"Friends, don't get me wrong. By no means do I count myself as an expert in all of this, but I've got my eyes on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward to Jesus. I am off and running, and I'm not turning back."
The Apostle Paul in Philippians 3:13-14 The Message Bible

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"Life can never be dull again
When once we've thrown our windows open wide
And see the mighty world that lies outside,
And whisper to ourselves this wondrous thing,
'We're wanted for the business of the King!'"
Rita Snowden

First Love Ministries, Inc., of Perry, Georgia USA
Prayer Study #559

THE BENJAMIN GENERATION

1. **You have a destiny in God!**

   Jeremiah 29:11: *For I know the thoughts I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

   Habakkuk 2:3: *For the vision is yet for an appointed time; but at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it, because it will surely come. It will not tarry.*

1st Thessalonians 5:9: *For God did not appoint us to wrath but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Jeremiah 1:5: *Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.*

Romans 11:29: *For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.*

2. **Biblical types foreshadow your destiny.** (A type is a prophetic representation foreshadowing something else to come in the future. It differs from a symbol in that a symbol is something which is itself and yet stands for something else and can represent something past, present or future. Example of a type would be Moses as a type of Christ the Deliverer, the Exodus from Egypt as a time of departure from the world and sin's bondage and the crossing of Red Sea as separation from the world by water baptism, and a Virgin, which types the New Testament Church.

Types differ from symbols. A symbol is something which is itself, such as a cloth red, white and blue flag, and yet stands for or represents something else, i.e. the United States of America. Examples of symbols include the red dragon in Revelation as the devil, manna as a type of Jesus Christ [*the* Bread of Life], and a trumpet as the voice of prophetic utterance. (The best book I have found concerning symbols and types is *Interpreting the Symbols*

and Types by Kevin Conner.) Types always look to the future.

3. **The natural types the spiritual.** *And so, it is written, 'The first man, Adam, was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a life-giving spirit. However, that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual* (1st Corinthians 15:45-46).
4. **Natural Israel types the spiritual Body of Christ.** Israel, which means *He who strives with God,* foreshadowed those who have come out of Egypt, which types the world; those who have enter the tabernacle's outer court; and those who are 30-fold Christians (*But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop; some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty*-Matthew 13:8). We are therefore *spiritual* Israel. So what the Word says about natural Israel applies in the spiritual sense to us who are born again because we have been grafted in (Romans 11: 24: [Paul speaking to the Gentiles said]: *For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, who are natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?*) Words such as *thanksgiving* and *faith walkers* describe these believers.
5. **Jerusalem types spirit-baptized believers.** Jerusalem, which means *lay double peace.* These believers go into the inner court of the tabernacle and are bearers of more fruit or the *60-fold Christian.* Words, in addition to *thanksgiving* and *faith walkers,* which describe the walk of these believers, are *praise, run,* and hope.

6. **Zion types the church within the church or the uncompromising remnant company who overcome satan by the Blood of the Lamb and the Word and by their willingness to lay down their lives for the Gospel** (*And they overcame him* [the accuser of the brethren] *by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death*-Revelation 12:11. In other words they were willing to die, both physical death and soulish death, including self-will, ambition, future plans, desire for power and money and position and recognition.) Zion, in the natural, is the highest hill, outside the city walls, in Jerusalem. Zion means *parched place.* To get to *spiritual* Zion should be the goal of every believer who has been baptized in the Holy Spirit. However, many opt out of going to Zion because it requires testings and trials, hence *parched place,* and many love the Lord with a lukewarm love and do not want to suffer for the Kingdom. Testings, however, make us pure so that we shine like gold. I suspect that it will be the Zion Company, probably the remnant group most hated by satan, that will come out of great tribulation at the end of the age (*Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?" And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb* (Revelation 7:13-14). Again, I believe this will be the Remnant Company of the Last Days, a group that you have to choose to be in, and a group that will more and more be evident on the earth as the Last Days are probably closer

