

Left Out!

Why is the Tribe of Dan Missing in the 144,000?

Mystery of mysteries! The tribe of Dan is not mentioned among the 144,000 servants of God from the twelve tribes of Israel in the “Last Days”! Why? What happened? Who are they, and where are they, in the earth, today? Just what did Dan do?

William F. Dankenbring

Jacob, when he was growing old, prophesied of Dan, “Dan will provide justice for his people as one of the tribes of Israel. Dan will be a serpent by the roadside, a viper along the path, that bites the horse’s heels, so that it’s rider tumbles backward. I look for your deliverance, O Lord” (Gen.49:16-18). The King James Version has this last verse, “I have *waited* for thy salvation, O Lord.”

For some reason, as this prophecy states, Dan must “wait” for God’s salvation -- even longer than the other tribes. In the book of Revelation, when Christ tells the apostle John that He will choose 144,000 special servants during the last days from the twelve tribes of Israel (Rev.7:1-8), and chooses 12,000 out of each tribe, it is interesting to note that He gives Joseph a double portion – that is, a portion for Ephraim (Joseph) and a portion for his brother Manasseh (Rev.7:6, 8) – but Dan is not mentioned at all! Why is this?

Part of the answer may be contained in the book of Judges. The tribe of Dan still had not settled down and occupied their “inheritance” in Canaan (Judges 18:1-2), so they sent five warriors forth to explore the land. They found a Levitical priest of the Lord in the house of a man named Micah, and enquired whether God would bless their endeavor. He said yes. They journeyed forth and found a city Laish dwelling securely and prosperously, went back and urged their tribe to attack it, and 600 Danites sallied forth. But on their way, they set up camp in a place they named *Mahaneh Dan* (Jud.18:12), and then came to Micah’s house again.

Notice what happened: “The six hundred Danites, armed for battle, stood at the entrance to the gate. The five men who had spied out the land went inside and took the carved image, the ephod, the other HOUSEHOLD GODS and the cast IDOL while the priest and the six hundred armed men stood at the entrance to the gate. When the men

went into Micah's house and took the carved image, the ephod, the other household gods, and the cast idol, the priest said to them, 'What are you doing?' They answered him, 'Be quiet! Don't say a word! Come with us and be OUR FATHER AND PRIEST. Isn't it better that you serve a tribe and clan in Israel as priest rather than just one man's household?' Then the priest was glad" (Jud.1:16-20).

The tribe of Dan was the first tribe of Israel to plunge into pagan IDOLATRY! Over the centuries, they have become steeped in idolatry and image worship -- so much so that even during the Great Tribulation, they will be slow to repent of their sins and to come out of the prevalent end-time idolatry of Roman Catholicism, which numbers over 900 million adherents around the world, today.

Dan's Problem in the End of Days

Some ancient sources connect the end-time Antichrist, or "Beast" of Revelation, the Last World Dictator, with the tribe of Dan.

Says the Apocalypse of Daniel, an early work of the church era, "And another great scepter will arise from Judea. And his name (is) Dan" (8:1-2). "With him reigning, the Antichrist will go forth from the lower regions and the chasms of Hades. . . . He comes into Jerusalem and becomes a false teacher. And he will appear quiet and gentle and guileless" (9:1-2, 14-16).

This ruler with a "great scepter" has an ancestry once in Judea, and is also of "Dan." He will return to Israel, in the Middle East, and be a "rebel" against God – a great "false teacher" or world leader, who is very charismatic. He will come on the scene appearing as a wonderful and gentle, guileless man with a great smile and charming persona. But he will become a "stern-faced king" – "Having fierce features ["countenance," marginal reading], who understands sinister schemes" (Dan.8:23).

Perhaps the earliest source connecting the Antichrist with the tribe of Dan, however, is the Testament of the Patriarchs. In the testament of Dan, the progenitor of the tribe of Dan, he tells his children a prophecy for them for the last days, before the coming of the Messiah. We read: "For I know that in the last days you will defect from the Lord, you will be offended at Levi, and revolt against Judah; but you will not prevail over them . . . To the extent that you abandon the Lord, you will live by every evil deed, committing the revolting acts of the Gentiles, chasing after wives of lawless men, and you are motivated to all the wickedness by the spirits of deceit among you. For I read in the book of Enoch the righteous that *your prince is Satan . . .*" (*Testaments*, Dan 5:4-6).

