



Light of Messiah Ministries

...Bringing Jesus to the Jewish People

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Why Was That Night Different?

One of the most significant holidays on the Jewish calendar is **Passover**. The festival which celebrates how God redeemed the Israelites from slavery and bondage to Pharaoh in Egypt. It is a festival which demonstrates God's love for the Jewish people and His sovereign power over history. **Passover.**

Jesus celebrated Passover. He knew the significance of the festival. It was the meal which He desired to eat on the night He was betrayed. He wanted to eat it with His disciples. In fact in scripture we read Jesus saying, "I earnestly desire to eat this meal with you."

We get a glimpse into Jesus' last meal before His death. Though Jesus and His disciples had celebrated Passover together for three or four years as teacher and disciples, we only get to see that last meal. The last Passover Jesus celebrated here on earth.

Little did the disciples know how significant that Passover was going to be. Tensions were high in Jerusalem. Jesus had entered Jerusalem on a colt. Messianic expectations were high for some...political ambitions were on the minds of others. Roman authorities were concerned about keeping control over their territory. Jewish leaders were concerned with maintaining their control over Judaism. **And Jesus was caught in the middle.** But, for the disciples, the Passover they were getting ready to celebrate with Jesus was a typical Passover.

Some of the disciples may have been thinking about their own families who were celebrating Passover with the extended clan. For the disciples it would



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have been like missing Thanksgiving dinner to be at college. **They could not go home because they were committed to Jesus. They wanted to be with Him.** But, their families must have been on their minds. *"How are Grandma and Grandpa? What is going on with my aunts, uncles, and cousins?"* These were probably questions they had every year since beginning to walk with the One whom they knew to be Messiah.

But, other than the usual questions and the increasing tensions over Jesus' ministry, they had no reason to think the Passover they were going to celebrate was any different that the others they had celebrated with Jesus. Some disciples might have been thinking, *"I wonder if He is going to teach us anything new this year around the Passover table?"*

The disciples prepared for Passover.

They went to the room, as instructed by Jesus, and made sure that the Passover table was ready. It was an upper room in some house in Jerusalem. We don't know where. The lamb had to be slaughtered. All leaven had to be removed from the house. **The table was set.**

Jesus and His disciples gathered for that Passover meal. When they gathered together for the Passover meal there must have been some laughing, joking around, and the telling of stories about what they might have heard from home.

Passover is a joyous celebration. It is a time of thanksgiving. It is a time to remember the goodness of God. To remember His sovereignty.

Jesus and His disciples sat down at the table. There was some bantering over who was going to sit next to Jesus that year. I wonder if they had ever bantered about that before? Probably.

We know that Jesus and His disciples went through an order of service. A Seder (rhymes with "later" and means "order"). They drank four cups. The first cup to bless the service, the second cup to retell the story of the Exodus, the third cup Jesus used to proclaim the New Covenant, and the last cup to give praise to God.

They had all of the festival elements on the table. God instructed the Israelites for all generations to celebrate their redemption. He told them to have the Passover lamb, unleavened bread, bitter herbs, and the fruit of the vine on the table to commemorate how He redeemed them from slavery and bondage to Pharaoh in Egypt, "with a strong hand and

an outstretched arm.” **Jesus and His disciples were doing what God commanded them to do.**

But that night was different. After the festival meal during the Cup of Redemption Jesus did something, Jesus said something, that he had never done, never said, before. **During the Passover meal He lifted the Cup of Redemption and some unleavened bread, He looked at His disciples and said, “This is all about Me.”** Jesus, pointing to the Passover table, told the disciples that God had orchestrated history for that meal, that night.

Jesus was saying,

“Disciples, you are familiar with the story of the Exodus. You know how God allowed our people to go into slavery and bondage to Pharaoh in Egypt for 400 years. How He sent Moses to say, ‘Let My people go!’ Pharaoh relented for a moment but then his heart was hardened. Then God sent ten plagues upon the Egyptians. That last plague, the slaying of the first born, God commanded our people to take a perfect lamb, to sacrifice it and put its blood on the doorpost of our homes. Because of that blood Death passed over us. Disciples, tonight I want you to know that I AM THE PASSOVER LAMB!”

On the night He was betrayed Jesus ate the Passover with His disciples. **It was during that Passover meal that Jesus told His disciples what He came to do.** He came to suffer and die for them, for the world, so that spiritual death would pass over us all.

Oh that my Jewish people would see.

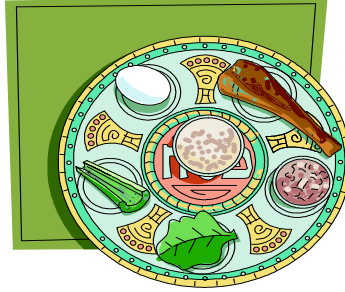
Jesus came to bring....

Redemption

Freedom

Hope

During this Passover season will you pray that more of my people will open their eyes to the truth of Jesus. Will you pray that many more Jewish



people will come to see and accept the truth of His atoning sacrifice. May more Jewish people accept the One who came to us as the Passover Lamb.

Passover begins on April 2nd at sunset. Please do not neglect to send your Jewish friends a Passover card to wish them a happy holiday. If you would like more information regarding how you can use this time of year to deepen your relationships with your Jewish friends please let us know.

A Russian Couple

I recently met a Jewish lady from Russia who was brought to a speaking engagement I had a church. A. and her husband have been in the United States for many years and are both professionals who have settled into the “American lifestyle”. After the service A. and I talked for about 15 minutes. She has a friend at the church who has been talking to her about Jesus. She has attended a few church services and is fascinated about how a Jewish person can believe in Jesus and remain Jewish.

She asked me if I would come to her house to talk to both her and her

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husband. We set a date and I said goodbye.

Just before the date approached A. called me to tell me they would have to reschedule due to some family conflicts. I waited for her call. Finally, after a few weeks we were able to set a date and we met.

A. and her husband, M. were very open to talk about Jesus. They had many questions. I shared the entire Gospel with them through the messianic prophecies in the Old Testament. Though they were not ready to accept the Lord that day, they allowed me to pray for them and we planned another meeting.

About a week after meeting with A. and M. I got a call from A. “Murray,” she said, *“I already read the book ‘Betrayed’ and was very excited about starting to read the Bible. I went to the Christian bookstore by myself. I did not speak to any sales people but think I might have found a good Bible. Is the NIV Study Bible a good Bible to read?”*

I couldn’t help but smile.

Please pray for A. and her husband M.

Thank You!

During the spring months we are busy traveling around the southeast helping our brothers and sisters in Christ understand more about the Jewish people and the Jewish roots of our faith in Jesus.

At the same time we are meeting with Jewish people to bring Jesus back to them.

Thank you for standing with us in our ministry. **Your prayers and financial support make our ministry possible.**

In the service of the King,

Murray Tilles...for the staff
Light of Messiah Ministries