than we realize, although I personally don't feel the Lord will come back any day now, simply because of many prophecies that have yet to be fulfilled. At any rate this company of believers, of which all of us should aspire to be in, are the sold out and passionate overcomers, who have entered an intimate relationship with Jesus and have entered in to *The Most Holy Place* or *Holy of Holies*, which was made accessible when the curtain of the temple was slashed open because of the sacrifice of the Lamb of God. Words describing these 100-fold Christians are *worship, anointed ones, love, power,* and *much fruit.* These believers are the ones on the Highway of Holiness and are heavenly minded instead of earthly and worldly minded. The Zion Company comes to a place where God is and where there is joy and singing. Zion is a place of *being* IN GOD.

(Just a side note: WHY AREN'T MORE BELIEVERS IN AMERICA IN THE ZION COMPANY? The American Church is by and large weak, because it is NOT teaching the Word, or at least the Full Gospel of the Word. It has bought into the emergent church or seeker-friendly church idea, which generally tries to conform and change the Gospel message to be compatible and to line up with the culture, instead of transforming the culture by insisting on the uncompromisable principles of the Word of God. There is certainly nothing wrong with moving forward and not getting stuck in religion and tradition. However, the focus must always be on the Word of God, which does not change for the culture, and on Jesus, and not men and ministries. We must not allow ourselves to compromise by

trying to be compatible with the culture and the world system.

7. **The Twelve Tribes type the Body of Christ.**

Background:

Jacob had 12 sons, whose offspring formed the 12 tribes, with 4 different women. They are as follows:

Reuben-1st born with Leah as the mother
Simeon-2nd born with Leah as the mother
Levi-3rd born with Leah as the mother
Judah-4th born with Leah as the mother
Dan-5th born with Bilhah, Rachel's maid as the mother
Naphtali-6th born with Bilhah, Rachel's maid as the mother
Gad-7th born with Zilpah, Leah's maid
Asher-8th born with Zilpah, Leah's maid
Issachar-9th born with Leah as the mother
Zebulon-10th born with Leah as the mother
Joseph-11th born with Rachel as the mother
Benjamin-12th born with Rachel as the mother.

Dan is the lost tribe that is left out of Revelations 7. Because Joseph was his father's favorite and perhaps because Joseph was mistreated so badly by his older brothers and yet forgave them and saved their lives, Jacob decided to name Joseph's two sons as his own sons as far as the inheritance went. Thus, Manasseh and Ephraim took Joseph's place in the listing of the 12 tribes of Israel. At the end of his life, Jacob blessed his 12 sons but also foretold what would happen to each one, not holding back anything. These prophetic words from Jacob, according to Genesis

49:1 reveal what will happen to all of these tribes *IN THE LAST DAYS!* Genesis 49:1 reads, *And Jacob called unto his sons and said, "Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you that which shall befall you* ***in the last days.*** (This is the first time in scripture that this term *in the last days* is used.)

Significance of the number 12 in scripture

Twelve stands for apostolic fullness or divine government. There were twelve stones, twelve apostles, twelve loaves of showbread in the temple, twelve tribes, and twelve gates in the New Jerusalem.

Listing of the Twelve Tribes in Scripture: Genesis 35:23-26; Exodus 1:2-5; Numbers 1:20-43; 1st Chronicles 2:2; Revelation 7:5-8, plus 3 other very significant places, Genesis 49, Deuteronomy 33, and Revelation 7:

Genesis 49

Setting: Egypt

Blessing spoken by Jacob, the father on Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Zebulon, Issachar, Dan, Gad, Asher, Naphtali, Joseph, and Benjamin (All of the original 12 tribes)

This represents Stage One of the Christian Life: SALVATION-Coming out of Egypt, which types the world system, crossing the Red Sea, which types baptism in the Blood of Jesus, or what we refer to as being born again or accepting Christ.