Will the Antichrist be descended from the tribe of Dan, at least in part? Dan is missing from the tribes listed in Revelation 7, the 144,000 (Rev.7:5-8).

In Jeremiah's prophecy, we read of Dan: "The snorting of their horses is heard from Dan; at the sound of the neighing of their stallions the whole land quakes. They come and devour the land and all that fills it, the city and those who live in it. See, I am

letting loose snakes among you, adders that cannot be charmed, and they shall bite you, says the LORD” (Jer.8:16-17, NRSV).

Irenaeus

Irenaeus attributes this omission to the fact that “the antichrist is to come from the tribe of Dan –a belief which he bases on Jeremiah 8:16, LXX (‘from Dan shall we hear the noise of his swift horses’)” (*The New Bible Dictionary*, p.289).

Irenaeus says of the Antichrist: “And there is therefore in this beast, when he comes, a recapitulation made of all sorts of iniquity and of every deceit, in order that all apostate power, flowing into and being shut up in him, may be sent into the furnace of fire. Fittingly, therefore, shall his name possess the number six hundred and sixty-six, since he sums up in his own person all the commixture of wickedness which took place previous to the deluge, due to the apostasy of the angels. . . And [Antichrist] also sums up every error of devised idols since the flood, together with the slaying of the prophets and the cutting off of the just” (Irenaeus, “Against Heresies,” XXIX, 2, *Ante-Nicean Fathers*, p.558).

Irenaeus relates the coming of Antichrist to the tribe of Dan. He declares: “And Jeremiah does not merely point out his sudden coming, but *he even indicates the tribe from which he shall come*, where he says, ‘We shall hear the voice of his *swift horses from DAN*; the whole earth shall be moved by the voice of the neighing of his galloping horses: he shall also come and *devour the earth*, and the fullness thereof, the city also, and they that dwell therein.’ This, too, is the reason that this tribe is not reckoned in the apocalypse along with those which are saved” (XXX, 2, p.559).

In the *Encyclopaeda Judaica*, we read that early Christians such as Irenaeus believed that the Antichrist would come from the Hebrew tribe of Dan. Says this source regarding the belief in the coming of a world figure known as the “Antichrist,” “One particular form basing itself on Jewish traditions (see Test. Patr., Dan. 5:6), makes the Antichrist a Jewish pseudo-messiah of the tribe of Dan” (“Antichrist,” vol.3, page 62).

Hippolytus

Hippolytus (A.D. 170-236), a Greek, was the disciple and student of Irenaeus, his master. He fought against the idea that the churches should be submissive to the Bishop of Rome or the church at Rome. He stood up against the Roman bishops who merited rebuke both for their errors in doctrine as well as the viciousness of their lives.

In his “Treatise on Christ and Antichrist,” he describes the coming Antichrist as a lion among men. He relates as follows:

“Now, as our Lord Jesus Christ, who is also God, was prophesied of under the figure of a lion, on account of His royalty and glory, in the same way have the Scriptures also aforetime spoken of Antichrist as a lion, on account of his tyranny and violence. For the deceiver seeks

to liken himself in all things to the Son of God. Christ is a lion, so Antichrist is also a lion; Christ is a king, so Antichrist is also a king. The Saviour was manifested as a lamb; so he too, in like manner, will appear as a lamb, though within he is a wolf" (*Ante-Nicean Fathers*, vol.5, Hippolytus, "Treatise of Christ and Antichrist," Part II, 14, page 206).

