

“Tribes of Israel” in Samuel

The Hebrew word, shevet, “tribe,” is found 190 times in the Masoretic Text. “Twelve tribes” is found 4 times in the Hebrew Scriptures and 4 times in the New Testament. The phrase, “tribes of Israel,” is found 47 times in the Hebrew Scriptures (and twice in the New Testament at Matthew 19.28 and Luke 22.30). The use is distributed as below:

Genesis: 2	Kings: 4
Exodus: 1	Chronicles: 6
Numbers: 2	Ezra: 1
Deuteronomy: 2	Psalms: 1
Joshua: 3	Ezekiel: 7
Judges: 7	Hosea: 1
Samuel: 9	Zechariah: 1

1 SAMUEL	
2.28	I [YHWH] chose him [Aaron] out of all the tribes of Israel to be my priest, to go up to my altar, to offer incense, to wear an ephod before me; and I gave to the family of your ancestor all my offerings by fire from the people of Israel.
9.21	Saul answered, "I am only a Benjaminite, from the least of the tribes of Israel , and my family is the humblest of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin. Why then have you spoken to me in this way?"
10.20	Then Samuel brought all the tribes of Israel near, and the tribe of Benjamin was taken by lot.
15.17	Samuel said [to Saul], " <u>Though you are little in your own eyes, are you not the head of the tribes of Israel?</u> YHWH anointed you king over Israel."
2 SAMUEL	
5.1-2	Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron, and said, " <u>Look, we are your bone and flesh.</u> For some time, while Saul was king over us, it was you who led out Israel and brought it in. YHWH said to you: It is you who shall be shepherd of my people Israel, you who shall be ruler over Israel."
15.10	But Absalom sent secret messengers throughout all the tribes of Israel , saying, "As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpet, then shout: Absalom has become king at Hebron!"
19.9	All the people were disputing throughout all the tribes of Israel , saying, "The king delivered us from the hand of our enemies, and saved us from the hand of the Philistines; and now he has fled out of the land because of Absalom."
20.14	Sheba passed through all the tribes of Israel to Abel of Beth-maacah; and all the Bichrites assembled, and followed him inside.
24.2	So the king said to Joab and the commanders of the army, who were with him, " <u>Go through all the tribes of Israel, from Dan to Beer-sheba, and take a census of the people,</u> so that I may know how many there are."