

Jesus Appears to Atheist Man Three Times

t is such a privilege to be a part of what God is doing in the lives of our Jewish people, wherever they may be on their journey of faith in Messiah.

Yuri is in his 30s and was raised in a secular-Jewish home as an atheist. He contacted our office in Tel Aviv because he recently became a believer in Jesus. He ordered a Hebrew New Testament and wanted to know what his next steps should be. Our missionary, Annie, took Yuri's call and was astonished to hear how Jesus appeared to him through dreams and visions three times before he fell to his knees in repentance. Praise God!

He then began to read the *Tanakh* (Old Testament) and the *Brit Chadashah* (New Testament) online. He watched YouTube videos from various ministries including ours, which prompted him to reach out.

Annie connected Yuri to a local congregation near his home and continued to follow up and study the Bible with him. Over the next few months, Yuri flourished at his congregation, and it wasn't long before he asked to be baptized.

Annie was thrilled to be invited to Yuri's baptism in the Jordan River. Annie says, "Yuri was baptized exactly three months after he first contacted us. It was an amazing time with the Lord. It was clear that Yuri was truly born again in Messiah. Hallelujah! He even told me that one day he would like to become a street preacher!"

Yuri's passion for his new faith is contagious. He is constantly sharing the gospel with his friends and family, with some of them also becoming believers!



ach Passover, Jewish people around the world recite the words of the *Haggadah*¹ together: "Let all who are hungry come and eat." This is not just an invitation to a meal; it's an offer of warmth, connection, and the opportunity to hear the powerful story of God's heart for the oppressed. It's a call to open our hearts and homes to those who may have nowhere else to go. The Passover meal brings people together, but it's the story we share—the story of God's redemption—that nourishes the soul.

Throughout the Hebrew Scriptures, God emphasizes compassion for strangers and those who are oppressed. Again and again (more than 25 times!), the Torah calls us to love or treat outsiders with kindness because we were also outsiders.

You shall not oppress a stranger, for you know the heart of a stranger, because you were strangers in the land of Egypt. (Exodus 23:9)

God is teaching us empathy, inviting us to recall our own suffering, so that we might have compassion for others and help them trust God for redemption. That is why we are to invite outsiders into our homes for the Passover meal, even though it can be messy and unpredictable.

I remember how my parents took this to heart when I was a kid, inviting two rather rough-around-the-edges individuals to our Seder meal. By the end of the night, my father had to break up a fistfight! But even in the chaos, there was something sacred in following God's call to welcome others.

Yeshua (Jesus) perfectly modeled God's radical love for sinners and social outcasts. He spent time with tax collectors, prostitutes, lepers, and people with physical and mental disabilities. He also demonstrated God's generous heart by encouraging people to invite dinner guests who were unable to repay the favor (Luke 14:13–14).

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This becomes all the more meaningful as we recall Yeshua's vivid Passover announcement. When He describes the bread and the cup as His body and blood given for the remission of sin, He is both expanding and fulfilling God's redemption narrative. It goes far beyond bringing the Jewish people out of slavery in Egypt. Yeshua was and is ready to redeem anyone who trusts in Him—Jews and Gentiles alike—from the power of sin and death.

We can never repay Jesus for redeeming us or for the feast He will one day share with us. But we have a story to tell. And God wants us to invite others to come and find their place in His redemption story. As we share God's heart for those who so desperately need Him, we want to follow Yeshua's example as we care about their physical as well as spiritual needs. What does that look like?

Thanks to our partners, we've been able to reach Jewish people in need through all sorts of collaborations, including Samaritan's Purse, chaplaincy work in Ukraine, and Israeli volunteers to help homeless people. I want you to know that Jewish people are particularly touched by tangible support from local Christians, especially as antisemitism continues to rise.

For example, last December, Teddy, one of our missionaries in Toronto, heard that a local synagogue was planning a Hanukkah dinner. Teddy invited seven local pastors to show solidarity with the Jewish community by asking their churches to help sponsor the event. As a result, they raised thousands of dollars to cover all kinds of expenses for the event.

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That evening, the atmosphere was filled with warmth and joy. Children were entertained by a magician, laughter filled the room, and the menorah's glow set the tone for the celebration. When the emcee publicly thanked the participating churches for their contributions, attendees were deeply moved. Teddy said, "Many thanked us in



You can help us move mountains!

Please join us in praying for:

- Yuri to continue to grow deep in his knowledge of the Word and in his call to evangelism
- our teams around the world as they invite Jewish friends and neighbors to Passover celebrations
- peace and protection as Jewish people around the world gather to celebrate Passover
- the Lord to raise up many more passionate evangelists to the Jewish people

tears, sharing how this act of kindness made them feel seen and valued during a difficult season." God uses our small acts of love to break barriers and

shine His light. Holidays can provide special opportunities to do this.

So, as Passover approaches (beginning sundown, April 12), let's remember our calling and invite others into our lives as we share the love and hope of Yeshua. Please pray for our teams around the world as they invite Jewish friends and neighbors to Passover celebrations. And if you live near

a church that is hosting one of our missionaries for a Passover event, please consider going, and even invite a Jewish friend to join you.

Together, we can share the hope of Yeshua with more Jewish people than ever before.

1. Written order of service for the Passover celebration.

From the moment Yuri received Messiah's gift of eternal life, he couldn't help but share the gospel with anyone who would listen. Yuri is passionate about telling his family, friends, clients, and neighbors about Jesus and how He is revealed in the Jewish Scriptures.

Yuri has become so full of life and the joy of the Lord that everyone sees a noticeable change in him. Shortly after contacting us, he began sharing the gospel with some of his friends including a young, secular Israeli, Eitan.* Eitan was struck by the changes he saw in his friend and was intrigued by what Yuri was saying. It wasn't long before Eitan also became a believer in Messiah and was baptized on the same day as Yuri!

Yuri invited many of his unbelieving friends and family to his baptism, which was a moving experience. Many of them were touched by his powerful testimony, which opened the door for future gospel conversations.

Yuri's transformation has impacted his parents the most. They live across the country from him, but he phones them regularly to check in. In every conversation, he would share the gospel with them and read Scriptures to show them how Yeshua is the promised Messiah. One day his mother told him she believed that Yeshua is truly the Messiah, and she felt the need to repent. Just over a month after his baptism, Yuri led his mother in prayer to repent of her sins and receive Yeshua in her heart. Amen!

Yuri continues to share the gospel with his Jewishatheist father and has noticed a softening in his father's heart. Pray that Yuri's father also receives Messiah's love!

Meanwhile, Yuri's neighborhood had been suffering under massive rocket fire. Because of that, Yuri's prayer life flourished. He would constantly pray for the peace and protection of those around him, and in these moments of turmoil, he experienced a deep sense of God's peace. That peace was noticed by another friend, Gil,* who has since also received Messiah because of Yuri's testimony. Gil has already visited Yuri's congregation twice! Praise God!

Since becoming a believer, Yuri's business has been growing rapidly with new clients and employees. This gives him an even wider network of people to share the gospel with, which he continues to do at every opportunity. Yuri is clearly on fire for God, and we couldn't be more thrilled!

Annie continues to disciple Yuri and is amazed at what the Lord is doing in his life. Thank you for making it possible for us to serve new Jewish believers in Messiah and help them discover their calling.

Yuri is pursuing his call to evangelism and desire to truly know God every day. Please pray that the seeds he is planting with his friends, family, and community will take root. Pray also that the Lord would raise up more Jewish believers like Yuri who can't help but share the good news of Messiah everywhere they go.

*Name changed to protect privacy



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