Deuteronomy 33

Setting: The Wilderness from which the Israelites crossed the Jordan, which represents dying to self, and entering the Promise Land
Blessing spoke by Moses right before his death
Reuben, Judah, Levi, Benjamin, Ephraim, Manasseh, Zebulon, Gad, Dan, Naphtali, Asher, Issachar (Joseph was not omitted but got the double portion with Ephraim and Manasseh)
This represents Stage Two of the Christian Life: The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

Revelation 7
Setting: in the Last Days before the tribes are caught up to heaven at the Second Coming
Blessing spoke by the angel
Judah, Reuben, Gad, Asher, Naphtali, Manasseh, Simeon, Levi, Issachar, Zebulon, Joseph, Benjamin (Ephraim, Joseph's son born in Egypt, was left out perhaps because this tribe under Jeroboam, the Ephraimite, got into idol worship establishing a false religious system. Jeroboam spit the kingdom of Israel, taking the northern kingdom which was taken captive, scattered throughout the nations never to return to Israel. Dan was also left out perhaps because Dan allowed one of the golden calves that Jeroboam set-up to stay in its territory. The point being that the sin of idolatry, such as worship of material possessions, money, pleasure, entertainment, sexual perversion, pornography, worship of the human body, etc., and the worship of false gods in the last days will deprive these two tribes from the opportunity to testify of the Messiah. Most

likely these will be among those who bow before the Antichrist and take the mark of the beast. Thus, Ephraim and Dan, although including in other list of the 12 tribes**,** are not listed in Revelation.

This represents Stage Three of the Christian life: The Baptism of Fire (or being purified by trials and tribulations), the sealing or mark of the Holy Spirit on the foreheads of the servants of God (Ezekiel 9:3-4: *Now the glory of the God of Israel had gone up from the cherub, where it had been, to the threshold of the temple. And He called to the man clothed with linen, who had the writer's inkhorn at his side, and the Lord said to him, "Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and cry over all the abominations that are done within it*) and the manifestation of the Sons of God.

Nine & ½ Tribes inherited Land on the west side of the Jordan: Simeon, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Asher, Issachar, Zebulon, Benjamin, and Ephraim, plus ½ of Manasseh tribe.

Two and ½ Tribes wanted to stay on the wilderness side or east side of Jordan: Reuben, Gad (AKA Gilead), and ½ Manasseh. I believe these type churches who are not open to the gifts and ministry of the Holy Spirit. They do not accept the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and believe the gifts have ceased.

Since we were grafted in the vine and are spiritual Jews, some people believe that we individually show forth the characteristics of a particular tribe. Others feel that we move form tribe to tribe throughout the different seasons of our life. Still others see no connection between the Body of Christ and the Tribes of Israel.

8. **Which tribe do you think you would be in?** (Much of this information came from Herbert Lockyer's *All the Men of the Bible.*

REUBEN (Behold a Son): Reuben should have inherited the priesthood (which went to Levi), the birthright (which went to Judah), and the kingdom (which went to Joseph). His downfall: sexual sin-He slept with his father's concubine (Bilhah). No prophet, no judge, no hero from this tribe is listed in the Bible. Reubenites are spiritually unstable, usually involved in some kind of sexual sin, and never reach their potential in the Lord. Yet there is a tribe of Reuben in the Israel of God.

SIMEON (Hears and Obeys): Simeon's life was marked by cruelty, idolatry, and rebellion to authority. He and Levi killed the Shechemite males after they tricked them into getting circumcised, making the Shechemites too wounded to fight back. Yet when they later joined up with Judah (praise) and were changed, becoming aware of what God had done for them, and becoming free from curses and captivity. Moses gave Simeon no territory of his own. Instead he was given 17 cities in the territory of Judah. He was made to dwell with Judah because the best way to restore love and faith towards God, which Simeon lacked,

is through praise and worship, which was the chief characteristic of Judah. Simeonites are often disrespectful of authority, but they can be powerful against the enemies of God if they learn to submit to authority and practice praise.