This early church father was very clear that the Antichrist would spring from the tribe of Dan. Fascinatingly, the United States today is primarily the Israelite tribe of Ephraim with a strong admixture of the tribe of Dan. Send for our unique book, **AMERICA AND GREAT BRITAIN: OUR IDENTITY REVEALED) -- EPHRAIM AND MANASSEH IN THE END OF DAYS..**

Says Hippolytus:

"Thus did the Scriptures preach before-time of this lion and lion's whelp. And in like manner also we find it written regarding Antichrist. For Moses speaks thus: 'Dan is a lion's whelp, and he shall leap from Bashan.' But that no one may err by supposing that this is said of the Saviour, let him attend carefully to the matter. 'Dan,' he says, 'is a lion's whelp;' and in naming the tribe of Dan, he declared clearly the tribe from which Antichrist is destined to spring. For as Christ springs from the tribe of Judah, *so Antichrist is to spring from the tribe of Dan. And that the case stands thus, we see also from the words of Jacob: 'Let Dan be a serpent, lying upon the ground, biting the horse's heel.'* What, then, is meant by the serpent but Antichrist, that deceiver who is mentioned in Genesis, who deceived Eve and supplanted Adam (bruised Adam's heel)? But since it is necessary to prove this assertion by sufficient testimony, *we shall not shrink from the task.*

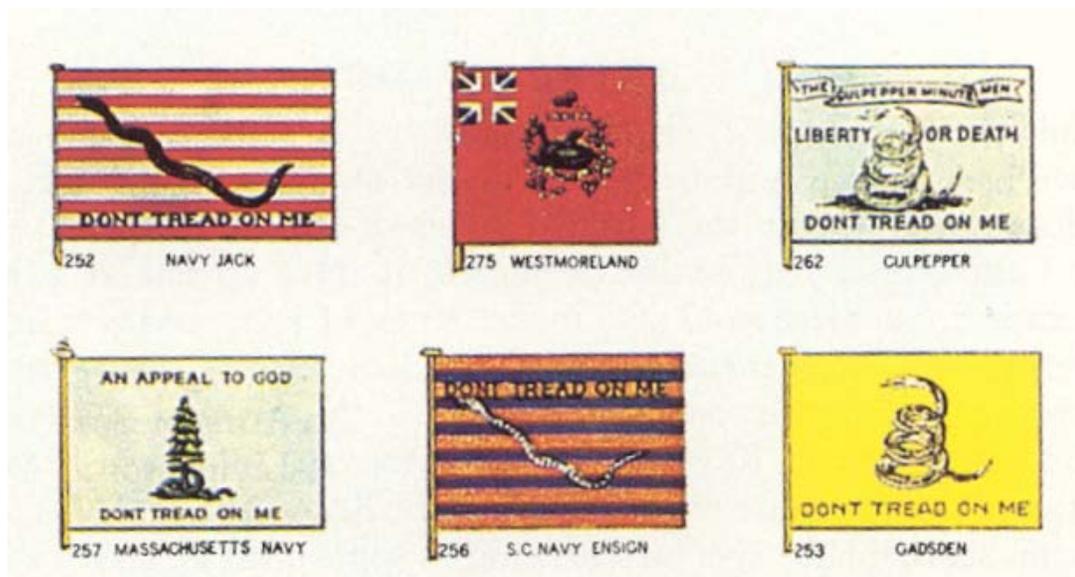
"That it is in reality out of the tribe of Dan, then, that that tyrant and king, that dread judge, that son of the devil, is destined to spring and arise, the prophet testifies when he says, 'Dan shall judge his people, as (he is) also one tribe in Israel.' But some one may say that this refers to Samson, who sprang from the tribe of Dan, and judged the people twenty years. *Well, the prophecy had its partial fulfillment in Samson, but its complete fulfillment is reserved for Antichrist. For Jeremiah also speaks to this effect: 'From Dan we are to hear the sound of the swiftness of his horses: the whole land trembled at the sound of the neighing, of the driving of his horses.'* And another prophet says: 'He shall gather together all his strength, from the east even to the west. They whom he calls, and they whom he calls not, shall go with him. He shall make the sea white with the sails of his ships, and the plain black with the shields of his armaments. And whosoever shall oppose him in war shall fall by the sword.' That these things, then, are said of no one else but that tyrant, and shameless one, and adversary of God, we shall show in what follows. But Isaiah also speaks thus: 'And it shall come to pass, that when the Lord hath performed His whole work upon Mount Zion and on Jerusalem, He will punish (visit) the stout mind, the king of Assyria, and the greatness (height) of the glory of his eyes, For he said, by my strength will I do it, and by the wisdom

of my understanding I will remove the bounds of the peoples, and will rob them of their strength : and I will make the inhabited cities tremble, and will gather the whole world in my hand like a nest, and I will lift it up like eggs that are left. . . .”(ANF, *ibid.*, 14-17).

