that seems to be inherent in each tribe represents the errors that beset humanity. The answer to these errors and the reinstatement of the true origin of each tribe comes through the Woman God-crowned. She is wearing the crown of twelve stars, the true idea of each tribe, each type of spiritual thought. The correction of the error in the tribes comes through the Woman.

SH 583:5-9

**CHILDREN OF ISRAEL.** The representatives of Soul, not

corporeal sense; the offspring of Spirit, who, having

wrestled with error, sin, and sense, are governed by divine

Science; some of the ideas of God beheld as men, casting

out error and healing the sick; Christ's offspring.

SH 309:7-23

**Israel the new name**

The result of Jacob's struggle thus appeared. He had

conquered material error with the understanding of Spirit

and of spiritual power. This changed the man.

He was no longer called Jacob, but Israel, —

a prince of God, or a soldier of God, who had fought

a good fight. He was to become the father of those, who

through earnest striving followed his demonstration of the

power of Spirit over the material senses; and the children

of earth who followed his example were to be called the

children of Israel, until the Messiah should rename them. [Christians]

If these children should go astray, and forget that Life

is God, good, and that good is not in elements which are

not spiritual, — thus losing the divine power which heals

the sick and sinning, — they were to be brought back

through great tribulation, to be renamed in Christian

Science [Christian Scientists] and led to deny material sense, or mind in matter,

even as the gospel teaches.

SH 566:1-11

**Spiritual guidance**

As the children of Israel were guided triumphantly

through the Red Sea, the dark ebbing and flowing tides

of human fear, — as they were led through the

wilderness, walking wearily through the great

desert of human hopes, and anticipating the promised

joy, — so shall the spiritual idea guide all right desires

in their passage from sense to Soul, from a material sense

of existence to the spiritual, up to the glory prepared for

them who love God. Stately Science pauses not, but

moves before them, a pillar of cloud by day and of fire

by night, leading to divine heights.

SH 226:25-227:2

**House of bondage**

The lame, the deaf, the dumb, the blind, the sick, the

sensual, the sinner, I wished to save from the slavery of

their own beliefs and from the educational

systems of the Pharaohs, who to-day, as of

yore, hold the children of Israel in bondage. I saw be-

fore me the awful conflict, the Red Sea and the wilder-

ness; but I pressed on through faith in God, trusting

Truth, the strong deliverer, to guide me into the land

of Christian Science, where fetters fall and the rights of

man are fully known and acknowledged.

SH 560:6-9

*Revelation* xii. 1. And there appeared a great wonder in

heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon

under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve

stars.

SH 562:11-21

**Spiritual idea crowned**

The spiritual idea is crowned with twelve stars. The

twelve tribes of Israel with all mortals, — separated by

belief from man's divine origin and the true

idea, — will through much tribulation yield to

the activities of the divine Principle of man in the har-

mony of Science. These are the stars in the crown of

rejoicing. They are the lamps in the spiritual heavens

of the age, which show the workings of the spiritual idea

by healing the sick and the sinning, and by manifesting

the light which shines "unto the perfect day" as the night

of materialism wanes.

Rev. 21:12

12And had a wall great and high, *and* had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are *the names* of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:

Rev. 22:14

14Blessed *are* they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.