156 THE APOCALYPSE {cn. vii. 9, 10  
  
1. Judah 5. Nepthalim 9. Issachar  
2. Reuben 6. Manasseh 10. Zebulon  
3. Gad 7. Simeon 11. Joseph  
4, Asher 8. Levi 12. Benjamin.  
  
The order of birth is as follows :—  
Sons of Leah :—Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah.  
Of Bilhah :—Dan, Naphtali.  
Of Zilpah :—Gad, Asher.  
Of Leah (after an interval) :—Issachar, Zebulon.  
Of Rachel :—Joseph, Benjamin.  
Thus it appears, that the sons of the four mothers are  
curiously interchanged. Leah’s sons precede. In Bil-  
hah’s and Zilpah’s the natural order is reversed.  
Arranged with regard to the mothers, the order in the  
Apocalypse will stand thus :—  
1. Of Leah :—Judah, Reuben.  
2. Of Zilpah :—Gad, Asher.  
3. Of Bilhah :—Naphthali. But Dan, her other  
son, is omitted; and Manasseh, a son of Joseph, and  
descendant of Rachel’s, takes his place.  
1. Leah’s earlier sons re-appear; Simeon, Levi.  
1. Leah’s later sons; Issachar, Zebulon.  
4, Rachel’s; Joseph, Benjamin.  
The covenant of which these are the subjects is of  
grace. It is not, like the Law, a thing dependent on  
their previous promises. It is sovereign. The seal is  
set on those whom the Lord chooses. “J will put my  
law in their hearts.” ‘‘ They shall be my people, J will  
be their God.” And the seal is impressed by an angel,  
though still set on their flesh.  
9. ‘‘ After these things I saw, and behold a great multitude,  
which none could number, out of every nation and (of all) tribes,  
and peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne, and before  
the Lamb; clothed in white robes, and palms in their hands ;  
  
10. And they cry with a great voice, ‘ Our salvation ! (be ascribed)  
to our God who sitteth upon the throne, and to the Lamb!’ ”’  
  
1¥Force of the article,