

Going to Jerusalem for Passover

David McKnew and Rafael Trevino

Jeremiah 3:17

¹⁷“At that time Jerusalem shall be called The Throne of YHVH (LORD), and all the nations shall be gathered to it, to the name of YHVH, to Jerusalem. No more shall they follow the dictates of their evil hearts.

I really had no idea why I felt a desire to go to Jerusalem for Passover but after my pilgrimage to the Holy Land it would be crystal clear.

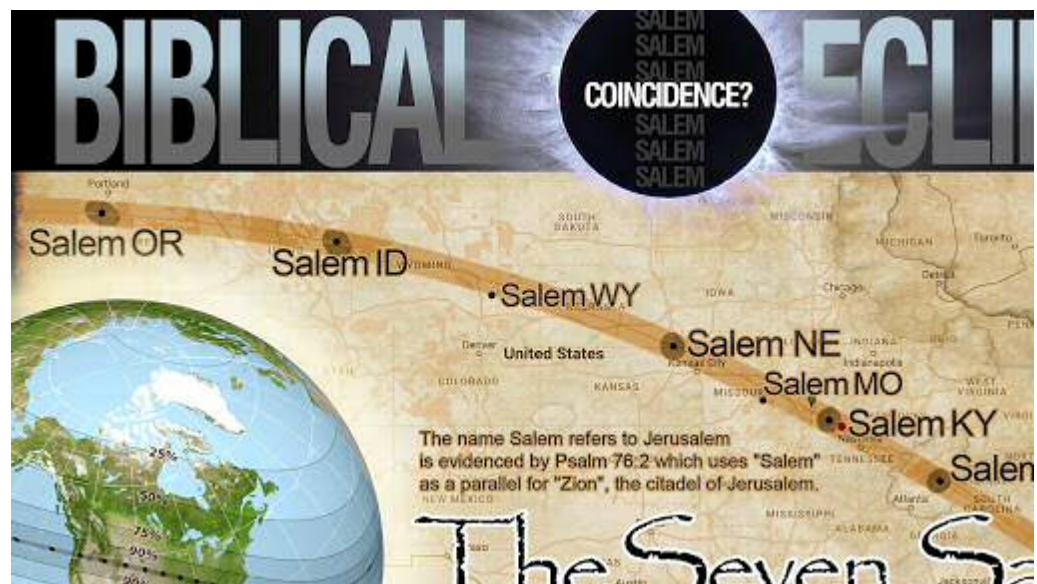
The first time I felt a slight desire to go to Israel was in June of 2017 while laying in my hammock in a very remote area of Kauai called the Kalalau Beach along the Napali coast. I had a thought “why have I not visited Israel, I can take time out to come to a beautiful beach like this to enjoy Gods creation but I have not taken the time to visit God’s holy land the only area on earth He has said to have placed His name forever”. I did not think about it again until some unusual events had taken place just a few months after I had that thought.



August 21st 2017 just a couple months after that thought on the beach, we had an amazing eclipse sweep across the United States from the West Coast to the East Coast. I noticed some very interesting signs which were pointing to Jerusalem when the eclipse shadow had passed over 7 Salem’s.

Psalms 76:2

² In Salem also is



His tabernacle,
And His dwelling place in Zion.

(Salem is Jerusalem and Zion is the New Jerusalem).

Zechariah 8

¹¹ But now I *will not treat* the remnant of this people as in the former days,' says YHVH (LORD) of hosts.

¹² 'For the seed *shall be* prosperous,
The vine shall give its fruit,
The ground shall give her increase,
And the heavens shall give their dew—
I will cause the remnant of this people
To possess all these.

¹³ And it shall come to pass
That just as you were a curse among the nations,
O house of Judah and house of Israel,
So I will save you, and you shall be a blessing.
Do not fear,
Let your hands be strong.'



I saw firsthand how prosperous and blessed the people of Israel are and to see what it was like 2000 years ago below the streets of Jerusalem as I toured the Burnt House, Wolh museum and Davidson center, City of David then to emerge above ground in the Jewish Quarter to see modern day Israel dancing, laughing and enjoying themselves all of this just a month prior to their 70 year celebration as a new nation.

I believe the news that the United States and Guatemala and now a few other nations, have also recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. I believe this also made an impression on me and my decision to “check it out for myself”.

