

# ISSACHAR

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Issachar represents the skeletal system in the body.

Issachar is the ninth son of his father Jacob/Israel and the fifth son of his mother Leah.

## Jacob/Israel's Blessing

Just before Jacob/Israel died he called his sons together and gave each one of them a personal message which was like a prophecy of what would befall them in the last days.

*Genesis 49:1; '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.'*

To Issachar, Jacob/Israel said the following;

*Genesis 49:14-15; 'Issachar is a strong ass couching down between two burdens: And he saw that rest was good, and the land that it was pleasant; and bowed his shoulder to bear, and became a servant unto tribute.'*

This is the reason why Issachar represents the skeletal system. He is pictured as one to bear burdens and it is the function of the skeletal system to bear the weight of the body.

This paper will outline a little of Issachar's life so that we not only gain some more understanding of the character of this patriarch, but that we may also see how his person ties in with the functioning of the skeletal system.

## Meaning of the Name Issachar

The name Issachar means 'hire'. This name was given to him as a result of the events that occurred around the time of his conception.

*Genesis 30:14-18; 'And Reuben went in the days of wheat harvest, and found mandrakes in the field, and brought them unto his mother Leah. Then Rachel said to Leah, Give me, I pray thee, of thy son's mandrakes. And she said unto her, Is it a small matter that thou hast taken my husband? and wouldest thou take away my son's mandrakes also? And Rachel said, Therefore he shall lie with thee to night for thy son's mandrakes. And Jacob came out of the field in the evening, and Leah went out to meet him, and said, Thou must come in unto me; for surely I have hired thee with my son's mandrakes. And he lay with her that night. And Elohim hearkened unto Leah, and she conceived, and bare Jacob the fifth son. And Leah said, Elohim hath given me my hire, because I have given my maiden to my husband: and she called his name Issachar.'*

It is interesting to note that Issachar seems to show a pattern of Pentecost as he was conceived in the time of wheat harvest, he is described as a strong ass, and he represents the skeletal system of which the bones are symbolic of the Laws and Principles of YaHWaH (as we will see as we continue in this study) which were given to Israel at their first feast of Pentecost experience at Mount Sinai. These three signs are typical for the feast of Pentecost.

- Pentecost was celebrated in the time of the wheat harvest;  
Exodus 34:22; *'And thou shalt observe the feast of weeks, of the firstfruits of wheat harvest, and the feast of ingathering at the years end.'*
- Before Saul was crowned king over Israel he was sent to look for his father's asses which were lost. In the events that followed, Saul met up with Samuel and as a result was anointed king over Israel on the day of the wheat harvest. Saul was thus a Pentecostal king.  
1 Samuel 9:3; *'And the asses of Kish Saul's father were lost. And Kish said to Saul his son, Take now one of the servants with thee, and arise, go seek the asses.'*  
1 Samuel 12:17; *'Is it not wheat harvest to day? I will call unto YaHWaH, and he shall send thunder and rain; that ye may perceive and see that your wickedness is great, which ye have done in the sight of YaHWaH, in asking you a king.'*
- The purpose of Pentecost is the hearing of the whole Law of YaHWaH, which then starts to be written on our hearts. It was at Mount Sinai that the Israelites heard, for the first time, the Law of YaHWaH spoken to them by His own voice. After the people heard the voice of YaHWaH they were afraid unto death and stood afar off. The result of hearing the Law of YaHWaH is death to the flesh and life to the Spirit. Because the people of Israel were afraid of the death of their flesh, the feast of Pentecost could not be fulfilled at that time on a national scale.  
Exodus 20:18-19; *'And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off. And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not Elohim speak with us, lest we die.'*

So the Pentecostal signs of Issachar, being conceived at the time of the wheat harvest and being portrayed as an ass, are in harmony with the body system he represents, the skeletal system, symbolising the laws and principles of YaHWaH, given to the people of Israel on this Feast day.

## **Moses' Blessing**

In Moses' blessing of the tribes he had this to say of Issachar;

Deuteronomy 33:18; *'And of Zebulun he said, Rejoice, Zebulun, in thy going out; and, Issachar, in thy tents. They shall call the people unto the mountain; there they shall offer sacrifices of righteousness: for they shall suck the abundance of*

*the seas, and of treasures hid in the sand.'*

This shows us that whilst Zebulun is to be a travelling tribe, Issachar is happiest when at home, not needing to travel and enjoying his privacy. The people of Issachar are therefore not leaders but are steady workers in the background. The same is true of the skeletal system. Bones do not operate of themselves, they need the muscles attached to them and the nerve impulses that control the muscles to work before they will move. The skeletal system works in the background, supporting and bearing the weight, which is essential if the body is to function properly. So just because Issachar is not a leader does not mean that he, or the body system he represents, is not important. All systems are needed to work together for the body to work optimally.

