

Un unexpected guest for the Passover Seder

It was another busy day, spent mostly in the kitchen preparing food for the evening's Seder. We expected 32 people (Jewish believers and unbelievers, and Gentiles) to participate in our festive meal to celebrate Passover (Pesach).

In obedience to God's word, most Jewish people observe Pesach every year. *"Therefore, you shall keep this ordinance at its appointed time from year to year."* (Exodus 13:10)



Not only is it different from other celebrations because of particular food, but also because the Jews retell the story of God's miraculous deliverance of their ancestors from slavery in Egypt. *"And it shall be when your son asks you in time to come, saying, 'What is this?' then you shall say to him, 'With a powerful hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery.'"* (Exodus 13:14)

Along with other Messianic believers around the world, we combined our celebration with thanksgiving for the freedom we have in Yeshua. We know that Passover is both a real and symbolic foreshadowing of the redemption of Yeshua for all mankind.

Early in the afternoon, my cooking was interrupted by a visitor: a Jewish unbeliever, who told us he had recently read Jacob's book, having found a copy in the hostel where he was staying.

Although disillusioned with Judaism, he loved God and was sincere in his search for the truth about Yeshua. When I invited him to join us for our Seder, he responded with: *"This is like a miracle!"*

He explained that he had been walking along our street, feeling downcast, eyes on the ground, totally unaware of his surroundings. Suddenly and uncharacteristically, he had glanced up to see that directly above him was a little sign with a picture of a menorah and the (Hebrew) words: *"Messianic Jews, Jacob Damkani."* This sign, hanging above the entrance to our driveway, is so small and plain it's easy to miss. In fact, most people visiting us don't notice it, but B. said that he recognized Jacob's name as the writer of *'Lama Davka Ani? - Why Me,'* whom he wanted to meet.

Finding us at that moment was also an answer to his prayer, since he had just been telling God that he would love to go to a Seder, but had nowhere to go!

A few hours later, we welcomed B, as well as Z, another Jewish unbeliever (remember, we asked you to pray for him in our last newsletter). It was such a blessing to have them with us. They were overwhelmed by the spirit of love and joy that prevailed among us. They witnessed our enthusiastic singing of worship songs and took part in the readings of the Messianic Passover Haggada (order of service).

The relationship between the first Passover and the sacrifice of Yeshua, the Lamb of God, is clearly made by relevant New Testament scriptures and explanations accompanying the traditional readings.

Of particular significance, is the tradition around the afikoman, the middle piece of matzah that is broken off, wrapped in linen, hidden and later found and redeemed near the end of the service. This represents perfectly the burial and resurrection of the Messiah.

It was such a joy for us to share this special evening with these precious people. Both B. and Z. have attended our congregation and joined us for Bible studies.

We are praying for God to reveal to them that Yeshua is their Messiah and Savior who alone can satisfy the longing of their hearts. C.

Last Friday, Z. committed his life to the Lord. Thank you so much for praying for him and please continue to pray for him and also for B., he needs our prayer!