THE ECHO OF ANCIENT EPHRAIM IN THE FINNISH PENINSULA

Multidisciplinary Approach to Generate the Theory of Ephraim

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1. Introduction

Many ask today: who am I? Am I “I” or someone else?

We know quite well that if we are interested in knowing a little more about Finnish ancestry than the Finns in general do, we recognize quite soon that the church records and personal family histories are not sufficient; they are “not enough”. We will notice these methods come quite soon to an end. Surely, these documents dig deep into the historical layer after the other, however, in the best cases we can go back only until some hundreds of years. But such sources like archeology with its surprising findings may go back even Bronze, Iron or Stone Ages. In Finnish Peninsula those mystical Giant’s Churches date back from 2500-2000 BCE according to recent archeological estimations. History of the ancient Finnish Peninsula is now opening up. But, even if historical findings represent the most valuable discoveries of our past history and tell precious secrets from our ancient life style, the greatest question remains unresolved: “Who are we originally”? Who were those who built the Giant’s Churches? A multidisciplinary approach to generate the theory of Ephraim seems to be a promising way; therefore, we would like to continue the research in this direction.

1 Pekka Lyyränen is researcher of the lost tribes of Israel, and he is specialized especially in the field of DNA and genealogy; he is administrator of the Hebrew Finnish Project (in the Family Tree DNA Project) since 2007. He is graduated at the University of Helsinki, Finland, MA (theologian).
2 Tuula-Hannele Ikonen is researcher and specialized in the field of Jews from the view of social history. She studied at the University of Turku, Finland, (Doctor of Health Sciences) and Helsinki, Finland (Master of Social Sciences). She has visited as post-Doctoral researcher the Hebrew University, in Jerusalem.
3 We use the name the “Finnish Peninsula”, which refers to Finland in different time periods. In fact, the word “Finlandia” is known until around 1000 century CE, but it meant only the southwest part of the current Finland. Therefore, some historical sources prefer to use “the Finnish Peninsula” referring to the development of the ancient and modern Finns in their places of residence in the uttermost parts of the earth. The term the Scandinavian Peninsula is purely geographical, and it overlaps with Scandinavia.
Churches, and who came after them? In this desperate moment, when we realize that we no longer have useful and reliable means to go further within our historical studies, we begin to glance at DNA. And, if we are seriously taken scientists, wonderful worlds begin to open up to us. We can imagine being at the gate of paradise with Eva and Adam, look for the DNA markers in order to follow them until our present day reality.

It is not a surprise that also we, who study Hebrew roots of the Finns basing on the Biblical history of the tribes of ancient Israel and the Bible, become attracted to DNA and genealogical possibilities. In Yom Kippur, in 2007, when the Hebrew Finnish DNA Project was established, we swallowed bait and we are now on the hook.

In fact, we are not the only ones who are interested in the genetic background of Finns. Scholar of genealogical research and DNA, Leena Peltonen-Palotie (deceased) declares that Finnish genes are “fascinating”, as American “Discover Magazine” reported in April 2005 in the article “Finland’s Fascinating Genes”. Peltonen-Palotie emphasized that “the genetic homogeneity, or sameness, of the Finns makes them easier to study than Californians”; “the number of cards in the Finnish deck is fewer than the number of cards in the California deck because the Finns have fewer gene variants, or alleles, to play with”, and “when scientists look for variants that cause diseases, they’re easier to spot in the Finnish deck because so many cards are similar”, and “Finns that they are part of the lore of the nation” Genes play an important role almost in everything, like in studies of people’s history. In this article we want to focus on Ephraim, the ancient ten tribes of the Northern Kingdom of Israel. We present the preliminary outline of the theory to Ephraim by Pekka T. Lyyränen.

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6 In fact the DNA research began winning paths already in the 1800s. Thus, DNA research has come a long way, and today it has a spectacular development as we can see in this paper.


