

# The Significance of Twelve

- The number TWELVE in the Bible is symbolic of the nation of Israel.
- The number TWELVE can also sometimes be seen as God's authority serving as a perfect governmental foundation.

- Genesis 35: 22-26

- Jacob (Israel) had **twelve** sons:

<sup>23</sup> The sons of Leah: Reuben the firstborn of Jacob ,Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar and Zebulun.

<sup>24</sup> The sons of Rachel: Joseph and Benjamin.

<sup>25</sup> The sons of Rachel's servant Bilhah: Dan and Naphtali.

<sup>26</sup> The sons of Leah's servant Zilpah: Gad and Asher.

These were the sons of Jacob, who were born to him in Paddan Aram.

- Jacob (Israel) was blessed by God with twelve sons.

- Acts 7: 8

- <sup>8</sup> Then he gave Abraham the covenant of circumcision. And Abraham became the father of Isaac and circumcised him eight days after his birth. Later Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob became the father of the twelve patriarchs.

- Exodus 28:17-21

- <sup>17</sup> Then mount four rows of precious stones on it. The first row shall be carnelian, chrysolite and beryl; <sup>18</sup> the second row shall be turquoise, lapis lazuli and emerald; <sup>19</sup> the third row shall be jacinth, agate and amethyst; <sup>20</sup> the fourth row shall be topaz, onyx and jasper.<sup>[b]</sup> Mount them in gold filigree settings. <sup>21</sup> There are to be **twelve** stones, one for each of the names of the sons of Israel, each engraved like a seal with the name of one of the twelve tribes.

- The High Priest's breastplate was adorned with twelve stones, with each stone bearing the name of one of the tribes.



- Numbers 17: 1-8

[a]The LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup> “Speak to the Israelites and get **twelve** staffs from them, one from the leader of each of their ancestral tribes. Write the name of each man on his staff. <sup>3</sup> On the staff of Levi write Aaron’s name, for there must be one staff for the head of each ancestral tribe. <sup>4</sup> Place them in the tent of meeting in front of the ark of the covenant law, where I meet with you. <sup>5</sup> The staff belonging to the man I choose will sprout, and I will rid myself of this constant grumbling against you by the Israelites.”

<sup>6</sup> So Moses spoke to the Israelites, and their leaders gave him **twelve** staffs, one for the leader of each of their ancestral tribes, and Aaron’s staff was among them. <sup>7</sup> Moses placed the staffs before the LORD in the tent of the covenant law.

<sup>8</sup> The next day Moses entered the tent and saw that Aaron’s staff, which represented the tribe of Levi, had not only sprouted but had budded, blossomed and produced almonds.

- In order to quell potential opposition to Moses’ leadership and authority, God instructed TWELVE staffs, one from each tribe, to be placed in front of the ark of the covenant, with Aaron’s staff representing the tribe of Levi.
- The next day Aaron’s staff had budded and produced almonds, whereas the other eleven remained as they were.

- Deuteronomy 1:23
  - <sup>23</sup> The idea seemed good to me; so I selected **twelve** of you, one man from each tribe. <sup>24</sup> They left and went up into the hill country, and came to the Valley of Eshkol and explored it.
- Moses sent out twelve spies, one for each tribe to scope out the land of Canaan.
- Deuteronomy 27: 9-26
- The Levites shouted Twelve curses to the nation of Israel that would come upon them if they did not follow God's law.

- Joshua 4:1-3;8-9

- When the whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the LORD said to Joshua, <sup>2</sup> “Choose twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe, <sup>3</sup> and tell them to take up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, from right where the priests are standing, and carry them over with you and put them down at the place where you stay tonight.”
  - <sup>8</sup> So the Israelites did as Joshua commanded them. They took twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, as the LORD had told Joshua; and they carried them over with them to their camp, where they put them down. <sup>9</sup> Joshua set up the twelve stones that had been<sup>[a]</sup> in the middle of the Jordan at the spot where the priests who carried the ark of the covenant had stood. And they are there to this day.
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- After crossing the Jordan a man from each tribe removed a stone to serve as a reminder of God’s deliverance.



Joshua. IV. 20. 21. 22.

- 1 Kings 4:7
  - <sup>7</sup> Solomon had twelve district governors over all Israel, who supplied provisions for the king and the royal household. Each one had to provide supplies for one month in the year.
- Solomon divided Israel into twelve districts, each with a governor, in order to provide provisions for the king's household.

- Ezekiel 48:31-34

- <sup>30</sup> “These will be the exits of the city: Beginning on the north side, which is 4,500 cubits long, <sup>31</sup> the gates of the city will be named after the tribes of Israel. The three gates on the north side will be the gate of Reuben, the gate of Judah and the gate of Levi.

- <sup>32</sup> “On the east side, which is 4,500 cubits long, will be three gates: the gate of Joseph, the gate of Benjamin and the gate of Dan.