So, with the desire to visit Israel I had to decide when to visit and this is what helped me decide. I wanted to be obedient to the Father so I decided to come to Jerusalem during one of the 3 feasts He states the males should come to Jerusalem; they are, Passover, Shavuot or Sukkot?

Exodus 23:14-17

¹⁴ “Three times you shall keep a feast to Me in the year: ¹⁵ You shall keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread (you shall eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded you, at the time

appointed in the month of Abib, for in it you came out of Egypt; none shall appear before Me empty); ¹⁶ and the Feast of Harvest, the firstfruits of your labors which you have sown in the field; and the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you have gathered in *the fruit of* your labors from the field.

¹⁷“Three times in the year all your males shall appear before YHVH GOD.

So I chose the Feast of Unleavened Bread since Passover was the first feast that lead me into a greater understanding of God and the study of His Torah and I believe that is what is meant when He states “for in IT you came out of Egypt”.

I told my family and friends that I would be going there by myself and had a few key things I wanted to do but for the most part I wanted the Father to lead me in the direction He wanted me to go and and not bound by any group or set schedule for the most part. He did lead me in a way I was certainly was not expecting, it was amazing!

Thursday March 29th at 10:00am I departed LAX nonstop to Tel Aviv Israel to celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread. I arrived in Israel on Friday March 30th at 10:00am after a 15 hour flight on the day of Pesach (Passover). I was a bit surprised to arrive with overcast skies, light rain and wind; it reminded me of a typical Seattle spring day.

That night I had reservations at the YMCA a small banquet room reserved by Kimberly Rogers Brown and her husband Michael Brown. There were about 60 people present from all over the world. We had people from Oregon, few from Texas and I was the only one from Washington state. We had a group from Holland, several from Jordan, Kimberly and Michael moved from Missouri to Aqaba Jordan about 2 years ago with several others who wanted to be close to Israel but could not live in Israel because they are not Jewish. To date they told me there are about 150 people from all over the world living in Aqaba in their community.



in

Day 2 was the Sabbath; I did not do much, took it easy and explored the walled city of Jerusalem and the Western Wall.



Moon over Masada.

Day 3 was Sunday and I arranged to take a local tour which picked me up at the Abraham Hostel in the Davidic Square at 3:00am.

We hiked up to the top of Masada by the light of the full moon and did not need flashlights. When I got to the top I made my way to a tower that was in the



center of the village on top of this mountain. I positioned myself here with a few others, to catch the sunrise over the Dead Sea. It was very surreal because when the Romans invaded Masada it was at dawn just as we were experiencing there atop of the Mountain.

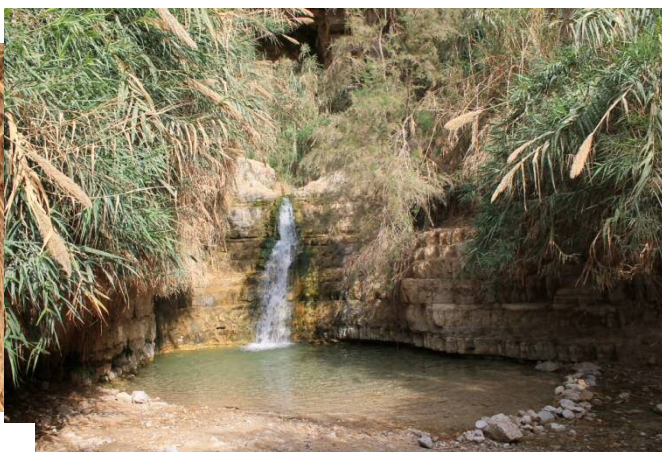
Masada is near the Dead Sea and was a fortress built by King Harod and later around 73 or 74 AD was a hold out for many Jews hiding from the Romans. The Romans eventually built a ramp of

dirt up to the top of the mountain and overtook it, all but 10 of the 960 people had committed suicide so they would not be captured by the Romans.

After exploring Masada I headed back down the 1000 foot mountain, with over 700 steps back to the bus in the parking lot below. We then headed to Ein Gedi which is an oasis near the Dead Sea and is now a nature preserve. This is spot where King



Ein Gedi



The waterfall below the David Waterfall in Ein Gedi.

David hid from Saul in the caves. There were some lush greenery all throughout this area with beautiful waterfalls, one in particular I took advantage of cooling off in while I was there. I also had the pleasure of seeing some wild goats nearby as I made my way back to the bus to continue our journey to the Dead Sea.