8 The ancient split happened in c. 932 BCE and then the Northern (Israel, Jacob including Samaria) and Southern (Judah including Jerusalem) Kingdom of Israel separated. The Northern state by name Kingdom of Israel consisted of 10 tribes of Israel (Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Issachar, Zebulon, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher and Joseph (Ephraim and Manasseh). As a matter of fact, according to the Bible Levi is divided into all tribes of ancient Israel. However, Levi remained as own tribe. Today, it is estimated in some sources that today the tribe of Levi would be the biggest tribe of Judah. The Southern state, Kingdom of Judah, consisted of 2 (Judah and Benjamin) or 3 (partly Simeon, which was located in the south and then partly mixed with southern tribes) tribes. The Northern Kingdom was over time socially and militarily strong but spiritually weak, and additionally disunited. We can express that the Northern Kingdom was strong based on the fact that it consisted of about ¾ from King Solomon’s Kingdom. Additionally, from time to time during its history Judah, the Southern Kingdom, was under the rule of the Northern Kingdom. Then, the king of the kingdom of Judah, functioned as if as “puppet ruler”. However, the Bible says that JHWH punished with captivity the Northern state, because it rejected JHWH, it was no longer obeyed to JHWH, and it practiced idolatry. According to Biblical history Assyrians were able to capture Israelis to Assyria especially from the area of Samaria (in Hebr. Shomron) between years 734-719 BCE. And additionally, 2 Chr 18:13. says: “Now in the fourteenth year of king Hezekiah did Sennacherib king of Assyria come up against all the fortified cities of Judah, and took them.” (American Standard Version). It is noteworthy that Assyria invaded 46 cities of Judah. Thus, in Assyria lived descendants of northern and presumably also southern tribes, which is an interesting factor in our study, for example from the view of genes and DNA. For example, if (as we argue) Finns were originally from descendants of captives of Assyria, presumably many Finns might carry genes from the Northern and the Southern Kingdom’s paternal and maternal lines in their DNA. DNA studies show that many Finns have matrilinearly DNA cousins who belong to Ashkenazi population of today. See: Hebrew Finnish DNA project. URL: http://www.familytreedna.com/public/HEBREW%20FINNISH%20PROJECT/default.aspx?section=ycolorized (2011-10-15).
2. Different Theories of the Ten Lost Tribes of Ancient Israel

There are different theories of the ten lost tribes of Israel. In some theories Finns are mentioned as candidates to the lost tribes. Scholar of Statistics\(^9\) Antti Lange assumes that Finns may belong to the lost tribes of Israel. He however highlights that the Finns in the Finnish Peninsula are not the only population to where lost tribes have scattered\(^10\). Additionally, according to Lange not only Ephraim is lost, but also Judah is still partly lost.\(^11\)

This is true, for Jeremiah 3 says in verse 18.

> “In those days the house of Judah shall walk with the house of Israel, and they shall come together out of the land of the north to the land that I gave for an inheritance unto your fathers.”\(^12\)

This expression in our Finnish Bible might be inexact, for the scholar of the Bible Kimmo Juutilainen explains that “together” could be according to original text “to”.\(^13\) So, first the house of Judah comes to the house of Israel, and then they shall come together out of the land of the north to the land…\(^14\)

Historian Zvi Ben-Dor Benite, who confesses to belong himself to the ten lost tribes of Israel, mentions also the Finns, when he gives an overview on the concepts of who might belong to the lost tribes according to previous studies and assumptions. Besides with Finns he mentions inter alia: the Afghans (both Pashtuns and Phathans), Armenians, Berbers, Celts, Eskimos, Estonians, Ibos, Laps, Lembas, Mayans, Native North Americans, Scythians, Tartars, and Zulus.\(^15\) Zvi Ben-Dor Benite shows in his research that there are many groups, literally from A to Z, who during our ancient and modern history have claimed to be the descendants of the long-lost tribes. He also refers to it, how attractive this study field is. We agree, this subject capture our soul and mind. No wonder, then, that “traces of the Tribes are popping up all over”.\(^16\)

Researcher Pekka T. Lyyränen emphasizes DNA – and genetic study results especially in the Biblical context, as does Lange too. Basing on the Bible Lyyränen and Lange put much press on

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\(^9\) Referring to seminars of Dr. Antti Lange, he seems to show a great interest also in discoveries of Biblical Archaeology.

\(^10\) Dr. Lange has own web site: Israeliin 10 kadonnutta heimoa (the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel). URL: http://www.fkf.net/Kadonneet/ (2011-11-08).


