



Article 2 HEBREW FOUNDATION OF SCRIPTURE:

As we mentioned in article 1 the first language of scripture was Hebrew (or rather a Semetic language). Not the Hebrew of today which is called modern Hebrew. The Hebrew language actually died out but through the work of a dedicated few the Hebrew language was revived as modern Hebrew.

This was predicted to happen by the prophet Zephaniah (Zephaniah 3:9). That YHWH would give (or return to) his people a pure language.

If we are to understand the scriptures from their correct foundation we must understand the Hebrew language and how Hebrew people think. Scriptural prophecy is based on Hebrew thinking. Let us look at an example:

The prophet Zechariah made a prophecy which is coming true in these days.

Zec 9:13 For I have bent Y'hudah as my bow and made Efrayim its arrow. I will rouse your sons, Tziyon, and make you like a warrior's sword against your sons, Greece." (KJV)

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When looking at scripture prophecy it is good to ask questions such as:

1. – what or who are the groups or peoples the prophet is speaking about ?
2. - are we told when the prophecy will happen?
3. - what is the prophecy actually telling us?

Let us see if we can answer these questions about this prophecy of Zechariah.

1. – what or who are the groups or peoples the prophet is speaking about ?

Zechariah is speaking to four people or groups in this verse. -- They are Y'hudah, Efrayim, Tziyon, and Greece.

Prophets often speak of cities, or nations or various groups of people as if they were one person.

Can we identify any of these groups?

We may not be able to identify who Y'hudah or Efrayim are at this time (we will look more into that in later article).



However scripture does tell us who Tzion is:

In the following scriptures: 2 Sam 5:7, 1 Kings 8:1, 2 Chron 5:2, Ps 102:21

we find that Tzion is identified with Jerusalem and with the city of David and of course later the temple – the dwelling place of Yahweh also in Jerusalem.

So who is Zechariah referring to when he speaks of the sons of Tzion?

From what we have just learned from the scriptures above a 'son of Tzion' is someone who has their heart, thoughts and actions set on (connected to) Jerusalem and Yahweh's temple where the city of David once stood.

So the next question then is what then is a 'son of Greece'?

Following the pattern as for the 'son of Tzion' to give us identification – a 'son of Greece' is someone who has their heart, thoughts and actions set on or connected to the Greek empire.

To understand this further we need to understand something of the Greek Empire and the Greek culture. In fact we will never understand scripture well unless we do study world history and the history of those nations that affected the Nation of Israel. Some of this history we can get from scripture itself but we will always need to look at other books to obtain a knowledge of the history of other nations.

The Greek culture had many things that were against the Hebrew way of doing things. The Greeks gave the world the political system of democracy. This was based on the idea that through debate and good logical discussions of a number of people, men would come to the best decision for any situation or problem.

The Greeks also believed in many gods. They thought that only a person's spirit was important. It did not matter what a person did with their body as long as they looked after their spirit. They believed that part of their religious practices to keep their spirit safe were to appease their gods (that means actions to keep their gods happy). Greek learning was to study carefully in order to understand something. Only then, when someone had knowledge and understanding of something could they carry out any actions that might be required. The Greek empire reached its highest influence under Alexander the Great. In his time the Greek Empire controlled an area from the Mediterranean Sea across to India.

After Alexander died, this empire was broken into four parts under four of Alexander's generals. Later parts of this divided empire were taken over by the Roman empire. The Romans followed after many of the ideas and practices that Greece had begun.

These Greek – Roman ways of doing things have become the ways that most Western countries still do things today. Western ‘culture’ is Greco-Roman culture.

Hebrew’s on the other hand were quite different. They believed that Man’s way of doing things was to be by getting directions from Yahweh. Only through the scriptures which were given by Yahweh or through Yahweh’s prophets could a person really know the correct decisions to make. They of course only believed in One god and their religious actions were all centered around worshiping Yahweh and keeping their relationship with Him. Central to their thinking was that man’s spirit could be directed by Yahweh’s spirit and mind which was higher than man’s intellect. (the Hebrew scripture tell us that YHWH says ‘my ways are not your ways’).

Hebrew learning like the Hebrew culture and language was all about action. If Yahweh told a Hebrew person to do something – this person did not have to study it carefully in order to fully understand it before doing the action. The Hebrew person simply obeyed Yahweh’s instructions and learned about the action AS THEY WERE DOING THE ACTION!

In other words Hebrews learned by experience while they did something; Greeks tried to study and understand BEFORE they did something.

So returning to Zechariah’s prophecy: One thing he is saying is that those people who are Hebrew in their thinking and living will rise up against those who are Greek in their thinking and living. So we have identified two of the groups that Zechariah is speaking about.

2. - are we told when the prophecy will happen?

Often to answer this question about a prophecy we may have to look at further verses around the prophecy. On some occasions we may even have to look at other places in scripture to find the answer. In this case we are able to find out when this will happen by looking at verses 9:9 through to 9:16 of the same chapter of Zechariah.

Zec 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.

Zec 9:10 And I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem, and the battle bow shall be cut off: and he shall speak peace unto the heathen: and his dominion shall be from sea even to sea, and from the river even to the ends of the earth.

Zec 9:11 As for thee also, by the blood of thy covenant I have sent forth thy prisoners out of the pit wherein is no water.

Zec 9:12 Turn you to the strong hold, ye prisoners of hope: even to day do I declare that I will render double unto thee;

Zec 9:13 When I have bent Judah for me, filled the bow with Ephraim, and raised up thy sons, O Zion, against thy sons, O Greece, and made thee as the sword of a mighty man.

Zec 9:14 And the LORD shall be seen over them, and his arrow shall go forth as the lightning: and the Lord GOD shall blow the trumpet, and shall go with whirlwinds of the south.



Zec 9:15 The LORD of hosts shall defend them; and they shall devour, and subdue with sling stones; and they shall drink, and make a noise as through wine; and they shall be filled like bowls, and as the corners of the altar.

Zec 9:16 And the LORD their God shall save them in that day as the flock of his people: for they shall be as the stones of a crown, lifted up as an ensign upon his land.

Zec 9:17 For how great is his goodness, and how great is his beauty! corn shall make the young men cheerful, and new wine the maids.

From this passage we are able to tell that this prophecy is connected to a time when Yahweh is returning to defend His people.

3. - what is the prophecy actually telling us?

So far we have learnt that this prophecy of Zechariah is telling us that a people who hold to a Hebrew way of living will rise up against a people who have a Greek (& Roman) way of life about some time when Yahweh is about to come and defend and save them.

Another similar prophecy is the Prophecy of Moses (Moshe) in Deut 30:1-6. The same techniques can be applied to this prophecy as we have done for the Zechariah prophecy.

Deu 30:1 *“And it shall be, when all these words come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you shall bring them back to your heart among all the gentiles where יהוה your Elohim drives you,*

Deu 30:2 and shall turn back to יהוה your Elohim and obey His voice, according to all that I command you today, with all your heart and with all your being, you and your children,

Deu 30:3 then יהוה your Elohim shall turn back your captivity, and shall have compassion on you, and He shall turn back and gather you from all the peoples where יהוה your Elohim has scattered you.

Deu 30:4 “If any of you are driven out to the farthest parts under the heavens, from there יהוה your Elohim does gather you, and from there He does take you.

Deu 30:5 “And יהוה your Elohim shall bring you to the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it. And He shall do good to you, and increase you more than your fathers.

Deu 30:6 “And יהוה your Elohim shall circumcise your heart and the heart of your seed, to love יהוה your Elohim with all your heart and with all your being, so that you might live,