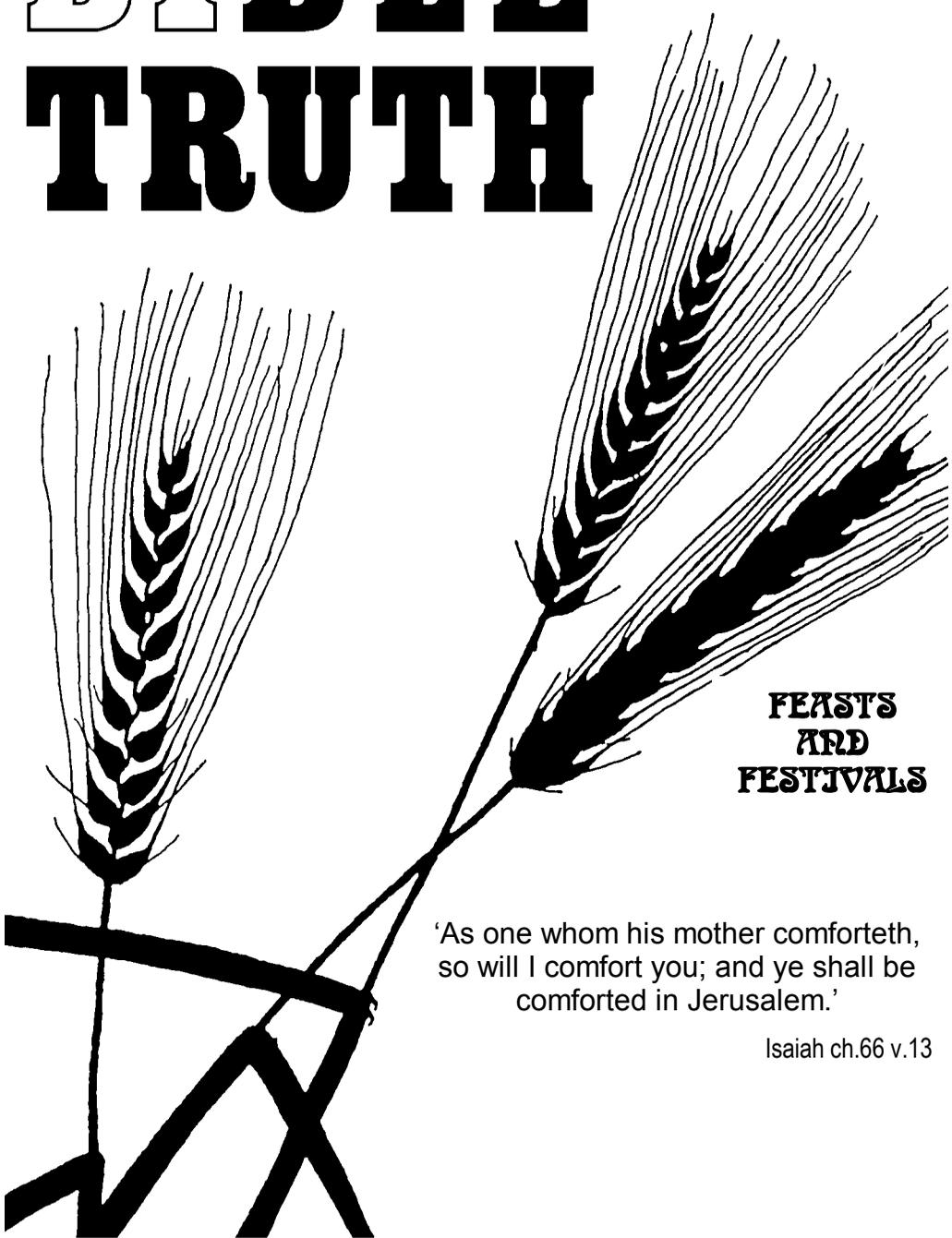


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**FEASTS
AND
FESTIVALS**

'As one whom his mother comforteth,
so will I comfort you; and ye shall be
comforted in Jerusalem.'

Isaiah ch.66 v.13

THE MISSING TRIBE

by Pastor James Templeton

The Numbering of the Tribes

John said,

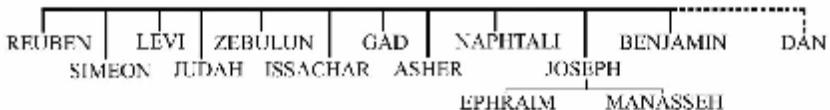
‘And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel’.