When we arrived at the Dead Sea some in our group went in and covered themselves with mud, let it dry and then showered to remove it. I just soaked my feet while I was there, they say that the water and the minerals contained in the Dead Sea can be very beneficial to your health and they sell a vast

assortment of skin products to take home with you.



Our tour group leaving the Jaffa Gate starting our 2.5 day tour.

Day 4 was Monday and I had signed up for a tour with Hanoch Young, he is an



Hanoch Young

Orthodox Jew who understands and sees that the lost tribes are returning to Israel, his tours are centered around this theme and was one of the main reasons I chose this tour. The tour was arranged by Kimberly Rogers Brown, it was a small group of 6 of us. This is where I first met Rafael, he was also traveling by himself from Texas and was there because he felt God had told him to “go to Jerusalem for Passover”.

This is really the story I want to tell, people ask me “what was your most memorable time in Israel” The meeting of Rafael and how his journey and my journey were intertwined in a remarkable way.



Raphael ([Hebrew](#): רַפָּאֵל, [translit.](#) *Rāfā'ēl*, [lit.](#) 'It is [God](#) who heals', 'God Heals' in Wikipedia Raphael is **said to guard pilgrims on their journeys, and is often depicted holding a staff.**

I want to now share with you Rafael’s story in his own words and how he came to meet me here at the Jaffa Gate on this tour.

Dear Brethren,

I would like to share this testimony to Abba’s faithfulness and love to His children that trust Him. In September 2017 while on a mission trip to the Dominican Republic, I was taking a cold shower (as it is very hot on the island) I was praying for direction for the upcoming ministry up in the remote communities in the mountains. While in prayer i heard these words: “Jerusalem for Passover”. This startled me and i replied “what?” then i heard it again: “Jerusalem for Passover”.



[Dominican Republic mission trip](#)

Please understand Jerusalem and Passover where the furthest thing on my mind at that time. I prayed then that if that was the case He would make a way and left it at that as they say. I shared it with several brethren and felt a burden as it was something I was being commanded to do. Before leaving Abba gave me a dream and in the dream i was walking down a path with a river to my right and trees to the left, i had a staff in my hand and as i was walking i saw a black snake across my path, so i said to myself ‘Wow, that’s a poisonous snake i will leave it alone and return where i came from” but as i was turning around i

said to myself “ No i will not go back i will not let this snake stop me” so i continued walking only to realize that i had walked way past where the snake was. I then starting seeing trash that the snake had left on the path and began to use my staff to clear it out of the way and then i woke up. I shared this dream with many brethren during the next few months.

When i returned home i went back to doing prison ministry and other ministries and was very busy so I put it in the back of my mind and went about His business. Towards November i was notified by the company i worked for that my position was being “eliminated” and was being laid off. As i prayed I kept hearing in my spirit: “trust that the Manna will be there in the morning”. I kept walking by “Faith” but the trip to Jerusalem for Passover certainly looked out of reach. Yet I kept hearing “trust that the Manna will be there in the morning”.

I kept very busy with Ministry as 2017 ended and 2018 began in February my wife gets the news that she is being laid off of work. So now we are both unemployed and we are fervently praying yet it continues “trust that the Manna will be there in the morning”.

We continued walking by faith and our needs have always been met. We both actively were searching for employment and no one would hire us for whatever reasons.

Please understand that at this point Jerusalem for Passover seemed almost impossible, yet i kept hearing “trust that the Manna will be there in the morning”.

Both of us got very busy in ministry; prison and otherwise, we saw Abba doing miraculous things in the lives of those around us and those we ministered to in His Name and our own lives.

There was also a season of great testing, we saw conflict, division and even betrayal amongst the brethren and ministries we served. We felt as in the wilderness being refined and prepared by testing and conflict.

We decided in difficulty and going against our flesh and desires to embrace the refinement and testing and humbly submit to His will.

This of-course while the Passover date quickly was approaching and nothing was “happening”. Then my daughter called me and said “ dad, i have this close friend that is living in Israel doing ministry and we may have a place for you to stay”.

Then some of the money for the trip started to trickle in. I did not end up staying with my daughter’s friend’s ministry but it started opening doors for me. Miraculously by the end of February I had a place to stay and half the money for my plane ticket but then it stopped and nothing more came in. I had heard some time ago a modern day parable of two farmers that fervently asked Elohim for rain but only one prepared the ground to receive it, and guess who got the rain?

