



The wolf and the lamb will lie down together

Shalom Aryeh De'eri

It is the desire of many Ephraimites, those of the lost house of Joseph to return to the land of our Fathers. Current theories that equate the descendants of Joseph to the communities of Benei Ephraim, Benei Manashe and other such attempts fail dismally in the identification of who Joseph represents in the end days for a number of reasons. The main reason being the plethora of scriptural passages that point to a numerous and prosperous Joseph nation at the end of days (Gen 49:22-26, Gen 48:4) as opposed to a few thousand, poverty stricken people returning to the land of their inheritance. Joseph, instead of being an obscure people in the back hills of Kazakhstan are prophesied to become a company of nations (Gen 35:11, Gen 48:19) and be the birthright nation within Jacob's children and hence significant (1Ch 5:1-2).

There appears to be only one theory that gives the significance the scriptures speak of for the descendants of Joseph becoming a prosperous, influential and numerous people and that is the Saxon – Celtic position held by people like Rabbi Avraham Feld, Yair Davidi and Ovadyah Avrahami. This basically holds to the belief that many of the descendants of Joseph were a part of the Caucasian migrations from the Southern Turkey area into Europe and ending up in Western Europe, Scandanavia and their migrations to the New World. In agreement with their findings, many descendants of the northern kingdom of Israel are awakening to their identity while in exile in typical Western nations and are passionate about settling the land and are even more hard-line in their Zionism than the most ardent Christian Zionist. The desire for return is strong as will be attested to by Bruce Brill who has met our communities and knows of the increasing awakening happening in the West of a lost Israelite heritage. We keep the Sabbath, the Festivals of Israel, Circumcision, eat Kosher (although most probably not according to Rabbinic specification).

You may ask, "Why then not just convert to Judaism and return?" The main reason for this is that our communities remain Christian. Thus although returning to our inheritance in the Torah of Israel, our religious expression is incompatible with Judaism because of belief in Jesus. Thus, there have been many approaches by people like Avraham Feld and Ovadyah Avrahami to put forward the prospect of conversion and this may have seen a trickle of people return to Israel, but this is not going to see multitudes return.

Because of what seems an insurmountable religious hurdle, it has made people like myself wonder whether there may be a political possibility to open the way for Joseph to return from the West (even with Christian beliefs). We feel that true reconciliation should pattern the process marked out in the scriptures. Isaiah 11 marks out that Judah and true returning Joseph should be like a wolf and a lamb, leopard and a kid, a child at a serpent's hole etc. – the point being that this will not be the most natural of paring and yet somehow work together in the establishing of Zion.

*Isa 11:13 The envy also of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off:
Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim.*



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Ultimately a reconciliation will take place where both sides will do what is constructive for the establishment of Zion and where envy will want to cause break up, Ephraim will choose unity and where Judah will look to annoy Ephraim, this will be laid down for a higher goal.

This is one of the main reasons why I believe that those identified by Feld and Davidi are in fact the descendants of Joseph – the complete ridiculousness of trying to make it work. Yet, I believe that a political agenda can and should be pursued for the return of Joseph for these reasons:

- 1) We are educated, well financed and are prepared to invest not just in Israel, but particularly in Judea and Samaria
- 2) We are prepared to settle the lands of Judah and Samaria in Israelite communities that are separate from the Jewish communities that exist.
- 3) We are prepared to return without being labelled Jewish (because to us this simply refers to the House of Judah), but are prepared to be considered non-Jewish Israelis should this open opportunity to inhabit land that is currently owned by the Arab people and therefore liberate Zion.
- 4) We come from typically capitalist countries and have a healthy view of personal and individual agency and are not accustomed to ideas of relying on the State for benefits.
- 5) Our return will have the knock on effect of reducing anti-Semitism in the West and increase pro-Israel leanings.
- 6) We would like to participate in all parts of life in Israel: army etc.
- 7) We are prepared to have an open policy about our differences with Judaism, we have no secret agendas for the missionising of Jewish people, although we would like to have the same respect given to our religious background upon settling.

All in all I would like to awaken you sir to who and what Joseph represents in these end days. We have immense resource and influence and would like to partake in a beneficial way in the establishing of Zion. I pray that you would consider whether there may be political interest in who we are, you would be upfront in your concerns with people like ourselves settling and ultimately I hope we could begin a meaningful conversation for the eventual reconciliation of the greater nation of Israel.

Sincere regards

Andrew Hodkinson

Head Pastor of First Foundation Ministries