Bones are never exposed or visible, unless they are broken, in which case they are useless. So, for someone of the tribe of Issachar to work effectively, he should not be placed in a position of leadership.

## **Spiritual Gift of Issachar**

In Moses' blessing, it is said of Issachar and Zebulun that *'they shall call the people unto the mountain; there they shall offer sacrifices of righteousness'*. It is in the mountain where YaHWaH dwells. Issachar has a Spiritual gift of understanding and knowing of the times. It is not just at any time that one can come into the mountain to meet YaHWaH. This Spiritual gift is outlined in 1 Chronicles 12:32.

1 Chronicles 12:32; *'And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do; the heads of them were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their commandment.'*

Many commentaries apply this verse to Issachar's knowledge of Astronomy and Mathematics. Josephus renders this verse in his text Antiquities of the Jews, Book VII, II, 2;

Out of the tribe of Issachar came two hundred, who foreknew what was to come hereafter, but of armed men twenty thousand.

Translator William Whiston, A.M., remarks in a footnote,

These words of Josephus, 'Who foreknew what was to come hereafter', are best paraphrased by the parallel text, (1 Chronicles 12:32) - 'Who had understanding of the times to know what Israel ought to do;' that is, Who had so much knowledge in astronomy as to make calendars for the Israelites.

That this understanding should be given to Issachar is very important. In the stars, the glory and knowledge of YaHWaH is revealed. This brings us back to the fact that Issachar therefore must represent the skeletal system, embodying the Laws and Principles of YaHWaH.

Psalm 19:1-3; *'The heavens declare the glory of El; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.'*

This whole Psalm expounds on the very Laws of YaHWaH as revealed in the stars.

Psalm 19:7-9; *'The Law of YaHWaH is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of YaHWaH is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of YaHWaH are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of YaHWaH is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of YaHWaH is clean, enduring forever: the judgements of YaHWaH are true and righteous altogether.'*

The last verses of Psalm 19, show the end result of the Law, as there being great reward for those who embrace it.

Psalm 19:11; *'Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.'*

From this can be seen that Issachar is closely associated with the Law, as represented in the Skeletal System.

It is by these Laws and Principles that we can discern what is right and what is wrong. Because of Issachar's knowledge and understanding, his other Spiritual gift is that of discernment.

It is by laws and principles that our life is guided. If we live by YaHWaH's principles we will become strong, our bones will be strengthened and we can stand erect to face the world and its onslaughts. If, on the other hand, we choose man's laws and principles our bones will be weakened, our stance diminished, and we will fall apart as we are separated from our Heavenly Father whose character is embodied in His Laws.

Examples of the rejection of YaHWaH's Laws and the resulted estrangement from YaHWaH and demise of the people involved is illustrated in the Scriptures:

- King Ahab's wife, Jezebel died by the wall of Jezreel which was in the possession of Issachar. It was because of her wickedness, that is to say her rejection of the ways of YaHWaH, that Israel was led astray.

Joshua 19:17-18; *'And the fourth lot came out to Issachar, for the children of Issachar according to their families. And their border was toward Jezreel, and Chesulloth, and Shunem.'*

1 Kings 21:23, 25; *'And of Jezebel also spake YaHWaH, saying, The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel... But there was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of YaHWaH, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up.'*

- Saul consulted with the witch of Endor, thus rejecting YaHWaH's Laws and Principles in his life. Endor is a city in the land of Issachar. In this consultation with the witch, Saul was told that the kingdom was taken away from him and that

he would die the next day because of his disobedience to YaHWaH.

Joshua 17:11; *'And Manasseh had in Issachar and in Ashur Bethshean and her towns, and Ibleam and her towns, and the inhabitants of Endor and her towns...'*

1 Samuel 28:7; *'Then said Saul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit, that I may go to her, and enquire of her. And his servants said to him, Behold, there is a woman that hath a familiar spirit at Endor.'*

- The valley of Megiddo (also known as Armageddon) is found in the land of Issachar. It is a valley of battle and decision. In the following verses we see that Josiah rejected the Word of YaHWaH and the result was his death. It is also in this valley that the last battle will be fought.