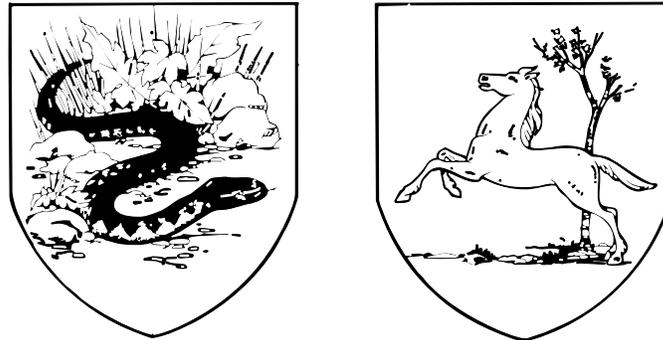
According to the book of Enoch the prophet, Azazel, prince of the fallen angels, and those with him, were cast out of heaven, fell to the earth, and were located “near the waters of Dan, which is to the right [south] of the evening side [west] of Hermon.” That is, they dwelt in modern day Lebanon, north of Israel. This area near Mount Hermon became the territory of the tribe of Dan. Eventually, these fallen Nephilim consorted with the Danites, as we infer from the testament of their forefather Dan. Joshua tells us that the giant Og reigned in the region of Hermon (Josh.12:4-5). He was also the king of Bashan, known as “the land of the giants” (Deut.3:13).

The fact that fallen angels cohabited with women is well documented in the Scriptures. Moses recorded: “Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, that the *sons of God [bene elohiim]* saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives from themselves of all whom they chose . . . There were GIANTS [Nephilim, “fallen ones” and “mighty ones”] in those days, and also afterward, *when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men, and they bore children to them.* Those were the mighty men of old, men of renown” (Gen.6:1-4), These wicked angelic beings “did not keep their proper domain [heaven], but left their own abode” (Jude 6). They gave themselves over to “sexual immorality” and went after “strange flesh,” crossing genetic boundaries, and having sexual relations with human women – the “daughters of men” and SINNED (Jude 7; II Peter 2:4).

The Serpent and the Horse are Symbols of the Tribe of Dan



Jacob prophesied of the Tribe of Dan, “Dan shall judge his people as one of the Tribes of Israel. Dan shall be A VIPER BY THE PATH, that bites the horse’s heels so that its rider shall fall backward” (Gen.49:16-17). The serpent was the original emblem of the tribe of Dan. It is very prominent in the early history of the United States, showing a large influence of Dan in the nation. Dan settled primarily in Ireland, Scotland and Denmark (Dan’s mark). Moses prophesied of Dan, “Dan is a LION’S WHELP; he shall leap from Bashan” (Deut.33:22). Dan was also like a “lion,” a warlike tribe.



The serpent was the primary symbol of Dan, but the white horse was its secondary symbol. Its primary symbol has largely been superceded by his secondary emblem, the horse, usually pictured as being white. In Denmark, a white horse appears on the shield in the Royal Arms.

The horse was a creature of war, and as such was fitting for this warlike tribe. The Bible speaks of the “white horse” as the first of the four horsemen of the Apocalypse, riding to war with a bow (Rev.6:2).

Dan’s Tribal Emblems

The tribal emblem of the Danites was an eagle with a serpent in its claws. Jacob foretold, “Dan shall be a serpent by the way, that bites the horse’s heels so that its rider shall fall backward” (Gen.49:17). Notice that in this statement of identity, Dan is connected with the motif of a serpent, and a horse.

Says W. H. Bennett in *Symbols of Our Celto-Saxon Heritage*, “The first object to which Dan is likened is definitely stated to be a Serpent. The second is implied, being mentioned in relation to the first. It is a Horse, or a Horse and Rider, the Horse usually being white . . . the *Serpent* and the White Horse remained the emblems of the Tribe of Dan” (pages 26-27). Later he adds, “When the newly-formed United States of America was choosing a national emblem, the *Serpent* was a serious contender for the position given to the Eagle. Further, the *Serpent* was the official emblem of several of the military and naval units of the United States Revolutionary Forces. Dan’s secondary emblem, a Horse, usually pictured as white and sometimes with a rider, was a favorite emblem of the Saxons long before their invasion of Britain” (p.47-49).