\(^12\) According to American Standard Version.

\(^13\) See the study of Juutilainen, Kimmo (2010). Research of the Word of God. The Eternal Word. URL: http://jarmo10.org/the.pdf (2011-11-08). However, this verse is not mentioned in this study, but we had a personal discussion about this verse in 2011-11-09.

\(^14\) This explanation sounds logical from the point of nowadays situation according interpretations of certain religious circles. In fact, for a long time, it is expected that the house of Judah (Russian Jews in Russia) will come to Finland, where the supposed house of Israel (the ten lost tribes) exists.


\(^16\) Zvi Ben-Dor Benite (2009). 6.
the Biblical fact that the tribes will return from the north. In different literature sources published in the Anglo-American framework this theme is however not so crucial, often left without any attention. Or, the north seems to refer unambiguously to Russia, not to the Finnish Peninsula or the Finno-Ugric people. The Bible, however, clearly tells only that the ten lost tribes come from the direction of north.

Jer. 31: 8. “Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the uttermost parts of the earth, and with them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and her that travaileth with child together: a great company shall they return hither. 9. They shall come with weeping; and with supplications will I lead them: I will cause them to walk by rivers of waters, in a straight way wherein they shall not stumble; for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my first-born.”

While reading the text above we at the same time remember that according to the Bible the tribes are scattered to all directions, and tribal members can be found in all over the world, as is currently happening.

3. The Theory of Finno-Ugric Ephraim

The theory of Finno-Ugric Ephraim by Pekka T. Lyyränen is produced mainly from DNA – analyses around the Hebrew Finnish DNA Project and the Bible studies (the Old and the New Testament) since graduated from the University of Helsinki in 1970s. The approach is however multidisciplinary; for example knowledge of history is essential information, sometimes even crucial for studying roots of the Finns. The theory (or some may call it: the theoretical framework, the hypotheses, or the model of Finno-Ugric Ephraim) is constructed on three main factors, which are like the pillars, which keep the theory “stand” and which are intertwined with each others. The first factor is the “north” (location). According to the Bible the ten lost tribes live in “the uttermost parts of the earth” before they return back to Israel. There are many sensible reasons and arguments to assume that the north is the Finnish Peninsula. Studies show clearly that the magnetic north pole passes through Finland. Finland is directly north of Jerusalem, just at these times. The second factor is the dominating Haplogroup of the “north” -people in paternal line. According to DNA –analyses the dominating Haplogroup of Finns in paternal line is N. There are many logical arguments to suppose that the Haplogroup N would belong to Ephraim, to the ten lost tribes. The third factor is “wanderings”. According to historical and archaeological sources the ancient Finno-Ugric tribes have wandered from the Volga River and Siberia to the Finnish Peninsula. And, there are many scientific arguments to believe that the ten lost tribes, Ephraim, first wandered from ancient Assyria to the Volga River and Siberia. Thus, according to the theory of Ephraim the Finno-Ugric tribes like Finns are descendants of those wanderers. Still, there are much anthropological, archeological and linguistic findings, in other words, different “boundary markers” and “ethnic identifiers”, which also affirm the link between the Finns and the ancient Israelites. We have written about this subject in the previous article. “Some

\[\text{17} \text{ According to American Standard Version.}\]
4. Echo of Finno-Ugric Ephraim focused in the Haplogroup N

In November 2011 the Hebrew Finnish DNA Project has about 300 members, 113 of whom belong to the Haplogroup N in paternal line. And, 9 members of this N-group belong to the Haplogroup N1c1 and 3 to N1. According to background information descendants of the members of the Haplogroup N lived for example in the 16th and 17th century in Lapinlahti, Juva, Joroinen, etc., in other words, in the eastern part of former Finland like in Karelia and Savo. Surely, the eastern part of Finland, in Finnish “Itä-Suomi” has had important role as the “East gate” through which Finland was inhabited in large measure. According to historical sources not only descendants from Finnish settlements from the medieval Russian Novgorod, but much earlier descendants from Finno-Ugric people around and near the Volga River and in Siberia gained a foothold through the ages in the Finnish Peninsula. The majority of those who came from ancient Russia carried the Haplogroup N according to statistics.

