



## The New Europe and the Spirit of the Sons of Greece



Dear TOS Friends,

during the past few months, I have been repeatedly both to Israel and Greece, and I have made a very interesting discovery there. As soon as I opened up my bible in Israel, the word of God literally jumped at me, I received revelation upon revelation. The Holy Spirit spoke to me there in a very special way. I am sure many others have experienced the same thing there.

But in Greece it was a different story altogether. When I wanted to read my bible there, I found it very difficult to understand anything I read, and the word of God seemed like strangely closed to me. I asked, "Lord, why is this?"

This was the trigger for an answer that reached far beyond anything I would have imaged. It is found in one vers which I think is crucial for this time.

I will bend Judah as I bend my bow and fill it with Ephraim. I will rouse your sons, o Zion, against your sons, o Greece, and make you like a warrior's sword. (Zechariah 9:13)

The prophet Zechariah speaks of a battle between the sons of Zion and the sons of Greece. I call this the battle with the "Greek spirit". This spirit is very present and powerful in Europe nowadays. In order to be victorious in this battle, we have to learn to recognize this Greek spirit in our society, but even more so in our own lives.

### The New Europe

On May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004 ten new countries and 75 million people were added to the EU. Just prior to the official opening celebration in Dublin, I saw the headlines of an Irish newspaper on TV, "Dawn A New Europe". But what is this new Europe? The German news magazine "Der Spiegel" wrote, the unity of Europe was based on the foundation of the antiquity and thus on the thinking of Greek philosophers, like Plato and Aristotle. In the struggle for the new European constitution, the root of Greek thinking has such an

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important part to play, that even the pope criticized in a public address in Rome on June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2004, it was dangerous to separate Europe from its christian roots. A European constitution without reference to christianity would be an explicit declaration that the new Europe was to be based solely on the antique mindset and thinking with no space for God.

In this context, it is very interesting to take a closer look at the symbol of Europe, the bull with a virgin riding on its back: It dates back to the myth of the Phoenician princess Europe, who was abducted by the enamoured Zeus in form of a bull, who took her to Crete to rape her there. In order to mask his despicable conduct, he honors her and names a continent in her honor. The symbol of Europe is nothing less than a symbol for another abduction on the back of Zeus. It stands for the effort to abolish the christian roots for the sake of the antique roots of Europe in Crete.

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### The Initial Spark for the Olympic Games in Athens

Parallel to the extension of the EU, we saw the preparations for one of the biggest, and in my opinion most influential, events worldwide: The Olympic Games, which took place in Greece this year, for the first time in their country of origin since 1896. What is so bad about this massive sports event? The old Olympia was

home to one of the seven world wonders, a huge statue of Zeus made of gold and ivory. The games were held at its feet to honor and worship Zeus. They brought human sacrifices before this statue, and a fire was kept burning continuously, which had been lit by priestesses of Zeus with the aid of mirrors - the Olympic flame. In modern time, the same Olympic flame was lit again for the first time in 1936 following an initiative by the Nazis for the Olympic Games in Berlin. Runners carried the torch from Greece to Berlin. This year also, the flame was lit in a pagan ceremony. For the first time in history, it was carried across all five continents. The flame was welcomed everywhere with great enthusiasm and effort, as well as official delegations. It is the most honored altar flame worldwide, the flame of pagan and demonic idol worship. At the opening ceremony, the Olympic hymn was sung, inviting Zeus to take the nations again as his possession. Billions of people watched the ceremony on TV, and unknowingly they became participants of a worldwide, sinister worship service. Do we actually realize, what an opening for darkness this created?