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the nation. Thus the tribe of Dan also became associated with the United States. Thousands of Irish immigrated to the United States because of the Potato Famine in Ireland in 1845-1846.

The Eagle

The emblem of the Eagle is also connected to the tribe of Dan. As the tribes of Israel came out of Egypt, they marched in brigades, three on each side of the Tabernacle. On the north side was the leading Tribe of Dan, with Asher and Naphtali with him. The tribes on the east side were Judah, the Lion tribe, with Issachar and Zebulon. On the west side was Joseph (Ephraim and Manasseh), the Bull tribe, with Benjamin. To the south was Reuben, whose symbol was a Man, with Gad and Simeon.

It is interesting that one symbol of Dan is the “eagle.” The eagle is also the symbol of the United States of America!

Notice these creatures reflect three of the faces of the cherubim mentioned in Ezekiel, chapter 1! (Ezek.1:10). The fourth face, that of an Eagle, was connected to the tribes on the north of the Tabernacle, led by Dan.

Says Bennett, “The outstanding example of the use of the *Eagle*, the emblem of Israel’s fourth Brigade, as an emblem of the Celto-Saxon people today, is of course as the



central and dominant figure in the national Arms of the United States” (p.75).

Alfred Lord Tennyson wrote “The Eagle”:

“He clasps the crag with crooked hands;
Close to the sun in lonely lands,
Ringed with the azure world he stands.

The wrinkled span beneath him crawls;

He watches from his mountain walls,
And like a thunderbolt he falls.”

How like America! It is the land solitary, far removed from the ancient world of Europe and the Middle East. It stands often alone, surveying the world from afar, watching. When angry, or in a hunting mood, it descends like a thunderbolt or stroke of lightning upon its prey! The Danite influence in America is very strong.

The “White Horse” in Prophecy

The symbol of the white horse, the *secondary symbol of Dan*, is also a symbol of a war-waging world power from the West! In the book of Job we read that the horse itself is a symbol of war. God said to Job, “Have you given the horse strength? Have you clothed his neck with thunder? Can you frighten him like a locust? His majestic snorting strikes terror. He paws in the valley, and rejoices in his strength; he gallops into the clash of arms. He mocks at fear, and is not frightened; nor does he turn back from the sword. The quiver rattles against him, the glittering spear and javelin. He devours the distance with fierceness and rage; nor does he come to a halt because the trumpet has sounded. At the blast of the trumpet he says, ‘Aha!’ He smells the battle from afar, the thunder of captains and shouting” (Job 39:19-25).

The white horse is mentioned in the prophecies of Zechariah, chapter six. The prophet described four chariots led by horses – red, black, white, and spotted (Zech.6:2-3). These represented world powers at the four directions of the wind or the compass (verse 5). The black horse was connected with the north (v.6), the spotted with the south (v.6).

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These symbols of the tribe of Dan are also prominent as being among the significant emblems of the United States of America. The bald eagle is the national symbol of the nation. The serpent motto or motif was prominent in early American history. The Irish have played a very important role in American history.

Yair Davidy writes in *The Tribes: The Israelite Origins of Western Peoples*, “There are about 60 million people in the world today of Irish descent though only around three million live in Ireland itself. *Most people of Irish origin live in the U.S.A.* as well as being numerous in Australia and the United Kingdom. In the past, whole tribes from Ireland invaded and settled on the west coasts of Wales, England, and Scotland in the period when the Anglo-Saxons and kin were invading from the east. . . . The Irish of today as recognized in Ireland and America have characteristics applicable both to DAN

and to Simeon. In the U.S.A. the Irish dominate much of the Police Force; they are officious and inclined to violence . . . they tend to be religious, even superstitious, though this quality is mitigated by outbursts of profligacy; they can be poetical and mystical . . . they can also be hardy, tough, very brave and good fighters who enjoy fighting” (p.432).

