

Levi and the Sign of Libra

"Stars of Israel Series"—No. 8

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Having completed the studies on the three tribes on the east of the Tabernacle and the three on the south, let us consider the tribe in the midst of the Camp in very proximity to the Tabernacle. "Then the Tabernacle of the congregation shall set forward with the camp of the LEVITES in the midst of the camp....." Num. 2:17. The tribe of Levi was not located north, south, east or west but in the midst of the camp showing they were the very axis of Israel's activities and worship. Neither were they given a regular inheritance in Canaan but were given certain cities among all the tribes, for the Lord was their inheritance alone. Thus today those of Levi find this circumscribes still their way, for they are made ministers to all men and scattered among the tribes as intercessors, ministers of the sanctuary and bearers of spiritual burdens.

As for the zodiacal sign of Levi, it is none other than Libra (Sept. 24 to Oct. 23). Just because you are naturally born under this sign does not necessarily imply that you are of Levi, though it is possible to be of Levi and born under Libra, too. This heavenly sign is most appropriate for Levi, as you will see as we proceed.

LIBRA is modernly known as THE SCALES or balances which seems appropriate, for to Levi is given the scales of judgment along with "the breastplate of judgment". This would infer that righteous judgment is granted unto him which in a sense is true, but in probing the ancient meaning of Libra it is found to mean THE ALTAR, the place of sacrifice. How fitting! For the ministry of the altar was granted Levi. Therefore a true altar ministry is the only way by which righteous judgment can be procured. Without the altar judgment is destructive, but with the altar it is remedial.

Libra contains three bright stars which indeed further clarifies Levi's position. The first one is ZUBEN AL GENUBI which means THE DEFICIENT PRICE. There is nothing any man can supply that will be accepted upon the altar of God. Everything is deficient, everything is inadequate, everything is found wanting. But there is another bright star named ZUBEN AL CHEMALI meaning THE PRICE

WHICH COVERS, and a third star titled ZUBEN AL AKRAB meaning THE PRICE OF THE CONFLICT. Therefore, though there is nothing man can give that is sufficient, yet there is a covering price which is the price of the conflict. Indeed we realize in its initial sense that this price was supplied by the sacrifice of Christ Himself during the conflict of Calvary. Nevertheless the Levites have their part to fulfill in the plan of God.

True Levites realize the insufficiency of themselves as they bear the burdens of others, but they also realize the truth of ".....present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God....." This can only be done because of God's love that bestows itself without reserve. Such love lays the body upon the altar as a true sacrifice and allows the ravages of spiritual conflict to buffet and bruise it. Paul said that he bore in his BODY the marks of the Lord Jesus. He also stated that he filled up the sufferings of Christ in his FLESH for His body's sake. Did you realize there is such a thing as physical--bodily--suffering in the FLESH in spiritual conflict that nearly immobilizes the body, that afflicts it, that causes it really pain? Indeed there is!!! And such a ministry is especially associated with Levi, though others of other tribes may bear it also. This takes a real sacrifice of the body as a living sacrifice, not a dead one, to subject oneself to such limitless suffering.

O Levi! Great is your position among the tribes in suffering for others! Then, and only then, out of such suffering can true judgment arise---judgment meted in mercy!

Each sign of the Zodiac has three associate constellations, and in the case of Libra the three constellations are an expansion of the same truths we have been already considering. The first of these constellations is CRUX or the CROSS. The cross itself is an emblem of suffering and death. This is where the will is totally given over unto God and the death of self is obtained. It is where a full committal unto God is made and without any reservations. Then it is that selflessness reigns and God becomes all in all.

The second associate constellation is LUPUS meaning the SLAIN LAMB. We are reminded of "as a LAMB brought to the slaughter, so He opened not His mouth." No railing accusation was uttered, no self defence was worded. To be a true lamb in the ministry of suffering means

to make no explanations to defend oneself nor to bring any accusations either before God or man. In other words, as the Lamb opened not His mouth against anyone, even so it is done among the true spiritual Levites.

And, the third constellation is CORONA, meaning the ROYAL CROWN. As for Levi, what is this crown? It is stated in the description of the High Priest's garments that there was to be a golden plate, a crown, upon the head in which was engraved HOLINESS TO THE LORD. This then implies that the head or mind was to be holy and separated unto God. Such a crown or corona avails only upon the lamblike nature on the cross. It is this very reality that prepares the mind for such a crown, and nothing short of this will accomplish it. So few of us have realized the power of a consecrated mind, a mind that has been girded up with truth, a mind that is not easily shaken under any circumstance, a mind that dominated by the Spirit of God, a mind that is lowly. But only those who have gone through the suffering of the cross and bringing forth of the lamblike nature can wear the crown of HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD.

It might be added that true Libras, when refined by God, bear much of the same characteristics as Levi. They are lamblike sufferers interested in the welfare of others though it means the sacrifice of their own selves.

Levi's position and heavenly sign can be summed up in one word, LOVE---love that gives of itself--love that bears the agonies of others--love that propitiates other's shortcomings and sins--love that neither accuses others nor defends itself. Yet it must be added to the above that such heights of love are not gained save in the crucible of refining fire and the purification of God ordained testings. Those of all tribes would do well to hearken to Levi's characteristics and to be willing to be priests unto God in whatsoever capacity possible, but to Levi pertains the apex of such ministry.

In all the other tribes the name of the prince is given which we have likened unto the "first of the firstfruits" in each tribe, but there is no prince in Levi. This must be accounted for by the fact that in the tribe was the High Priest who would surely act as prince for them. In this case Aaron was the High Priest, so let us consider his name and its meaning. It means LIGHT or ENLIGHTENED, and, of course, light always refers to know-

lege and wisdom and understanding. Therefore the prince or leader or first of the firstfruits of Levi will be those out of that tribe who have come into unusual light or knowledge having been imbued with it. They will be those who have so engaged in this light that they themselves become light. And is not this suitable, for is it not true that love and light go hand in hand together? As long as one walks in love, he also walks in the true light. So it is that Levi comes into the perfection of love through suffering that he might suffer for others, and by so doing he also walks in light that outshines a thousand suns.

Therefore let us conclude the matter with the words of Moses concerning Levi, for it so well gives the outcome of Levi's rigorous preparation: "They shall teach Jacob thy judgments, and Israel thy law: they shall put incense before thee, and whole burnt-sacrifice upon thine altar. Bless, Lord, his substance, and accept the work of his hands...." Deut. 33:10-11.

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