

4 lepers... 2 Kings 7:3-4

- Background... King of Aram laying siege to city of Samaria – revenge (explain chpt 6)
- We'll come back to these four later

Sons of Issachar... 1 Chronicles 12:32

- Background... King Saul died (tribe of Benjamin)... they wanted their king, everyone else wants David
 - In midst of this contention in Israel, the “sons of Issachar” stand up...
 - § “200 chiefs”... if look back, only ones this says this about – FULLY COMMITTED
- Let me give you some insight into the tribe of Issachar
 - Show book (*The Tribes of Israel* by Gwen Shaw)... explain
 - § Insight from: 1) Jacob & Moses’ prophecies... 2) people who were from that tribe
 - Issachar... stood in the shadows... the servants... no one paid attention to
- Jacob’s prophecy... READ Genesis 49:14-15
 - Donkey... the burden-bearers
 - § The one no one takes notice of...
 - § Interesting... EVERY donkey is born with the mark of a cross on it’s back
 - Darker hairs used in medicine during Medieval times
 - This is why it’s noticeable that Israel listened to them...
 - § That it says “men who understood the times and knew what Israel should do”
 - § “couching down”... to couch, to lay down, to get low
- Jared talked about intercessors on Friday night... “Reese Howells Company”
 - Ability to carry a burden all the way through... DONKEYS
 - ALSO... in balance when it has TWO loads on its back... ours/another
 - § Chinese women... must carry something in each hand (balance / back issues)
 - § Two pales of water on a stick... balance

Were there any DAUGHTERS of Issachar mentioned in scripture? YES

- Jewish tradition tells us that Deborah was from Issachar
- READ 2 Kings 4:8-17... Shunamite (in Issachar)

- Discerning/Watching... EXPOUND/DESCRIBE the scene
- Created a place for God's presence... EXPOUND... This is KEY as intercessors!!!
- Story continues on... boy dies/Elisha restores him to life
- READ 2 Kings 8:1-6
 - Goes to "the land of the Philistines"... West Bank/Gaza
 - She KNEW THE TIMES AND UNDERSTOOD what she must do...
 - § Down to the EXACT time to leave...
 - § Shows up at the EXACT moment...

Back to the Four Lepers

- READ 2 Kings 7:3-11
 - "sound" = (Heb) kole... a voice/shout/sound/thunder
 - § **Psalm 29:3** *"The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD thunder over the mighty waters. The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD thunders over the mighty waters."*
- WE (Christians) are like those lepers now...
 - Outcasts... put-out of the "city" ... outside of popular culture
 - As intercessors, we must decide what to do:
 - § Go back? Blend into culture
 - § Sit still? Hope trouble goes away, hold out for next political regime in 2016
 - § Forward? Go TOWARD the enemies camp, engage him!
- Reminds me of Winston Churchill's speech to House of Commons... June 4, 1940
 - Right after the Battle of Dunkirk... had to rescue 388k soldiers
 - *"We shall go on to the end, we shall fight in France, we shall fight on the seas and oceans, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air, we shall defend our Island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender..."*
- NOTE... this city of Samaria was in the West Bank/Gaza... same as where the Shunamite went!!!

Close...

- READ 1 Chronicles 12:32 again... (sons of Issachar)
 - “knowledge”... same as used in Habakkuk 2:14
 - § *“For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.”*
 - § yada = (Heb) intimate knowledge, like a man knows his wife
 - THAT is how we walk in that Issachar anointing... KNOWING the intimacy of God’s glory...
 - § Like the Shunamite... creating a place for God’s presence