Revelation ch.7 v.4

Twelve thousand of each tribe were thus numbered. Thus sealed they were protected from interference by Rome and destruction by the forces that would soon invade this Empire. The number one hundred and forty-four thousand is the numeric of ‘completion’ and does not signify the exact quota sealed in each tribe. The tribes thus sealed do not represent the same body of people referred to in ch.14 as the one hundred and forty-four thousand who stand with the Lamb in Mount Zion. There again the number signifies completion rather than the actual numerical strength of those who stand with Him, completing His Government. This second group represents all those who have committed their lives to God.

‘... Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.’

Psalms 2 v.12



Twelve of the thirteen tribes of Israel are numbered and sealed. Joseph represents Ephraim, as the headship passed from Joseph to Ephraim according to the blessing given to Ephraim and Manasseh by Jacob.

‘And Joseph said unto his father, Not so, my father: for this is the firstborn; put thy right hand upon his head. And his father refused, and said, I know it, my son, I know it: he also shall become a people, and he also shall be great: but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his seed shall

become a multitude of nations. And he blessed them that day, saying, In thee shall Israel bless, saying, God make thee as Ephraim and as Manasseh: and he set Ephraim before Manasseh.'

Genesis ch.48 vv.18-20

Joseph also had a double portion granted unto him.

'Thus saith the Lord GOD; This shall be the border, whereby ye shall inherit the land according to the twelve tribes of Israel: Joseph shall have two portions.'

Ezekiel ch.47 v.13

Manasseh, Joseph's other son, is represented in this numbering, and Manasseh constitutes the thirteenth tribe. One tribe is missing, the tribe of Dan. The question naturally is asked, Why was Dan not numbered?

There have been many conjectures regarding the omission of Dan in this numbering. Some have gone so far as to declare that this tribe was excluded because of idolatry. Yet, if that were so, then many of the other tribes should not have been numbered. No, that is not the reason and until we know the identity of Israel today, retrace her history and recognise the period in that history when John saw the tribes moving, shall we have the reason for Dan's omission.

Deborah asked this question,

'Gilead abode beyond Jordan: and why did Dan remain in ships?'

Judges ch.5 v.17

History answers this question for us. Dan by remaining in his ships, passed out through the gate, the pillars of Hercules (Gibraltar); many centuries before the other tribes of Israel.

At the time when the twelve tribes were numbered and sealed for protection from Rome, during this critical period in Israel's trek west, Dan was already safely hidden in the Isles, unaffected by the fall of Rome. This is why it was not necessary to include Dan to be marked for special protection.

Dan led the way, he was the pioneer of Israel and Jacob foretold this event in their history.

'Dan shall judge his people, as one of the tribes of Israel. Dan shall be a serpent by the way, an adder in the path, that biteth the horse heels, so that his rider shall fall backward.'

Genesis ch.49 vv.16-17

Note Jacob's words 'Dan shall be a serpent by the way'.

Another translation of the Hebrew is, 'Dan shall be a serpent's trail'. Like a serpent by the way, the Dan-ites left way-marks everywhere they travelled. Places, cities, mountains, rivers, peninsulas and important geographical sites were all named after their father. For example,

'... they called the name of the city Dan, after the name of Dan their father, who was born unto Israel: howbeit the name of the city was Laish at the first'.

Judges ch.18 v.29

The locations where they spent time could be named either Eber (Hebrew) or Dan and can be seen in areas from the Mid-East to Spain and Portugal, as well as in the British Isles and Ireland. For example 'The Tuatha de Danaan' (tribe of Dan) is well known in the ancient Irish Chronicles. Together these reside in the Dan which has become a Serpent's Trail. Yahweh intended 'lost' Israel to be located and found in these last days, so we are given various kinds of signs or way marks to show the trail by which ancient Israel journeyed from Assyria, the land of their original captivity. When speaking to Ephraim, Yahweh commands,

'Set thee up waymarks, make thee high heaps: set thine heart toward the highway, even the way which thou wentest: ...'.

Jeremiah ch.31 v.21

The tribe of Dan originally occupied a strip of coast country on the Mediterranean, west of Jerusalem but later moved further north.

'And the coast of the children of Dan went out too little for them: therefore the children of Dan went up to fight against Leshem, and took it, and smote it with the edge of the sword, and possessed it, and dwelt therein, and called Leshem, Dan, after the name of Dan their father.'

Joshua ch.19 v.47

There are further instances to take note of.