Also those Finns who later moved to Norway (Kvens) and Sweden (Forest Finns) have mostly the same Haplogroup N. We have to remind that Russia is a country of many ethnies (ethnics groups), and in Russia live today millions of descendants of ancient Finno-Ugric tribes. However, Finland is the only nation, who is greatly homogenous with N –Haplogroup members. For example, over 90 % of Nganasan Samojedians on shore of the Arctic Ocean have the Haplogroup N2, but they belong to Russia. The ethnies of the Haplogroup N among the Finno-Ugric people live generally subordinated to foreign rulers in Russia, Norway and Sweden. Only the Finns (in 1917) and later the people of Latvia (in 1991), Lithuania (in 1990), and Estonia (in 1990) fought own state.23 We also should point out that originally the Finns belong to many sub-ethnies, because the Finns belong in principal to ancient tribe systems like do ancient Israelites.

Traditionally it is regarded that there are among Finns nine Finnish tribes, whom we are able to recognize even today. Like land of ancient Israel was divided to the tribes, also in the Finnish Peninsula (Finland) originally every tribe has own territory where they lived. The

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21J Jer. 31: 8.
22Finns belong to Finno-Ugric–speaking peoples with people of Komi (Zyryan), Komi-Permyaks, Udmurts (Votyak), Besermyan, Mari (Cheremiss), Mordvins, Moksha, Erzya, Merya people, Meshchera people, Muromian people, Chud, Veps, Setos, Izhorians, Livonians, Votes, Karelians, Estonians, Khanty and Mansi.23 Additionally Saami, Hungarians, and Samoyed peoples, who speak different languages, but who all belong to the Haplogroup N. The three largest Finno-Ugric peoples are Finns (6, 500, 000), Mordvins (850,000) and Estonians (1,100, 000).
24The Baltic countries declared independent already in 1918, but after the Second World War they lost their independency and became subordinated to Soviet rulers.
tribe of “Pohjalaiset” (Kainulaiset, Kvens) lived in the western coastal area and the tribe of Karelia in the eastern part. Because every tribe had own nature and temperament, local people recognized, if “foreigners” (some of the other Finnish tribes) settled there down. Many stories are told about these kinds of battles between tribes of the Finns. Each group had to defend its existence. Perhaps this is one reason, why tribes had to develop and use in everyday life different kinds of behavioral patterns, also violent. It was a question of survival. Also, it is conceivable that wanderings from the Volga River and Siberia have included a number of battles. According to recent studies some researchers have identified “impulsivity gene”. It is identified among some Finnish criminals. From the Biblical view we may asks, whether does it be also a question of some curse? It is questionable to equate Finns with ancient Israelite men, but we can compare the echo of ancient Finno-Ugric and Finns with ancient Israelites. It is abundantly clear that the ancient Israelites are described in the Bible violent, and they are continuously intertwined with tribal wars. In their life they showed a fiery temperament before and after apportionment of land, which then belonged to the tribes of Reuben, Simeon, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Benjamin, Ephraim (son of Joseph), Manasseh (son of Joseph) and Levi (no territorial allotment, except a number of cities located within the territories of the other tribes).

5. The Prevalence of the Haplogroup N among Finno-Ugric Ephraim

The next table presents the prevalence of the Haplogroup N among the Finno-Ugric people (ethnies). The results bases mainly to the statistic of the Hebrew Finnish DNA Project with some other DNA study sources.

Table 1. The prevalence of the Haplogroup N among Finno-Ugric Ephraim according to Pekka T. Lyyränen, 2011. The year in parentheses indicates the statistical year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>An Ethnie</th>
<th>The Haplogroup N %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Finns</td>
<td>N 77 (2008)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ngansan Samojedian in Russia</td>
<td>N2 91,2 (2011)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Komi</td>
<td>N 85,7 (2008)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Udmurts</td>
<td>N 85,7 (2008)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

27 What means the following text? 5 Ms 28:45. “Moreover all these curses shall come on you, and shall pursue you, and overtake you, till you be destroyed; because you listened not to the voice of the LORD your God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which he commanded you; 46. And they shall be on you for a sign and for a wonder, and on your seed forever.” The answer would be: “And they let you sign (fem.) and sign (mask.) and seed forever. Answer: mother and father line. (Pekka T. Lyyränen 2011-10-27)
It is remarkable that although some groups of Finno-Ugric population have lived in Russia hundred years, many have kept their Finno-Ugric identity at some extent. Although they have mix-married with non-Finno-Ugric partners, like Slaves, Finno-Ugric ethnies still exist. The next table presents the prevalence of the Haplogroup N among non-Finno-Ugric people (ethnies). The results bases mainly to the statistics of the Hebrew Finnish DNA Project with some other DNA -study sources.