Joshua 17:11; *'And Manasseh had in Issachar and in Asher Bethshean and her towns, and Ibleam and her towns, and the inhabitants of Dor and her towns, and the inhabitants of Endor and her towns, and the inhabitants of Taanach and her towns, and the inhabitants of Megiddo and her towns, even three countries.'*

2 Chronicles 35:22; *'Nevertheless Josiah would not turn his face from him, but disguised himself, that he might fight with him, and hearkened not unto the words of Necho from the mouth of Elohim, and came to fight in the valley of Megiddo. And the archers shot at king Josiah; and the king said to his servants, Have me away; for I am sore wounded.'*

Judges 5:19; *'The kings came and fought, then fought the kings of Canaan in Taanach by the waters of Megiddo; they took no gain of money.'*

Revelation 16:16; *'And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.'*

## **YaHWaH's Word, Health to the Bones**

When we embrace the Laws and Principles of YaHWaH our physical bones are strengthened and we will be able to stand when He appears in all His glory.

Malachi 3:2; *'But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' sope.'*

In the Scriptures it states that pleasant words are health to the bones. Really, the Words of YaHWaH are pleasant and they build one up not only spiritually but also physically.

Proverbs 16:24; *'Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.'*

In the above verse, the pleasant words spoken of can be seen as the Words or Laws and Principles of YaHWaH. The reason for this is because it is written in connection with honey, which, in the Scriptures, is symbolic of 'enlightenment' or the 'meat of the word'. Israel was led into a land flowing with milk and honey, Jonathan tasted the wild honey in the woods of his Tabernacles experience and was enlightened, and in Psalm 81 YaHWaH

desires to feed us with honey out of the rock.

Exodus 3:8; *'And I came down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey...'*

1 Samuel 14:25, 27; *'And all they of the land came to a wood; and there was honey upon the ground... But Jonathan heard not when his father charged the people with the oath: wherefore he put forth the end of the rod that was in his hand, and dipped it in an honeycomb, and put his hand to his mouth; and his eyes were enlightened.'*

Psalms 81:16; *'He should have fed them also with the finest of the wheat: and with honey out of the rock should I have satisfied thee.'*

So as we feed on the honey of His Word our bones will become healthy and strong and enable us to stand at His appearance.

## **Singleness of Vision**

From the Testaments of the Patriarchs we read that Issachar lived with singleness of vision. As a result of this he loved YaHWaH with all his strength and he loved his fellow people as he loved his children, being not slanderous or evil to his neighbour. His singleness of vision can be explained in the following verses;

Matthew 6:22-24; *'The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness! No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve Elohim and mammon.'*

By serving YaHWaH and adhering to YaHWaH's Laws and Principles as represented in the skeletal system, Issachar was able to live with singleness of vision, keeping his eyes continually on the promises whilst patiently toiling on. Issachar, because of his reliance on the Word of YaHWaH, had great integrity and admonishes his children to live so too. Integrity, according to Webster means;

*'The entire, unimpaired state of any thing, particularly of the mind; moral soundness or purity; uncorruptness; uprightness; honesty. Integrity comprehends the whole moral character, but has a special reference to uprightness in mutual dealings, transfers of property, and agencies for others'.*

Like Issachar, may we too embrace YaHWaH's Word/Law so that we may walk with integrity!

## Issachar - the Farmer

As noted in Jacob/Israel's prophecy in the beginning of this paper, Issachar saw that the land was pleasant and bowed his shoulder to bear. As a result Issachar became a farmer for the benefit of his father and brothers. He also supplied, of all the good things of the earth, to all the poor and the oppressed. In the Testament of the Patriarchs we can read that Issachar admonishes his children to continue this compassion to those suffering poverty and sickness and to bend their backs in farming. Truly, to Issachar was given the fertility of the earth as the earth blessed him.

## Valiant Men of Might

In the Scriptures, those of the tribe of Issachar are also shown to be valiant men of might.

*1 Chronicles 7:5; 'And their brethren among all the families of Issachar were valiant men of might, reckoned in all by their genealogies fourscore and seven thousand.'*

Another interesting point to note concerning Issachar is that as Israel entered into the promised land they were commanded by YaHWaH, in Judges chapter 1, to drive out the inhabitants of the land they came to possess. All the tribes are listed as having failed in their obedience to this command with the exception of Issachar who is not mentioned at all in the listing. (note that Reuben and Gad, as well as half the tribe of Manasseh, already had their land inheritance on the other side of the Jordan, not in the land of Canaan, and thus they are not listed in Judges 1 as they had no land there to drive people out of, see Joshua 22:1-4). It is possible that Issachar is classed together with the tribe of Zebulun, whom they served (as will be explained later in this paper, see heading 'Issachar and the Frisians'), or that Issachar did in fact carry out exactly the command of YaHWaH. It is not known for certain whether or not the people of the tribe of Issachar drove out all the Canaanites, however the Scriptures do not accuse them of not doing so. This is significant as Issachar, representing the laws and principles of the skeletal system, were the only ones to fully carry out this command of YaHWaH. They held the laws and commands in high esteem and were the only ones to truly hear and obey them.