'And there went from thence of the family of the Danites, out of Zorah and out of Eshtaol, six hundred men appointed with weapons of war. And they went up, and pitched in Kirjathjearim, in Judah: wherefore they called that place Mahaneh-dan unto this day: behold, it is behind Kirjathjearim.'

Judges ch.18 vv.11-12

As the account unfolds the same company of 600 armed Danites came to Laish. They captured it, and '... they called the name of the city Dan, after the name of Dan their father ...' (see Judges ch.19

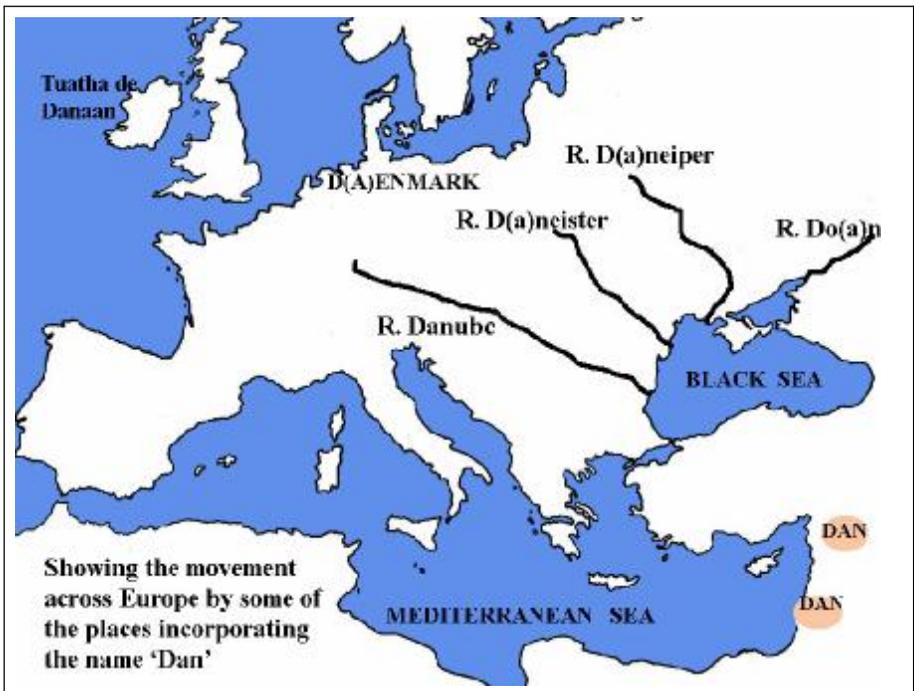
v.29). As we consider these verses, we can see how these Danites literally left their 'serpent's trail' setting up waymarks by which they may be traced today.

In Hebrew, vowels were not written in the earliest times, and are thus not included in the oldest documents. My understanding is that they were first introduced by the Massoretes. The word 'Dan' in its English equivalent could be spelt simply, 'Dn'. It might be pronounced as 'Dan', 'Den', 'Din', 'Don', or even 'Dun', and still be the same original Hebrew name.

The tribe of Dan occupied two different districts in Israel before the Assyrian captivity. They established colonies and lived on the seacoast of Palestine where they were as we have indicated, seamen. When Assyria captured Israel, those Danites that still remained may well have joined their brethren who had previously travelled to Ireland. Just before his death, Moses prophesied of Dan,

'... Dan is a lion's whelp: he shall leap from Bashan'.

Deuteronomy ch.33 v.22



He did, and literally leapt from the shores of the Mediterranean, and they left their 'Den', 'Don', and 'Din' along the way.

The Irish Annals and history show that the new settlers at just this time, were as we have shown the 'Tuatha de Danaan', or the Tribe of Dan. Sometimes the name appears as 'Tuathe De', meaning the 'people of God'.

In Ireland also we find they left 'waymarks', Dan-Sower, Dun-dalk, Dun-drum, Don-egal, Don-egal City, Dun-gloe, Din-gle, Dunsamor (meaning Dan's). Moreover, the name Dunn in the Irish language means the same as Dan in the Hebrew, i.e., 'judge'.

Though some Danites were taken to Assyria, after leaving the Assyrian captivity, they inhabited land just west of the Black Sea where we find the rivers Dnieper, Dniester and the Don draining the vast plains of Western Russia and Poland into the Black Sea. Highly significant is the major river system of Europe, flowing eastward, emptying into the Black Sea and is called 'the river of Dan', which is what the Danube means in Latin. Other rivers include the U'don and the Don.

Finally in this study one cannot ignore the significance of the name of the land called Denmark (Dan-mark).