LEVI (Joined or Adhesion): The Levites, although participating in the murder of the Shechemites, redeemed themselves from their disrespect of authority by being the only tribe that stood with Moses to oppose the worship of the golden calf. Before this, all the tribes were considered priests before the Lord, but all the other tribes lost this status when they did not oppose the worship of the golden calf. When the Levites separated from Simeon, they became attached and joined to God, who called them to the ministry.

Isolation, so they can live alone with God, is a feature of this tribe. They had no territory of their own. The Levites are the priests or ministers of the Gospel.

JUDAH (Praise of the Lord): Judah was called a "lion's whelp." All Israel would understand this as meaning one of strength and royalty. Judah was first in numbers, first in territory, first in marching orders, first in prowess, and first in war. Praise must go first before us if we are to defeat the power of the enemy. From Judah came David and Jesus. His symbol was the Lion-King. Judah tribesmen are the praisers.

DAN (He that judges): Dan was known for physical strength and ability as a warrior and military leader. Dan is the lost tribe of Revelation 7. Many believe the Antichrist will come from this tribe because he is likened to a serpent

in scripture. Dan is represented by judgmental people who rely on physical, human strength.

NAPHTALI (Obtained by wrestling): Rachel had wrestled, asking the Lord to allow her maid to get pregnant so she would have a son for Jacob. Naphtali was a great orator but had no self-control. He went through life without a goal and often is represented by those who talk to talk but don't always walk the walk.

GAD (Good fortune): Gadites are those with "Type A" personalities who are very energetic and aggressive and have ability as a warrior but rely on human strength instead of spiritual strength. They also represent the tribulations one must go through in order to mature and to taste and know victory.

ASHER (Happy): Asher was prosperous and the most acceptable to his brothers. However, no great leaders or great events that happened connected to Asher. Anna is one of the few remembered Asherites. Asherites are out for worldly approval and popularity. Nevertheless, when they are sold out to Jesus, they can walk in blessing and prosperity and be generous to the other tribes, and they tend to be joyful and content, but are content to dwell among the Canaanites.

ISSACHAR (He will bring reward): Issachar not only understood the times, but he knew what Israel ought to do. They had great strength but were often unwilling to fight because they were at ease and did not want to be bothered. Issachar speaks of those too busy with their work and ministries to spend time alone with God. If they are not

careful, they become those who have a form of godliness but deny the power (2nd Timothy 3:5).

ZEBULON (Dwelling): The Zebulon tribe had an open door to the sea and thus to the world and had an opportunity to become missionaries. Instead they were a land of apostasy and darkness until Jesus visited their land and started his ministry there. Matthew records in Matthew 4:16-17: *The people who sat in darkness saw great light, and to them who sat in the region and shadow of death, light is sprung up. From that time Jesus began to preach and to say,* ***"Repent; for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."*** Their land was the place of the Lord's earthly inhabitation. They see many places open up through divine visitation, dwelling in the Vine and allowing the Lord to abide in them.

JOSEPH (May God Add or Increase): Joseph was the first born of Joseph's most loved wife Rachel. I am sure she spent many years of humiliation that she was not bearing children for every Jewish woman wanted children because they knew one of them would birth the Messiah. Yet when Rachel produced, she birthed Joseph, one of the most outstanding men of the Bible. Joseph was a dreamer and a dream interpreter, who was faithful in the hard places, who knew the godliness of submitting to authority, and who resisted temptation, especially sexual temptation. He had physical beauty, and yet it was never a snare for him. He was unspoiled by sudden prosperity when he went from rags and prison to riches and the Pharaoh's right-hand man. He had great wisdom, true brotherly love, great devotion to his father, and utter submission to God. He also returned

good for evil. Today's Joseph company is defined in charismatic circles as business men who provide for the body of Christ. This company also includes dream interpreters and administrators. Joseph is a type of Jesus Christ.