Table 2. The prevalence of the Haplogroup N among other ethnies according to Pekka T. Lyyränen, 2011. The year in parentheses indicates the statistical year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnie</th>
<th>Haplogroup N %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saami</td>
<td>41,7 (2008)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tatars</td>
<td>25,4 (2008)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. In the Footsteps of the Ancient Israelite Tribes

Referring to the theory of Ephraim by Pekka T. Lyyränen, his analyses give arguments to suppose that Haplogroup N in paternal line is one important key to solve the problem of ancient Israelite tribes. So it is possible to argue that N –line would be one sub-line of line J. Thus, it is likely that N would be born (generated) about 3500 years ago, and genes of N are thus old. However, N is youngest of European paternal lines, of those which are regarded to be as stem lines in Europe like I, R1a, R1b, G, J and E.

Thus, referring to theory of Pekka T. Lyyränen the stem line of N is likely generated from Haplogroup J. Concerning the tribes of ancient Israel the stem line N would be divided into 10 sub lines. So, 10 sub lines are generated from the stem line N. And, these 10 sub lines have many other sub lines.

The text above give us arguments to deduce that ancient paternal line (father line) Israelites in ancient Assyria would belong to Haplogroup N or, better to say, to N’s different variations, because mutations change genes (continuously). The current DNA and genealogical study reveals that Finns have paternal ethnic similarity in Haplogroup N with such other ethnic groups like people of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, additionally with other the Finno-Ugric peoples, Forest Finns and Kvens. Also in present-day Russia live male persons, who belong to the Haplogroup N in paternal line.

Although these results are not final, they are preliminary including assumptions and hypotheses; they presumably however show the trend and direction of forthcoming findings with following markers and alleles. Forthcoming analyses shall give more accurate results. In
the light of today's knowledge according to the theory of Pekka T. Lyyränen paternal lines of the ancient Israelite tribes (Bejamin, Levi, Judah, Ruben, Simeon, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph=Ephraim, and Manasseh) are as follows.

Table 3. Paternal lines of the Finno-Ugric Ephraim according to the theory of Pekka T. Lyyränen. The equivalence with ancient tribes is mentioned at the end of each column.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PATERNAL LINES OF THE FINNO-UGRIC EPHRAIM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Haplogroup N with six Markers and Alleles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Haplogroup J with six Markers and Alleles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;&gt;J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacob</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;N</td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt;N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The table is created basing on ongoing analyses. Perhaps the most significant difference compared to other DNA studies is the fact that the theory is basing on the Biblical definition of the time, this means that creation of man occurred according to us about 6,000 years ago.

7. Summary

The purpose was to present the first draft of the theory of Ephraim in the Finno-Ugric context. This theory combines three elements: the north, dominating father line N, and wanderings from the east to the Finnish Peninsula. We have also given preliminary perceptions and assumptions of it, what kind of alleles the ancient tribes could have. Even though this article does not meet the demanding requirements of scientists in the field of DNA research,

however, from the view of multidisciplinary approach, it can offer one tool to go further with discussions, and thus, it may be a stick and a carrot for us in order to practice more demanding scientific explorations. Our problem is similar than Rabbi Yaakov Kleiman, who combines the elements of ancient history and geography (demography) with modern genetic research. But if he survives in the middle of research work’s pleasure and pain, so why do not we. Let’s go ahead.

Helsinki, the 28th November, 2011

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29 To study the roots of Finns linked with ancient Israelites based on the Biblical history is a quite popular theme in Finland. There are many persons, who are specialized in different areas. See: jarmo10.org.