## Who is Zeus?

The average central European, on hearing the name of Zeus, usually thinks of history lessons, Greek education and culture, beautiful statues or entertaining myths. All of them harmless. But in reality, Zeus is a demonic and satanic power. You may identify him with the prince of Greece mentioned in Daniel 10:20. He is a false father figure, arbitrarily abusing his power and only seeking his own advantage. Zeus is the author of a distorted image of God still present in our thinking today. He is a God on whose word you cannot rely and who only does what will benefit him in the end. He demands achievement and sacrifice and promotes competition and strife, where only the strong survive and the weaker ones will be sacrificed. Did you know that in the beginning of the Olympic Games, the loser was killed and sacrificed to Zeus? Is it possible that this is the perverted origin of an evolutionary thinking which leaves no room for the weak and losers? Zeus is representative of a terrible image of God, the image of a false father, which is still deeply rooted in our minds through humanistic thinking in its various forms. In 1997, the widely recognized bible teacher, Derek Prince, spoke at a conference in Altensteig, and he gave a remarkable introduction to the spirit of humanism and the vast number of false teachings and lies of the "spirit of the sons of Greece", as well as its effects on the church worldwide. Among other things he said, "... pray that it will not strike before its time!" Is it possible that we have reached this time now?

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## The Signs of the Greek Spirit

The actual battleground for the struggle described in Zechariah 9:13, is found in our minds. It is a mindset which places our intellectual abilities and our own secular knowledge next to or even above the revelation of God. If God is like Zeus, an arbitrary despot or a sleeping giant, we cannot take His word all too seriously. For this reason, the critical mind decides which parts of the bible are reality and which are not. Do we realize how subtly the Greek spirit affects almost every area of our thinking and action? It whispers softly, "If I don't understand it, it cannot be real!" In the end, this leads to a kind of "naturalism" that denies God and devil, eternity and miracles, simply everything supernatural.

Only a few days ago, an appalled grammar school teacher told me of a very subtle paradigm shift within her subject biology. The intended curriculum for 2004/2005 in Baden-Württemberg demands that as of grade 5 evolution will no longer be taught as a scientific theory, but as a philosophical ideology, as absolute truth. On enquiry, a staff member at the highest education authority in Baden-Württemberg told her, as a biology teacher she was required to abstain from all criticism in regards to evolution; nor was she supposed to point the students to any weaknesses of the evolution theory. From this example we can discern the tendency to put down faith in creation as belonging to the realm of fairytales.

This kind of "naturalism" is accompanied by two seemingly harmless side effects, that are like symptoms of a life-

threatening disease, pointing to the destructive roots: doubt and skepticism. For a long time, my thoughts were shaped by these two thoughts, clinging to me like reliable friends. Throughout my humanistic upbringing in my parents' home they appeared familiar and useful, but when I got saved, they loomed like insurmountable barriers over my thoughts, blocking faith in a powerful and supernatural God. In the university city of Tübingen, birthplace of TOS Ministries, I had the opportunity to study the Greek spirit in many different people for more than 20 years. Next to the achievements in science and research, it was able to disintegrate the mindsets and intellect of entire generations of students like a creeping poison, little by little eliminating the foundations of biblical truth.

## The Birth Defect of Christianity in Europe

I am convinced it was ultimately the influence of the Greek spirit that led to a congenital defect of christianity in Europe, it has been robbed of its true power and spiritual authority up to now. What may appear like a harmless cultural asset of philosophical thinking and human achievement of the Occident, is in the eyes of the bible a rebellious uprising of self-righteous and self-glorifying man, raising himself up against the knowledge of God through his own thinking and making himself the measure of all things. Do we

actually realize how powerfully the Greek spirit has been able to establish itself over the centuries and that it has become a set institution in our western world? Considering the architecture of many important government buildings, universities and cultural centers in Europe (also in America, by the way!) alone, you can realize how our aesthetic taste has been formed by Greek antiquity from its very roots. It is amazing to see how often the pillars and gables are based on Greek temples.

At this point, I will summarize the three main areas, in which I see the Greek spirit at work in Europe:

1. A false father image of God influenced by Zeus.
2. A false thinking which mistrusts the word of God and seeks real revelation not from God, but in itself.
3. Faith rendered impotent, marked by doubt and skepticism towards the word of God, so it is robbed of its real power and remains without fruit.

Do we understand now what this battle between the sons of Zion and the sons Greece in Zechariah 9:13 is all about? It is a battle for the word of the living God. The battleground is in our minds, and whether we realize this or not, our beliefs and our thinking are largely infected by this Greek spirit.

