

## Review Questions

1. **Why can we conclude that the names of the twelve sons of Jacob had special significance?** (“The 144,000 will enter the city of God marshalled in 12 companies each bearing the name of one of the 12 tribes of Israel. Page 288)
2. **What was the right of the eldest son in Jacob’s family?** (A double portion of his father’s estate, the privilege of officiating as priest in his father’s house, and the spiritual birthright which gave him the honor of being the progenitor of the promised Messiah. Page 288)
3. **Why did Reuben lose his birthright?** (In an unguarded hour he sinned by committing adultery with his father’s wife. Page 288)
4. **Who received the temporal birthright instead of Reuben?** (Joseph. Page 288)
5. **Who received the priesthood?** (Levi. Page 288)
6. **Who received the honor of being the progenitor of Christ?** (Judah. Page 288)
7. **What did Jacob say about the real character of Reuben?** (“*Unstable as water, thou shalt not excel.*” Page 288)
8. **What traces are shown of Reuben’s “excellency of dignity?”** (By his kindness in bringing home the mandrakes to his mother and his efforts to save the life of Joseph. Page 289)
9. **What evidence was there that Jacob had little confidence in Reuben’s word?** (Jacob did not regard Reuben’s pledge to return Benjamin safely to his father. Page 289)
10. **What evidence is given that Reuben’s selfish character was passed on to his descendants?** (They wished to take possession of the first land conquered when they came out of Egypt. Page 290)

11. **What was the result of this selfishness?** (They were among the first to be carried away captive by Tiglath-pileser, King of Assyria in 740 B.C. Page 290)
12. **What evidence do we have that Reuben would not excel?** (This tribe furnished no judge, no prophet, no hero. Dathan and Abiram were of this tribe and were noted for their rebellion. Page 290)
13. **What danger did the tribe of Reuben place themselves in when they chose their territory?** (They placed themselves in close proximity to Moab. They were far from the central seat of the national government and of the national religion. Page 290)
14. **What was the result?** (They relinquished their faith in Jehovah. *"They went after the gods of the people of the land."* Pages 290-291)
15. **Since Reuben and his descendants failed to carry out the purposes of God, why will the name of Reuben be immortalized?** (This is the mystery of godliness. Page 291)
16. **What blessing did Moses pronounce on the tribe of Reuben?** (*"Let Reuben live, and not die; and let not his men be few."* Page 291)
17. **When did Reuben prove himself worthy?** (At the time of the battle of Megiddo it is stated that *"in the divisions of Reuben there were great searchings of heart."* Page 291)
18. **What will the 12,000 that enter under the banner of Reuben have in common?** (They are *"unstable as water,"* with no power in themselves to do any good thing; but if they will begin earnestly to search their hearts, they will discover their own weakness; and if they turn to God, He will come to their rescue. Page 292)

"A double-minded man is unstable [vacillating]  
in all his ways."

James 1:8

## **More Study**

*Brothers of the King*, by Arthur W. Spalding, pages 25-30 or  
*The Conquerors*, by Leslie Hardinge.

## **Mark Your Bible**

Write a summary of your study and then mark your Bible.

## **Share**

Share at least once a week what you have learned.

## **Activity**

Make a chart of the tribes of the 144,000. Write the character qualities of those under the banner of Reuben.

“If you make God your strength  
and subdue yourself,  
and let the truth bear away the victory,  
the devices of Satan  
and his fiery darts  
will fall upon himself,  
and you will be strengthened,  
kept from error,  
and guarded  
from every false way.”

*3 Testimonies 66*