American Presidents and Dan

Barack Obama, current president of the United States, also appears to be partly descended from the tribes of Dan and Judah. He is related to European royalty. Obama’s distant presidential cousins include President George W. Bush and his father, George H. W. Bush, Gerald Ford, Lyndon Johnson, Harry S. Truman and James Madison. It is a fact that Barack Obama, the son of a white woman from Kansas and a black man from Kenya, is related to several presidents across both party lines. So says the New England Historic Genealogical Society which is the oldest and largest nonprofit genealogical organization in the country.

Barack Obama is from the tribe of Dan, on his mother’s side. His family genealogy extends back to the French king Merovee. His genealogy goes back to the tribe of Dan, as well as the tribe of Judah, the Biblical “sceptre tribe” denoting “rulership.”

What Does It All Mean?

If indeed Dan is the tribe of the Antichrist, and supports him with great devotion and loyalty, then that could well be a significant reason Dan is left out of the 144,000 saints mentioned in the 7th chapter of Revelation who serve God during the End of Days and who are protected during the day of God’s wrath. They are so blind in their devotion to a self-proclaimed false Messiah and “god,” that they must “wait” for God’s salvation, and have their spiritual “blindness” supernaturally removed when the true Christ returns to rule the earth!

However, the tribe of Dan WILL be saved. As the apostle Paul wrote, “What then? Israel has not obtained what it seeks, but the elect have obtained it, and the rest were BLINDED. Just as it is written: God has given them a spirit of stupor, eyes that they should not see and ears that they should not hear, to this very day” (Romans 11:7-8). Paul goes on, “I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? *Certainly not!* But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles. Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness?” (verses 11-12).

In conclusion, Paul states: “For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that BLINDNESS IN PART has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so *ALL ISRAEL* – INCLUDING THE TRIBE OF DAN – “*SHALL BE SAVED*, as it is written: The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; for this is my covenant with them, when I take away their sins” (Rom. 11:25-27).

Dan is NOT LOST! They, too, will be saved, and receive God's promises, in due time – when the Messiah returns from heaven to rescue and deliver His people!

The 144,000 Explained

The fact that Dan is left out of the 144,000 of the tribes of Israel listed in Revelation 7 does not mean they are eternally “lost.” Rather, it just means their salvation is “delayed.” This special group in Revelation, chapter 7, only refers to those people from the tribes of Israel *who turn to God during the end of the age*, during the Great Tribulation, and who will serve God in a special way during the END of this age and into the millennial reign of Christ. They are a specially called group who will go into the Millennium as *human rulers under Christ*, as the 1,000 year reign begins.

However, another group of 144,000 saints -- called the “firstfruits” – are mentioned in Revelation 14.

The saints mentioned in Revelation 14 – another 144,000 saints who are the “redeemed” from the earth, known as the “firstfruits” – refers to ALL the saints and true believers and servants of God from the time of Adam and Eve down to this final “age” or “generation” of mankind. This group of 144,000 are resurrected and rise to meet Christ when He comes, and inherit eternal life and immortality when Christ returns! (see I Cor.15:50-52; I Thess.4:16-17).

Converted people and saints from the tribe of Dan WILL be among these 144,000 saints who will become immortal sons of God, resurrected and glorified, when Christ returns!

The 144,000 of Revelation, chapter 7, however, are a special group of 12,000 people from all the tribes of Israel *except Dan*. Dan's unique involvement with the “Beast system,” and end-time idolatry, means that they will be left out of this special group of end-time saints.

Because Dan is omitted, Joseph is given a “double portion” – 12,000 from the tribe of Manasseh, and 12,000 from the tribe of Ephraim. Here Ephraim is called “Joseph” because Ephraim was the son of Joseph who received the *birthright* and greater blessings than Manasseh. As the chief of the two tribes, he is called by the name of “Joseph” his father (Rev.7:3-8).

The 144,000 of Revelation 14, on the other hand, are “redeemed from among men [throughout all ages] being FIRSTFRUITS to God and to the Lamb” (v.4). They are “without fault before the throne of God” (v.5).

For a fuller explanation of this truth, read our article, “Who Are the 144,000 of Revelation?” It will make it all plain.