## The Battle for the Word

A few months ago, we opened our new "Jesus Live" center directly on the market square. It is located in a building dating back to the year 1475, which was used as an inn or pub in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. It is very well possible that one of the leading heads of the reformation, Philipp Melancton (1497 - 1560) stopped by there. Melancton was one of the leading scholars of the 16<sup>th</sup> century and he taught as professor at the university in Tübingen

for several years. It had been his idea to translate the New Testament into German, and after Luther's death, he formed the crucial years of the church following the reformation. There were three souls dwelling in his breast; a humanistic one, a christian one and an esoteric one. His mathematics teacher, Johann Stöffler, introduced Melanchton to astrology, which became a second source of revelation next to the bible to him until his death. He practiced palmistry and experienced occult phenomena. Wolfhard Margies writes in his highly recommendable German History Book for Intercessors, "Despite his genius, Melanchton did a great disservice to the reformation due to his deep spiritual confusion



(...) coldness of heart and hopelessness, fear and blindness of astrology slipped into the garment of unredeemed and lifeless reformation" (p 61). The events beginning with Luther's reformation propelled Europe from the dark Middle Ages into a new era. The reformation fought for a restoration of a faith based on the grace of God alone! Luther raised a sword that was living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, the word of God. His battle-cry "sola scriptura" (the word alone) changed all of Europe. Europe needs new reformers who will take up the sword of the word of God once more and who will not allow it to become blunt again, like Melanchton once did. Melanchton opened the door for the Greek spirit and he allowed his critical mind to accept other ungodly sources of revelation besides the word of God. Once that happens, formerly living faith is turned to stone and gets stuck in the rut of religious rituals. Bible criticism and limiting the power of the Holy Spirit will be the inevitable consequences. Today, we are once more faced with this battle for the word of the unchanging God. Is it possible, after a man like Martin Luther, that God is once again calling for a new generation of radical reformers, who will break the covenant with the Greek spirit and become the "warrior's sword" (Zechariah 9:13)? I am convinced this is true!

come from all churches and congregations, fellowships of various denominations, and they lift up their voices on behalf of Israel and join in prayer. Wherever our spiritual home might be, we should be part of this people!

### The Example of the Pearl

Jesus told a parable of a merchant who found a single pearl and who sold everything he had just to buy it (Matthew 13:45-46). We know who the pearl of great price refers to: It is Jesus! Jesus says, only those who leave behind everything else and lay it down at His feet will win it all (Luke 9:24). But the pearl of great price is also the word (John 1:14)! If that is true, we should treat the word of God just like the merchant treated the pearl. He left everything just to take hold of this one precious pearl. Could it be that this would mean our false concepts or our education that wants to make us the measure of all things? Maybe it is our thinking that tries to adjust the word of God to our disbelieving and critical mind? Is it not about time we exchanged our declaration of independence from a Zeus-god for a childlike dependence on a heavenly Father, who is waiting for us all day with His arms of love reaching out for us? I want to encourage you to take this step. He is the only foundation of a truly new Europe and the only light who does not change like shifting shadows (James 1:17).

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The Olympic flame has been extinguished and the Games in Athens are over. The battle with the Greek spirit has only just begun. Why should it not be possible for Europe to repent of its revived heathen, antique roots and return to the living God? The hunger for healing and a touch of the power of God in Europe is overwhelming! We are on the verge of the dawn of a new day! We will either be full of doubt and fears,

harmless and without any spiritual authority, having only very little fruit to show, or we will become the "warrior's sword", true warriors for the cross, who will take their stand against the powers of darkness and bring in a harvest of souls of unimagined dimensions.

### The Spirit of the Sons of Zion

Three years ago, the Holy Spirit asked us to hold a worship concert in the desert of Be'er Sheva with no audience present. This concert changed my life. There is a difference, whether you love Israel, which is something the Lord has put in my heart ever since I got saved, or whether you recognize that your attitude towards Israel is a source of blessing or curse for you. The time of outward indifference was past. I wanted to get to know the spirit of the sons of Zion and I knew this could only happen where we form a friendship with Israel. Since that time, we have experienced an unprecedented anointing and change. The only way to love is to give yourself. Is that also true for our relationship to Israel? The new Europe has stopped standing by Israel's side a long time ago. But there is a great people raising their voices in the spirit of David on behalf of Israel. They