

TRIBE	COLOR & SIGN	MEANING
ראובן	The flag was red and symbol was the "Dudai'im" plant some say this is Mandrake.	Red = because he did תשובה, for his sin with בלהה, he was later able to take revenge on אדום. Red = symbolic of executing justice.
שמעון	Green with a picture of the city of שכם some say it was the figure of a person instead.	Capturing of שכם by Shimon marked the beginning of the capturing of Israel, so this encouraged B"Y in war.
לוי	It was 1/3 white, 1/3 black, and 1/3 red with the breastplate over it. Although they had their own flag, they were not included in the count of the 12 tribes.	White= the purity of the Levi'im who were free of sin. Black= that to outsiders they appeared "black as ravens" with no accomplishments because they were so involved in Torah study. Red = the blood of the sacrifices that Levi were responsible for offering. The Breastplate reminded us of their priestly status.
יהודה	Blue flag with symbol of a lion.	Both blue and the lion were symbols of royalty. Blue represents the Royal throne and lion is the symbol given by Yaakov as it is king of all beasts, and all kings would come from Yehudah.
יששכר	Black background with emblems of the sun and the moon.	Black = Torah scholarship and the heavenly bodies of sun and moon tell us that this tribe was well versed in astronomy and they were therefore able to later set the Jewish calendar.
זבולון	White background with a ship.	This tribe's portion of land was near the seashore. With their profits from sea voyages and trade, they supported

		the Torah learning of Yissachar. White = their happiness and pure motives while doing business, and took journeys happily, trusting that Hashem would help them in merit of the fact that they were supporters of Torah learning.
דן	Sapphire with the image of a serpent.	The color & symbol represent Shimshon who would come from Dan. Strong and firm like a sapphire, he attacked the Plishtim like a snake, dealing many severe blows.
גד	Interwoven with black and white threads. Picture on top was mighty warriors.	Black and white were mixed together to show that although the tribe was often exposed to dangers of war (many mighty soldiers came from this tribe) = black, they were always calm and not worried b/c of their faith in Hashem = white.
נפתלי	Redish purple with the symbol of a deer.	Redish purple background = color of diluted wine. Torah is compared to wine and there were many Torah scholars in this tribe. Yaakov had compared him to the deer in his blessing.
אשר	Pearl colored background with symbol of olive tree.	This tribe was blessed with beautiful daughters who married Kings and כהנים גדולים. They often wore pearl necklaces as do women of noble rank. The olive trees represented their portion of land in Israel which was known to produce olive trees.

אפרים	Black with the picture of a bull.	Bull symbolized יהושע who came from this tribe and was said to be as strong as a bull.
מנשה	Black with a wild ox.	The judge Gideon was from the tribe of מנשה and his good deeds were compared to the beautiful horns of the רעם
בנימין	Combined colors of all the other tribes with the symbol of the wolf over it.	The בית המקדש was in their portion – bringing all the other tribes together when they came to sacrifice & bringing blessings to the tribes. The wolf symbolizes the sacrifices that were “snatched” by the heavenly fire on the altar.