



# Heraldic Emblems in Biblical Israel

## Blessings of Jacob-Israel to his Twelve Sons – Genesis 49

Before Jacob died, he called together his twelve sons and foretold of blessings over each of them. He used **objects, animals, or personal characteristics** as symbols. These symbols became the standards or emblems for the tribes of the nation and later in history, the nations of Israel.

On the following pages we will study the emblems of each tribe.

## Layout of the Camp of Israel – Numbers 2

“Now the LORD spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying, The sons of Israel shall camp, each by his own **standard**, with the **banners of their fathers' households**; they shall camp around the tent of meeting at a distance.” Numbers 2:1,2

Israel's camp was divided into four brigades, with three tribes in each brigade.

Each brigade carried the banner of the main tribe as the standard of the brigade:

**North:** Asher, Dan, Naphtali = **Brigade of Dan** = Eagle (Num. 2:25-31)

**South:** Simeon, Reuben, Gad = **Brigade of Reuben** = Man (Num. 2:10-16)

**East:** Issachar, Judah, Zebulun = **Brigade of Judah** = Lion (Num. 2:3-9)

**West:** Benjamin, Ephraim, Mansseh = **Brigade of Ephraim** = Ox (Num. 2:18-24)