The first important event Issachar is mentioned in in the Scriptures is the battle of Deborah and Barak.

*Judges 5:15; 'And the princes of Issachar were with Deborah; even Issachar, and also Barak: he was sent on foot into the valley. For the divisions of Reuben there were great thoughts of heart.'*

It is possible that Deborah and Barak were both of the tribe of Issachar in whose territory this battle was fought and won.

*Joshua 21:28; 'And out of the tribe of Issachar, Kishon with her suburbs, Dabareh with her suburbs.'*

Judges 4:7; *'And I will draw unto thee to the river Kishon, Sisera, the captain of Jabins army, with his chariots and his multitude; and I will deliver him into thine hand.'*

It is interesting to note that Deborah was a judge in Israel. It was the function of the judge to keep the people following the Words of YaHWaH. When the judge lived, YaHWaH delivered the enemies into the hands of the people, however, when the judge died the people corrupted themselves as they returned to their flesh ways, having no one to lead them in the Word of YaHWaH.

Judges 2:18-19; *'And when YaHWaH raised them up judges, then YaHWaH was with the judge, and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge: for it repented YaHWaH because of their groanings by reason of them that oppressed them and vexed them. And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they returned, and corrupted themselves more than their fathers, in following other mighty ones to serve them, and to bow down unto them; they ceased not from their own doings, nor from their stubborn way.'*

Therefore the importance of the law is seen in association with deliverance. Another important fact here is that the name 'Deborah' means 'a bee, or orderly'. This would add weight to the fact that she was from the tribe of Issachar as bees make honey symbolising the Word, and the Laws of YaHWaH, as symbolised in the skeletal system, cause us to function in an orderly manner.

The judges of Israel were replaced with a king. In choosing a king, Israel rejected the covering of YaHWaH.

1 Samuel 8:20; *'That we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us and fight our battles.*

Exodus 14:14; *'YaHWaH shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.'*

It is encouraging to read that YaHWaH will, in the end time, restore the judges so that we may be finally delivered.

Isaiah 1:26; *'And I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counsellors as at the beginning: after that thou shalt be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city.'*

Although the judges of Israel were, in the past from different tribes, it is interesting to note that it is prophesied of Zebulun and Issachar that they will call the people to the mountain, where YaHWaH dwells, to receive His Word/Law, thus leading the way to righteousness.

Deuteronomy 33:19; *'They shall call the people unto the mountain; there they shall offer sacrifices of righteousness.'*

Isaiah 2:2-5; *'And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of YaHWaH's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all the nations shall flow unto it. And many people*

*shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of YaHWaH, to the house of the Elohim of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of YaHWaH from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of YaHWaH.'*

To Issachar is given the understanding of the times, to know when to call the people up, and a knowledge of the Law, whilst it is Zebulun who will be the first to see the Light. The Light and the Law are intimately linked to the fulfilment of righteousness.

*Isaiah 9:2; 'Nevertheless the dimness shall not be such as was in her vexation, when at the first he lightly afflicted the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, and afterward did more grievously afflict her by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, in Galilee of the nations. The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them has the light shined.'*

## **Weakness of Issachar**

Because of Issachar's patient, quiet strength, his understanding and his discernment, the people of this tribe make good dependable friends. Their weakness lies in the fact that they are slow to move and unwilling to volunteer, just as our bones do not move of themselves and do not take the lead role in the movement of the body.

## **Death of Issachar**

Issachar died at the age of one hundred and twenty two.

## **Encampment of the Tribe of Issachar**

The tribe of Issachar is camped on the eastern side of the sanctuary together with Judah (representing the nervous system) and Zebulun (representing the lymphatic system).

*Numbers 2:3, 5, 7; 'And on the east side toward the rising of the sun shall they of the standard of the camp of Judah pitch... And those that do pitch next unto him shall be the tribe of Issachar... Then the tribe of Zebulun.'*

## **Issachar's Gemstone**

Aaron, as the high priest, had to wear a breastplate studded with 12 gemstones, representing the 12 houses of Israel, when he entered into the presence of YaHWaH.