- <sup>33</sup> “On the south side, which measures 4,500 cubits, will be three gates: the gate of Simeon, the gate of Issachar and the gate of Zebulun.

- <sup>34</sup> “On the west side, which is 4,500 cubits long, will be three gates: the gate of Gad, the gate of Asher and the gate of Naphtali.

- <sup>35</sup> “The distance all around will be 18,000 cubits.<sup>[f]</sup>

- “And the name of the city from that time on will be:  
THE LORD IS THERE.”

- A total of TWELVE gates will exist in the city THE LORD IS THERE.

- Matthew 10:2

- Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

<sup>2</sup> These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; <sup>3</sup> Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; <sup>4</sup> Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

- Why do you think Jesus called on Twelve men to be his disciples?

- Matthew 19: 27-28

- <sup>27</sup> Peter answered him, “We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?” <sup>28</sup> Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

- Jesus states here that the TWELVE apostles will sit on twelve thrones and judge the twelve tribes of Israel.

- Matthew 26:53

- <sup>53</sup> Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than **twelve** legions of angels? <sup>54</sup> But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?”

- At his arrest in the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus told Peter that he had more than twelve legions of angels at his disposal, perhaps one for each disciple or one for each tribe.

- Let us quickly calculate the combined strength of TWELVE legions of angels.
- The size of a Roman legion varied over history, but during the first century a legion generally contained around 6,000 men. Therefore twelve legions would consist of approximately 72,000 angels.
- Now let us read Isaiah 37:36
  - <sup>36</sup> Then the angel of the LORD went out and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand in the Assyrian camp. When the people got up the next morning—there were all the dead bodies!
- In Isaiah ONE angel of the Lord put to death 185,000 Assyrians when they attempted to conquer Jerusalem.
- If we extrapolate then we could surmise that TWELVE legions of angels could destroy 13,320,000,000 individuals. That is more than the current world population!

- One angel would have been sufficient, but God would have given His son more than enough (more than twelve legions). But Jesus did not call on the angelic help that was available to Him.
- He knew it was time for Him to voluntarily lay down His life for the sin of the human race.
- Imagine the amount of restraint and self control that Jesus must have had to refrain from summoning such a mighty host!

- James 1: 1
  - James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings.
- James begins his letter addressing the remnant of the nation of Israel, those of the twelve tribes that have been dispersed throughout the world.

- Revelation 7: 4-8

- <sup>4</sup> Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel.

- <sup>5</sup> From the tribe of Judah 12,000 were sealed,

- from the tribe of Reuben 12,000,

- from the tribe of Gad 12,000,

- <sup>6</sup> from the tribe of Asher 12,000,

- from the tribe of Naphtali 12,000,

- from the tribe of Manasseh 12,000,

- <sup>7</sup> from the tribe of Simeon 12,000,

- from the tribe of Levi 12,000,

- from the tribe of Issachar 12,000,

- <sup>8</sup> from the tribe of Zebulun 12,000,

- from the tribe of Joseph 12,000,

- from the tribe of Benjamin 12,000.

- The number of those sealed totals 144,000; 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes of Israel.

- Revelation 21: 12-21

- <sup>12</sup> It had a great, high wall with **twelve gates**, and with **twelve angels** at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the **twelve tribes** of Israel.  
<sup>13</sup> There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. <sup>14</sup> The wall of the city had **twelve foundations**, and on them were the names of the **twelve apostles** of the Lamb.
- <sup>15</sup> The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls. <sup>16</sup> The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be 12,000 stadia<sup>[c]</sup> in length, and as wide and high as it is long. <sup>17</sup> The angel measured the wall using human measurement, and it was 144 cubits<sup>[d]</sup> thick.<sup>[e]</sup> <sup>18</sup> The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass. <sup>19</sup> The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, <sup>20</sup> the fifth onyx, the sixth ruby, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth turquoise, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst.<sup>[f]</sup> <sup>21</sup> **The twelve gates** were **twelve pearls**, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of gold, as pure as transparent glass.

- Notice that the New Jerusalem has twelve gates, the same number that are mentioned in Ezekiel, and on each gate is written the name of a tribe of Israel.
- There are twelve angels standing at the twelve gates.
- Furthermore, note that the foundations are decorated with TWELVE different stones, the same number of stones on the breastplate of the High Priest.
- Also, the walls surrounding the city are 12,000 stadia long and 12,000 stadia wide, which is approximately 1400 miles long and 1400 miles wide! This is a massive city!
- Furthermore, the wall made of jasper surrounding the city is 144 (12 times 12) cubits thick, which is approximately 220 feet or 73 yards. This is a massive wall, and it is made of jasper!



ESCAR  
The name of the globe is partially visible in a decorative cartouche on the left side of the globe.

A yellow sticky note is attached to the globe, positioned over the northern part of North America. The text on the note is illegible.