BENJAMIN (Son of the Right Hand): The twelfth son of Jacob and the second of Rachel and Joseph's only full brother was the only son born in Canaan, the Promise Land. His mother died in child birth, and knowing she was dying, she wanted to name her new son Benoni, son of sorrow, but Jacob refused and named him Benjamin, the son of my right hand. The right hand symbolizes in scripture *Blessing.* The left hand symbolizes judgment (Matthew 25:33: ***And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.***). Benjamin was the first and only son born to Jacob [Jacob means *Usurper*] after the Lord renamed him Israel (*He shall be prince of God*). Benjamin was probably spoiled as the youngest and as the second of Rachel's son, and I am sure a *daddy's boy.* He grew up without a mother and his father was an old man when he was born. His symbol is the "ravenous wolf," a symbol of greed. Although the Benjamites were courageous and mighty warriors, they also were greedy and did not want to divide the spoils of war with other tribes. Benjamites include Saul, the first king of Israel, and Saul, the apostle who was renamed Paul. The tribe of Benjamin was highly favored, and it inherited Jerusalem, the seat of God's love and the meeting place of all of Israel. When Jeroboam, from the tribe of Ephraim, son of Joseph and nephew of Benjamin, broke up the united kingdom of Israel and took

10 tribes to the north, making Samaria his capitol, and establishing what the scripture called the House of Israel (as opposed with the southern kingdom, the House of Judah), Benjamin's tribe sided with Judah, whose capitol was Jerusalem. In addition to the two Sauls, prominent Benjamites in scripture include Queen Esther and Mordecai.

9. **The Benjamin Generation:** Joseph Prince and others believe that the last generation will become known as the Benjamin Generation. This generation will know God's grace in a special way. The Benjamin Generation will live a life of undeserved favor and blessing and have abundant provision. In fact, this generation will be given five times more than previous generations. The spiritual implications of this are astonishing. We do not have time in this length study to go into where *the five times more* came from, but you can read this beautiful story in Genesis 42-50. Jacob's blessing, before he died, over Benjamin reads: *Benjamin is a ravenous wolf; in the morning he shall devour the prey, and at night he shall divide the spoil.* Looking at this through your spiritual glasses, you realize that the prey in the last days is the kingdom of darkness. Benjamin will take back what the enemy has stolen from the Body of Christ!

10. Characteristics of the Benjamin Generation: We are promised a generation that will have the following characteristics (Is this the Benjamin Generation?):

a. **THE GREATER WORKS GENERATION:** ***"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father."*** **John 14:12**

b. **THE GENERATION THAT WILL NOT PASS:** ***"Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place."*** **Luke 21:32**

c. **THE RIGHTEOUS GENERATION:** *And an highway shall be there and a way, and it shall be called The Way of Holiness…and the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.* **Isaiah 35:8a & 35:10**

d. **THE GENERATION THAT WILL SEEK HIS FACE:** *This is Jacob, the generation of those who seek Him, who seek Your face. Selah.* **Psalm 24:6**

e. **THE GENERATION THAT WILL NOT FEAR EVIL TIDINGS:** *He will not be afraid of evil tidings; his heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.* **Psalm 112:7**

f. **THE LATTER RAIN GENERATION:** *Then we know, if we follow on to know* [or *pursue*] *the LORD; His going forth is prepared* [or *established*] *as the morning; and He shall come upon us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.* **Hosea 6:3**

g. **THE BRIDAL COMPANY GENERATION:** *And I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.* **Revelation 21:2**

h. **THE MATURE SONS OF GOD GENERATION:** *For the earnest expectation of the creation waiteth for the manifestation* [or *revealing*] *of the sons of God.* **Romans 8:19**
i. **THE THIRD DAY GENERATION:** *Come and let us return unto the LORD; for He hath torn, and He will heal us; He hath smitten, and He will bind us up. After two days He will revive us; in the third day He will raise us up, and we shall live in His sight.* **(Hosea 6:1-2)**
j. **THE FULLNESS GENERATION:** *And He put all things under His feet and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.* **Ephesians 1:22-23**
k. **A GENERATION OF DESTINY:** *But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.* **1st Peter 2:9**
l. **A GENERATION THAT WILL DECLARE HIS MIGHTY ACTS:** *One generation shall praise Your works to another and shall declare Your mighty acts.* **Psalm 145:4**