Exodus 28:15, 21, 29; *'And thou shalt make the breastplate of judgement of cunning work... And the stones shall be with the names of the children of Israel, twelve, according to their names, like the engravings of the signet; every one with his name shall they be according to the twelve tribes... And Aaron shall bear the names of the children of Israel in the breastplate of judgement upon his heart, when he goeth in unto the holy place, for a memorial before YaHWaH continually.'*

The gemstone in Aaron's breastplate assigned to Issachar was the Topaz. Issachar is camped next to Judah who is the lead tribe, so the stone assigned to Issachar will be the second in the sequence as they are listed;

Exodus 28:17; *'And thou shalt set in it settings of stones, even four rows of stones: the first row shall be a sardius, a topaz, and a carbuncle: this shall be the first row.'*

Webster has this to say of Topaz:

A mineral, said to be so called from Topazos, a small isle in the Arabic gulf, where the Romans obtained a stone which they called by this name, but which is the chrysolite of the moderns. The topaz is of a yellowish color. It sometimes occurs in masses, but more generally crystalized in rectangular octahedrons. Topaz is valued as a gem or precious stone, and is used in jewelry. It consists of silicic acid, fluoric acid and alumin, in the following proportions; alumin 57 parts, silicic acid 34, and fluoric acid 7 or 8. Of topaz there are three subspecies, common topaz, shorlite and physalite.

## **Issachar in the Stars**

In the book 'The Witness of the Stars', by E.W. Bullinger, we find that the tribe of Issachar is represented in the zodiac Sign of Cancer. This star Sign talks of 'The Messiah's redeemed possessions held fast'. There are many stars in this Sign which witness to the fact that Issachar is represented here. In the centre of the Sign there is a cluster of stars called by modern astronomers the 'Beehive'. This relates back to the honey of the Word of YaHWaH which should form the centre of our being, that which fills our heart as it will at the fullness of Tabernacles. This cluster of stars was called by the ancients 'Praesepe', meaning 'a multitude or offspring'. The brightest star in the tail of this Sign is called 'Tegmine', which means 'holding' and a star in the lower large claw is called 'Acubene' which means 'the sheltering or hiding place'. This relates back to the fact that Issachar was to rejoice in his tents - a shelter or hiding place. But most importantly, north and south of the nebula 'Praesepe' (or 'beehive') are two stars, called 'Asellus Boreas', or 'the northern Ass', and 'Asellus Australis' or 'the southern Ass'. This directly links this star sign to Issachar who bears the tribal standard sign of the Ass, undoubtedly derived from Jacob/Israel's blessing.

As Bullinger explains in his text, there are 3 constellations which form part of this zodiac Sign that expound further on the meaning of Cancer. They are:

- Ursa Minor, or 'the lesser flock',
- Ursa Major, or 'the sheepfold and the sheep' and
- Argo, The Ship, showing 'the travellers and pilgrims brought safely home - all conflict over'.

These three constellations are illustrating that it is His redeemed possessions, the sheep of His sheepfold, gathered together and coming to a resting place that is good and to a land that is pleasant, their heavenly home, or a fulfilment of the Feast of Tabernacles. This mirrors the blessings and prophecies assigned to Issachar who carried the burden of the wandering in the wilderness (Pentecostal experience) patiently, eating of the honey of the Word of YaHWaH (Tabernacles experience) and thus believing in the promise of the final blessing that would be his, namely that of the fulfilment of Tabernacles - rejoicing in his tents and finding that rest was good and the land pleasant.

## Issachar and a Vision for Tabernacles

In looking at Scott's Commentary notes for Jacob/Israel's blessing of Issachar in Genesis 49:14-15 we find some interesting points to consider.

v.14,15. Issachar is described under the emblem of a strong ass, as Judah had been under that of a fierce lion. This implied that the tribe of Issachar would be industrious and unambitious; bearing labour or tribute peaceably, of which burdens others grievously complained. ... He was sensible that rest, not from labour, but from war and contention, was profitable; and being satisfied with the pleasantness of a remote part of the country, he little intermeddled with the affairs of the state, or of war;...

Issachar is being described as being industrious, but unambitious and finding rest from war and contention. Is this a symbol of the fact that Issachar has found 'rest unto his soul', that he no longer has a war raging within him? Because he is a humble servant, he is not desiring the fulfilment of flesh or ambition, he therefore has no lust.

*James 4:1-2; 'From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.'*

Instead of flesh ambition, Issachar longs to find that true rest in YaHWaH, through a servant relationship, and finds it! This is picturing the fulfilment of Tabernacles, coming into the fullness of the Spirit, where, instead of working on our flesh ambition we become YaHWaH's servants by taking on His yoke, carrying His burden, and it is through this that we find rest. Issachar, as a burden bearer of YaHWaH thus finds rest.

*Matthew 11:28-30; 'Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I*

*will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'*

How this links in wonderfully with the skeletal system, which bears the burden of the body by the Laws and Principles of YaHWaH. It is when we find our strength in YaHWaH, when we become His humble servants, no longer desiring the ambitions of the flesh, that we can come into that pleasant land and find rest, just as Issachar did.

It is interesting to note that Issachar was given, in his blessing, a vision of Tabernacles, 'he saw that rest was good' and that is what he worked towards. Just as Israel was given a vision of Tabernacles before they started their wilderness walk, their first stop being Succoth (booths).

