

# GALLIMAUFRY II

## LEVI

<sup>3</sup> *He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness,*

Malachi 3:3

<sup>5</sup> *“Simeon and Levi are brothers--their swords are weapons of violence. <sup>6</sup> Let me not enter their council, let me not join their assembly, for they have killed men in their anger and hamstring oxen as they pleased. <sup>7</sup> Cursed be their anger, so fierce, and their fury, so cruel! I will scatter them in Jacob and disperse them in Israel.*

Genesis 49:5-7

I. In a season of mixture, we need God’s discernment and priestly vision.

\* Gallimaufry - hodgepodge, collage, scramble, stew, jumble, mixed bag, muddle, mishmash, montage, patchwork, potpourri, mixture

II. Hiram of Tyre

A. Everything was against Hiram. He was fatherless; his mother was a widow. He was from a mixed heritage; his father was a Phoenician, his mother a Hebrew.

B. He lived in the city that was the locus of immorality in the Ancient world.

C. Yet what is true of Hiram, the temple builder, has been true of all temple building and most temple builders.

D. The stone of Luz (Genesis 28:18,19)

E. The materials of the Tabernacle (Exodus 25:1-9)

### III. Levi - serial killer to priest

A. Levi's birth (Genesis 29:34)

\* Levi was born under the stress of a mother trying to manipulate her husband to love her. Fertile ground for anger.

B. The rape of Dinah / Partners in shame. (Genesis 34)  
Simeon and Levi unite in vindictive deception, cruelty, and self-willed action. They slaughter an entire city.

C. When Joseph's brothers conspire to kill him, Simeon and Levi are a murderous presence.  
(Genesis 37:18)

D. Simeon and Levi are scattered in Israel.

\* Simeon's scattering causes him and his descendants to cease to exist as a people.

\*\* Levi's scattering, however, turns into the greatest blessing in the history of Israel.

### IV. A change of heart / The swords of cruelty turned to swords of righteousness. (Exodus 32:26-28)

*<sup>26</sup> So he stood at the entrance to the camp and said, "Whoever is for the LORD, come to me." And all the Levites rallied to him. <sup>27</sup> Then he said to them, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Each man strap a sword to his side. Go back and forth through the camp from one end to the other, each*

*killing his brother and friend and neighbor.’”<sup>28</sup> The Levites did as Moses commanded, and that day about three thousand of the people died.*

- A. The golden calf incident at Mount Sinai was a defining moment.
- B. Levi refused to betray God and saved the nation by stanching the idolatry that was spreading rapidly to destroy God’s plan at its inception.
- C. The Levites, in turn, became the priests who officiated between God and man in both the tabernacle and the temple.
- D. While the 12 tribes of Israel camped some distance from the tabernacle, the sons of Levi camped in the center, right next to it. The descendants of Levi’s three sons were stationed on each side, the Gershonites on the west, the Kohathites on the south, the Meraites on the north. Whenever the Israelites marched in procession, the Levites were in the center, carrying the tabernacle and its articles, with six tribes going in front of them and the other six behind.
- E. Levi, the gallimaufry, testifies again to God’s mercy and grace.

## V. Great descendants of Levi

- \* Moses
- \* Aaron
- \* Phineas
- \* Miriam

- \* Ezra
- \* Ezekiel
- \* John, the Baptist
- \* Barnabas

## VI. Five lessons from Levi

- A. Levi's inheritance was their unique and intimate relationship to God. (Joshua.13:33)
- B. Because the Levites had no land rights, they were "in the world, but not of it."
- C. Levi was scattered as salt and light - a witness of shepherding to all God's people.
- D. Levi was dependent upon his brethren, and therefore lived an interdependent life of communitas.
- E. Levi led all the cities of refuge, becoming a source of comfort, refuge, and safety to all of Israel. (Joshua 20)