

Levi

Zealousness

Zealousness

“When zealousness is guided and bound by the limits of the Torah then it will succeed.... But without guidance, boundaries [zealousness] does not have the power to succeed and ultimately will remove the zealot from the world.”

Levi

- Stone is the agate consisting of the colors of red, white and black strips.
- His flag had the Urim V'Tumin

Levi's Birth Gen. 29:34

And she conceived again, and bare a son; and said, Now this time will my husband be **joined (yelaveh)** unto me, because I have born him three sons: **therefore was his name called Levi**.
Name means "joined to"
In Hebrew it reads "**Therefore He named him Levi**"

What made Levi different?

- Early life no different from Simeon
- Was the Levites status earned through meritorious acts or preordained?
- Pivotal point in the narrative where the tribe of Levi merit their status as workers in the Temple is the incident following the sin of the golden calf.

Shechem

- The Talmud refers to Shechem as "a city slated for divisiveness" because of its involvement in the traumatic events in early Israeli history.
- The rape of Dinah
- The slaughter of the men of Shechem
- The selling of Joseph
- The kingdom of Solomon wrenched apart at Shechem with Judah in the south and Israel to the north.

Shechem

For they gave them Shechem with her suburbs in mount Ephraim, *to be* a city of refuge for the slayer; and Gezer with her suburbs, (Jos 21:21 KJV)

Defilement of Dinah

- Gen. 34:1-7 - Dinah is defiled and Simeon and Levi are angered by the damage caused to their sister and the family.
- Gen. 34:11-25 – Simeon and Levi convince the men of Shechem to circumcise themselves in order to marry their sister.

Joseph

- What was the rift between Simeon, Levi and Joseph?
- Joseph's Dreams
- Joseph's mother

The Continuity of Zealousness Continues

And he said unto them, Thus saith the L-RD G-d of Israel, Put every man his sword by his side, *and* go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay every man his brother, and every man his companion, and every man his neighbour.

²⁸ And the children of Levi did according to the word of Moses: and there fell of the people that day about three thousand men.

²⁹ For Moses had said, Consecrate yourselves to day to the L-RD, even every man upon his son, and upon his brother; that he may bestow upon you a blessing this day. (Exo 32:27-29 KJV)

Deut. 10:8-9

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

⁹ **Wherefore Levi hath no part nor inheritance with his brethren; the L-RD is his inheritance, according as the L-RD thy G-d promised him.**

Joined Yet Separated

While the other tribes have an inheritance to the land of Israel the Levites have none. Instead they have cities scattered throughout the entire land.

The tribe of Levi did not participate in the Golden Calf incident.

When the tribes sent out representatives to search out the land of Israel, the Levites refrained from sending out a representative.

Were exempt from military service.

Levi Separated

Stood between Mount Gerizim and Mount Ebal

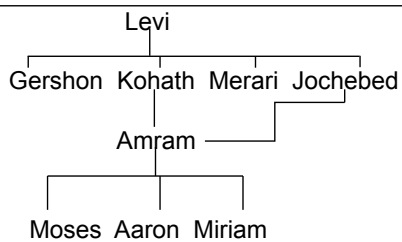
Did not toil – supported by the nation.

Become teachers of the Torah.

Long Life

- Levi ben Ya'akov, the father of the tribe of Levites, lived 137 years, the longest of all of the sons of Jacob. He had a particularly strong influence on the spiritual development of his progeny, and lived to see his great-grandsons Moshe and Aharon.

- Levi



Levi and Simeon The Splitting of the Way

- And, behold, one of the children of Israel came and brought unto his brethren a Midianitish woman in the sight of Moses, and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who were weeping before the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.
- ⁷ And when Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose up from among the congregation, and took a javelin in his hand;
- ⁸ And he went after the man of Israel into the tent, and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her belly. So the plague was stayed from the children of Israel.
- ⁹ And those that died in the plague were twenty and four thousand.
- (Num 25:6-9 KJV)

Zimri

- Now the name of the Israelite that was slain, even that was slain with the Midianitish woman, was Zimri, the son of Salu, a prince of a chief house among the Simeonites.
- ¹⁵ And the name of the Midianitish woman that was slain was Cozbi, the daughter of Zur; he was head over a people, and of a chief house in Midian.
- (Num 25:14-15 KJV)