*Exodus 12:37; 'And the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand on foot that were men, beside children.'*

The key of humble servitude unto our Master, obeying the framework of His Law and living thereby, having no ambition of ourselves but being content in Him, is the way to rest and peace to our souls, as illustrated in the life of Issachar.

## **The Example of Job**

Unbeknown to many, Job was actually of the tribe of Issachar.

*Genesis 46:13; 'And the sons of Issachar; Tola, and Phuvah, and Job, and Shimron.'*

Job's character, as well as the way in which he made his living are certain signs that he belonged to this tribe.

There is much significance in a person's name as it illustrates the person's character. The Hebrew title for the book of Job is *Iyyob* and this name has two possible definitions, both of which characterise his life. If derived from the Hebrew word for 'persecution', his name means, 'the persecuted one'. If it comes from the Arabic word, his name means 'to come back' or 'repent'.

Just as Issachar comes to rest through humble service, the story of Job teaches us how to come to 'the end of YaHWaH' in much the same way.

*James 5:11; 'Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of YaHWaH; that He is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.'*

The 'end of YaHWaH' is what results from the process of humbling a man so that he may become divinely righteous forever, that is coming fully into His Rest, fully glorified

at the fulfilment of Tabernacles. It is the conviction of sin, through the Pentecost/wilderness walk, that brings this humbling about in a man, and once this is realised eternal blessing can be received. Here we therefore see the importance of the Law in coming into Rest as without the law there is no sin.

But was not Job described in the Scriptures as being perfect, upright, fearing Elohim and eschewing evil?

Job 1:1; *'There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared Elohim, and eschewed evil.'*

The word 'perfect' here is Strongs 8535 'perfect, plain, undefiled, upright'. It is obvious from this that Job desired to hear and obey YaHWaH's Laws as without this you cannot be upright. Job had wisdom and understanding, which is also shown in the fact that he had an understanding of the stars.

Job 9:9; *'Which maketh Arcturus, Orion, and Pleiades, and the chambers of the south.'*

It was because of all this knowledge of YaHWaH's Laws and Plan that he was repulsed by everything evil. So we see that the Laws and Principles of the Skeletal System played a major role in Job's life.

Job's fault was that he did not know the true wisdom which always justifies YaHWaH and condemns self, and it was for this reason that he was subject to many trials.

It was the characteristic of humbleness that Job was missing and it is only by becoming humble, seeking not our own, but rather becoming servants unto YaHWaH that we can enter into that true rest and find true and full wisdom and glory. This is the same path Issachar had to take in order to find rest. True wisdom is to know what is a broken spirit and a broken and contrite heart, and this is the point that Job had to come to.

Psalm 51:17; *'The sacrifices of Elohim are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O Elohim, thou wilt not despise.'*

How wonderful it is that after all Job's persecutions and trials of his Pentecost walk, carrying the burden, he finally came to the point of humbling himself, justifying YaHWaH and condemning self, leaving his own burden and taking on the yoke of YaHWaH.

Job 42:2-6; *'I know that thou canst do everything, and that no thought can be withholden from thee. Who is he that hideth council without knowledge? Therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not. Hear, I beseech thee, and I will speak: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me. I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.'*

The result of this confession, repentance and coming to the end of himself, was that

YaHWaH blessed Job in his latter end. Job found rest.

Job 42:12; *'So YaHWaH blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning...'*

When Job understood YaHWaH's sovereignty and rested in that knowledge and final outcome, Job had peace. This is the whole purpose of our Pentecostal experience. As we strive to walk perfectly in the Law, we come to a realisation that out of ourselves we can do nothing, we are vile. It is then, at the point of self abhorrence, that we take on the covering of YaHWaH, we place ourselves in humbleness under His yoke and find rest and true wisdom and righteousness from above.

Matthew 11:28-30; *'Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'*

James 3:17-18; *'But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.'*

It is then that we may 'see' Him face to face. As Job stated in Job 42:5;

Job 42:5; *'I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee.'*

Hearing has to do with Pentecost, whilst seeing is the fulfilment of Tabernacles.

1 John 3:2; *'Beloved, now are we the sons of Elohim, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.'*

Becoming a servant is the key to entering into His rest. At this point the Law is no longer a heavy burden for us, which in the flesh we are unable to fulfil. However, we become the Law as we learn of YaHWaH whose character is illustrated in the Law. The Law becomes fulfilled in us, we will no longer steal, lie etc. The strength that we receive to be able to do this does not find its foundation in the flesh, but rather in the Spirit given us, through Yahshua.

