

Apples of Gold

Zvi Kalisher's life-changing spiritual conversations

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THE PESACH LAMB

Every year my home is completely full on Passover evening. Last Passover, I was expecting about 10 people, but many more came, including more unbelievers. We were thankful we had enough room to accommodate all of them.

Before the readings, I gave a short testimony about the meaning of Passover. My children played music, and everyone sang. The feast lasted until 1:00 a.m., and many of my neighbors, after hearing the music and singing, stood outside listening also.

The unbelievers thought they were going to see and hear things completely different from their own celebration, but they were surprised to learn we believe in the same God and, what's more, we follow the real Passover Lamb, Jesus. Leviticus 17:11 clearly depicts the atonement: "For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls."

The only difference between their feast and mine was that I put meaning into it, emphasizing the Pesach Lamb, which is the real atonement. I read from the Bible and told them our celebration is all about the Pesach Lamb and His resurrection. This was very hard for them to understand.

I read to them only from the Old Testament, such as Job 19:25: "For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth." This was the first time they had heard about the resurrection.

Then someone asked the age-old question, “How can we know this when no one has ever come back from the grave?”

I replied, “The Lord rose from the grave.”

“No,” the questioner said, “we do not want to hear that example. We want to hear from the Bible, but not from the New Testament.”

So I quoted the prophet Daniel, who wrote, “And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt” (Dan. 12:2). I told them, “God does not want men to heap vengeance upon others as you have done to me, because of my faith in Messiah Jesus. The Bible says ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself’ (Lev. 19:18).”

“We believe this,” he said, “but there is nothing like this in the New Testament.”

This provided an opportunity for me to show them the same words in the New Testament. I told them, “The choice is yours to make. The Lord has given us a free choice. You can have the Lord’s mercy. You can have real atonement through His death and resurrection.”

They did not understand how God could be born, die, and come again. I told them the Bible speaks of all these things. Micah 5:2 and Isaiah 9:6 foretold His birth; Isaiah 53 foretold His suffering; Zechariah 12:10 foretold His death; King David prophesied of His resurrection in Psalm 16:10; and Daniel 7:13 predicts His Second Coming. I showed them all of these things without once opening the New Testament, because God has given us a very clear picture of the Lord, our Savior and our Passover, in the Old Testament.

I then told my visitors, “You can see the way we have celebrated the Passover today is not taken from our imaginations, but from the Holy Bible, the same Bible you read. The Lord has promised He will come again, and He has told us to watch and pray so we will be ready for His coming. And His promises are not like our promises. In Him we can be sure.”

By the end of the evening, some of my guests had changed their minds about me, and we all sang together the popular song of the Passover taken from Psalm 118:21–29. It was truly a blessed Passover feast.