I believe these twelve qualities describe a last day's company, the Benjamin Company or Benjamin Generation, which I believe will be made up of the generation of college age down to the babies being born today. I believe that the Benjamin Generation will be here to see Jesus return again, coming back in the Eastern Sky. Until then, this company will show demonstrations of the Holy Spirit and Power to the Spirit of the Age and Kingdom of Darkness that we are fighting. They will

be a prophetic generation more profound that we have ever seen. Some of you here are going all the way with Jesus, as part of the Benjamin Company, but it is going to cost you dearly.

11. **The Older Generation:** Everyone has an important part to play in the preparation for the establishment of the fullness of the Kingdom of God on the earth. The older generation is uniquely positioned to disciple the Benjamin Generation and to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest the Lord smite the earth with a curse. *Behold, I will send Elijah the prophet* [most likely not a single individual but a company of people with the Elijah anointing] before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.
12. **Songs:** The Holy Spirit breaths on the minstrels in each generation to get His message across. The singers and song writers are often used by God as forerunners to what He is doing and is about to do.

"Will You Be the One?"
Al Denson

Will you be the one
To answer to His call?
Will you stand
When those around you fall?
Will you be the one
To take His light

Into a darkened world?
Tell me will you be the one?

“Even if”
Mercy Me

I know You're able and I know You can
Save through the fire with Your mighty hand
But even if You don't
My hope is You alone
I know the sorrow, and I know the hurt
Would all go away if You'd just say the word
But even if You don't
My hope is You alone

“Give Me Jesus”

In the morning, when I rise
In the morning, when I rise
In the morning, when I rise, give me Jesus
Give me Jesus,
Give me Jesus,
You can have all this world,
But give me Jesus
When I am alone
When I am alone
When I am alone, give me Jesus
Give me Jesus,
Give me Jesus,

You can have all this world,
But give me Jesus
When I come to die
When I come to die
When I come to die, give me Jesus

“We All Bow Down”
Lenny Leblanc

Princes and paupers
Sons and daughters
Kneel at the throne of grace
Losers and winners
Saints and sinners
One day will see His face

And we all bow down
Kings will surrender their crowns
And worship Jesus
For He is the love
Unfailing love
He is the love of God

For He is love
Unfailing love
He is the Love of God

“For the Sake of the Call”
Steven Curtis Chapman

We will abandon it all for the sake of the call
No other reason at all but the sake of the call
Wholly devoted to live and to die for the sake of the call

Nobody stood and applauded them
So they knew from the start
This road would not lead to fame
All they really knew for sure
Was Jesus had called to them
He said "come follow Me" and they came
With reckless abandon, they came

Empty nets lying there at the water's edge
Told a story that few could believe
And none could explain
How some crazy fishermen agreed to go where Jesus lead
With no thought to what they would gain
For Jesus had called them by name
And they answered...

We will abandon it all for the sake of the call
No other reason at all but the sake of the call
Wholly devoted to live and to die for the sake of the call

“Death in His Grave”
John Mark McMillan

On Friday a thief
On Sunday a King
Laid down in grief
But awoke holding keys.
To hell on that day First Born of the slain
The Man Jesus Christ laid death in His grave.

“Worthy”
Eric Thigpen

Worthy, You are worthy, You are worthy, O Lamb of God
You died to save us from our sin and death.
You bled to make us well and whole again.
Your prayed to show us how to love beyond ourselves
You came dressed in rags
with the glory of the King hid beneath your beautiful sin
Worthy, You are worthy, You are worthy, O Lamb of God.