Philippians 4:13; *'I can do all things through Messiah which strengtheneth me.'*

When our own ambition is gone, having given up all to YaHWaH, we own all. This can also be seen in the example of what Jacob/Israel said to his brother Esau after his fight with the angel at Peniel where Jacob gave up on his own strength and as a result his name was changed to Israel, meaning, 'YaHWaH rules'.

Genesis 33:11; *'Take, I pray thee, my blessing that is brought to thee; because Elohim hath dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough. And he urged him, and he took it.'*

The word 'enough' here is Strongs 3605 which means 'all'. Jacob, after having taken on

the yoke of YaHWaH and having his name changed to Israel, had all as he dwelt in peace with YaHWaH and in YaHWaH.

This brings to mind an old Chinese Proverb;

You never own something until you have given it away.

The result is that the Pentecost anointing can not bring us into Tabernacles, but it is a vital stepping stone. It is through a humble servant attitude, in which we give our all to our Master, that His character, which encompasses His Law, can truly be written in our hearts and minds. As our flesh is taken away we can experience true rest and dwelling in His Tabernacle, seeing Him as He is.

## Issachar and the Frisians

Each of the tribes of Israel can be traced back to one of the Anglo Saxon Nations. Issachar is represented by the Frisians, who settled, predominantly, in the northern parts of the Netherlands and Germany. A Dutchman, Morzer Bruyns, speaking of the Frisian people of Holland made this statement:

*Fries* or *Fryske* comes from *Fariesaka*. Now, *Fara* is the Frisian word for *generation* or *offspring*. *Fariesaka* means *Fara-Issachar*, or *offspring* of *Issachar*.

It might just as well be *Fara-Isaka* or *offspring from the Saka*, sons of Isaac. In either case *Fryske* means *offspring from Israel*. It is interesting to note, however, that the word *offspring* is so prominent in the modern name of the people that represent this tribe. Remember, in the star Sign of Cancer, the cluster of stars in the centre had the meaning of *multitude* or *offspring*.

There are many other ways in which this tribe is linked to the Frisian people as will be discussed below.

In Jacob/Israel's blessing, Issachar was to become 'a servant unto tribute'. The question is, to whom must he render service? The answer to this question is found in Moses' blessing of the tribes.

Deuteronomy 33:18; *'And of Zebulun he said, Rejoice, Zebulun, in thy going out; and, Issachar, in thy tents. They shall call the people unto the mountain; there they shall offer sacrifices of righteousness: for they shall suck the abundance of the seas, and of treasures hid in the sand.'*

The study of Zebulun will show that this tribe represents Holland. Throughout history and up to the present day, the people of Holland have worked together with the Frisians. They live together in the same area, sail the seas together, have fought the English in 4 maritime wars together, suck the abundance of the seas together, feast on the treasures of the land together and fish together.

It is interesting to note that when Jacob/Israel was blessing his sons in Genesis 49, he starts off blessing the sons of Leah in order of their birth until he gets to Issachar and Zebulun. Then he changes the order and blesses the younger Zebulun first, followed by the older Issachar. This pattern can often be seen in the Scriptures when the older brother is prophesied to serve the younger, for example, Jacob and Esau, Isaac and Ishmael and Ephraim and Manasseh. This shows us that it is to Zebulun that Issachar was to be a servant.

Issachar and Zebulun are always listed together in Scripture with two exceptions; sending out of the spies in Numbers 13:7,10 where Issachar is fourth and Zebulun is seventh, and in Deuteronomy 27:11-13 where the tribes were split in two groups, Issachar was to stand on Mount Gerizim, from which the people would be blessed and Zebulun was to stand on Mount Ebal, from which the people would be cursed.

It is interesting to note that Issachar is always mentioned before Zebulun in the Scriptures when the lists are according to birth, rank or Spiritual dominance (as Issachar had great understanding). When Zebulun is mentioned first it is always concerning national and physical dominance (for example, Numbers 34:25-26).

Issachar is described in the Scriptures as a strong ass and as a brave warrior. The physical characteristics of the Frisians witness to this. M. D. Teenstra writes about the Frisians in 'De Kroniek van Groningen, Friesland en Drenthe':

The Romans described the Frisians as rough and fierce, of big physique and very muscular.

The Frisians are a large, big boned people, showing that the skeletal system is not only spiritually prominent in this people, but also physically. A particular and peculiar characteristic of the Frisians is that they have high cheek bones which are thus easily defined. As will be explained later on in the skeletal system study, the cheek bones represent the principle of Truth. Just as Issachar, the Frisians hold Truth very high in their thoughts and doings. Once again this links particularly this tribe to represent the Laws and Principles of YaHWaH as symbolised in the skeletal system.

Just as the people of the tribe of Issachar of old had an understanding of the stars, it is interesting to note that the Friesians of today share this desire to understand astronomy as written in 'Tweeduizend jaar Geschiedenis van Friesland' by Terpstra:

During the centuries a remarkable amount of people have lived in Friesland who were interested in 'mathematics' and 'astronomy'. Amongst them often were very simple folk, who had a great hunger for knowledge of the astronomical world. During long winter evenings on several farms men were engrossed in books they could hardly understand initially, but out of which they acquired knowledge with endless patience. They were not the people of the calibre of Eise Eisinga, but the isolation of villages and farms, being one with nature, the observation of the

awesome starry sky during still, clear nights has started many a man to spend bidding his time, in whichever modest way, in a quest for answers about planets, time and eternity.

In comparing Issachar to an ass, shows that the people of this tribe must also show some form of stubbornness, as we are all familiar with the expression, 'you are as stubborn as an ass/donkey'. It so happens, that Frisians are commonly called by the Dutch, 'Friese stijfkop', or 'stubborn Frisian'.

Another thing to note when talking of the Frisians is that they too are great farmers. In the blessing given in Genesis 49:14, it speaks of Issachar having 'two burdens'. The word 'burdens' here is Strong's 4942 = mish-path; from 8192; a *stall* for cattle (only dual):- burden, sheepfold. The literal translation is therefore 'two stalls'. Issachar is thus a husbandman and it is commonly known that the best dairy cows, the Frisian cows, are a distinct breed that originated from the northern parts of the Netherlands and Germany.

These 'two burdens', as seen in the above paragraph, also relate to a sheepfold, which ties back to the star Sign of Issachar, Cancer, in which the constellation Ursa Major means 'the sheepfold and the sheep', and Ursa Minor, 'the lesser flock'.

Frisians are thus well known because of their extensive cattle farming, as are they known for their butter and cheese production. When Israel left Egypt, it was promised them that they would go to a land flowing with milk and honey.

Exodus 3:8; *'And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey.'*

Butter (made from the cream of the milk) and honey are both used in the Scriptures as signs of understanding of the Law, in being able to discern that which is right and wrong.

Isaiah 7:15; *'Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good.'*

There is also mention of the milk of the Word.

1 Peter 2:2; *'As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.'*

So the farming practices of these Frisian people in northern Netherlands and Germany witness not only that these people belong to the tribe of Issachar, but also that the Law or skeletal system is intimately tied to this tribe.

In the blessing given to Issachar in Genesis 49:15, it also relates that Issachar saw that the 'land was pleasant'. The land the Frisians occupy is pleasant as it is flat and easy to work.

Because Issachar (Frisians) and Zebulun (those of Holland) live together, their blessings are shared. The people of Zebulun are well known for their maritime exploits as well as for their fishing, thus they truly 'sucked the seas' and those of Issachar helped in these practices. But the Zebulunites and Frisians also pulled out 'treasures in the sand'. This is including gold in South Africa (by Zebulun) and gas which was extracted from the biggest natural gas reserve in Slochteren, Groningen (home of the Frisians).

The following quote from the Encyclopedia Britannica, eleventh edition or 1910, states about Friesland, Volume 11, p.230,

Despite the general productiveness of the soil, however, the social condition of Friesland has remained in a backward state and poverty is rife in many districts. The ownership of the property being largely in the hands of absentee landlords, the peasantry have little interest in the land, the profits from which go to enrich other provinces. Moreover, the nature of the fertility of the meadow-lands is such as require little manual labour, and other industrial means of subsistence have hardly yet come into existence.

This is an interesting quote when we reflect back on the prophecies given of Issachar. They were to be a servant unto tribute and in this quote we see that they had no ownership of the land. But we also see in this quote the workings of the skeletal system. These people of Issachar worked in the background providing profits which enriched the other provinces, thus Issachar provided, like the skeletal system, a framework to build on. However, in this quote we also see Issachar's weakness manifested in that they are slow to volunteer in taking on new projects. Despite this weakness, however, the Frisians often do not realise the important role they play, both as a physical nation and the body system they represent to keep everything working smoothly together, providing the foundation on which to build. Without them, the Netherlands would not have become so great, and in the same way, without the strength of the skeletal system we would not be able to stand both physically and spiritually as the laws are there to provide the foundation and framework of our very being.

## Conclusion

How wonderful it is, that in coming to the end of this sneak preview of the life of Issachar, it can be seen that as he travels through Pentecost diligently, his end goal, which he will receive, is the fullness of Tabernacles. How great YaHWaH is! As we study further now, into the skeletal system, we need to keep in mind the lessons of the tribe of Issachar, as played out in history and today.

*Jeremiah 6:16; 'Thus saith YaHWaH, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls...'*