So i decided to prepare the ground and make all my plans as if the money for the ticket and what i would need in Israel was already in my hands. I would check the pricing of the flight everyday and saw in

how the price was increasing daily to where I had half of the price in the beginning and now what I had would cover only a quarter of the cost. Meanwhile the testing and refinement continued.

It came to the very day before i was supposed to leave and I still did not have all the money to buy the ticket. I kept praying and kept hearing "trust that the Manna will be there in the morning". Towards noon I get a call from a dear brother saying " I have some money for you how do i get it to you?" WOW! He deposited the money in my account and I went online to purchase the ticket. I searched and the flights had all gone up which meant that I would not have but very little leftover for my expenses. Then while searching the websites I found this one ticket that was at the price of months ago and was able to buy it and have a little more left over for food and expenses! HalleluYah! The flight also was with a layover in Newark unlike the other flights that had a layover in a Muslim country which made me kind of nervous. He made a way where there was no way! The next day my wife and I do a five and a half hour drive to Houston for me to catch my flight to Israel.

I get to the airport and board the flight to Newark and right at the time we were supposed to take off it is announced that they "don't have a pilot" so they were going to get us off the plane and wait for a pilot to arrive. Really?

Finally two hours later we take off. Needless to say I lost my connecting flight to Tel Aviv. They booked me on a later flight but because it was totally full I got a middle seat. To my horror the guy to my left was also a big guy like me and to my right was a doctor both Jews going to Jerusalem for Passover. I spent ten hours unable to move, my shoulder cramped because of the position I was for all that time. Finally arrive in Tel Aviv exhausted, nervous and excited.

I cannot describe what I felt when we landed, it just felt like I had arrived home not to a foreign country but home. I did not have much money so I started asking for public transportation and got on a bus to Jerusalem. It was amazing!

I get to the place where I was going to stay and cannot find the man that was supposed to give me the key. I went up and down a three story staircase with my luggage knocking on each apartment looking for the guy. I could not believe it was happening and started to fear that I would not have a place to stay. Then I knock on a door and a couple of Israelis open the door and I see that they speak Spanish. HalleluYah! They then tell me that the man doesn't live there but has his office in the building but already closed and left.

He saw my face and then said "but don't worry I have his cell number and I will call him". Finally the man comes and gives me the key and I now walk to the apartment totally spent and exhausted.

My first night in Jerusalem was a dream come true and could not believe I had made it and was actually in Jerusalem for Passover!

Before I left I felt some places I had to go as directed by Abba one was the Garden Tomb, the other one was getting Baptized in the Jordan. The rest was all going where and when I was led by Abba.

The next morning I headed directly to The Garden Tomb via public transportation and began having a series of divine encounters and Abba kept leading me and showing me things as I walked the streets of Old Jerusalem.

I walked all around the Old City praying and interceding for the Jews, muslims and Christians that lived or were there visiting. I went to a “good Friday” service at the Garden Tomb and witnessed several souls come to Yeshua. It was amazing!

I spent two days alone just walking and communing with Abba to where He led me. Had many encounters and things happen during this time.

Before sundown i was at my apartment exhausted as I had walked many miles in the past two days, had blisters on my feet and decided to just sleep and rest on the Sabbath.

Some time before I left to Israel I had sent an email to a brother that lived in Jerusalem and told him i was going to be there for Passover and that perhaps we could fellowship, I did not get a response.

Please know that on Shabbat everything is closed in Jerusalem, there is no public transportation or services, it becomes a “ghost town”.

So Saturday i wake up at 11:00am which for those that know me is very uncommon for me as i’m an “early riser” but this is how tired I was. I decide I’m just going to continue sleeping and then I hear “get up!”.

I didn’t know why as I really had nothing to do, as I reach for my phone I see an email from the brother that had not responded to my email and he stated that he was on a sailing trip and had no access to email and had barely seen mine. He explained that he was not in Israel but that there was a group of believers that gathered together at 2:00pm in Independence Park on Shabbat. WOW! So I feel this burden to go and check the walking distance as there is no public transportation for me to take.

I see that its about 4.5 Kilometers away (about 2 miles) and decide to get ready and start my hike uphill towards the center of Jerusalem. I then realize I'm on the road from Bethlehem to Jerusalem and that Yeshua would have walked this way many times in His life.

I arrive at the park and start meeting all these wonderful brethren from around the world that were called to be in Jerusalem for Passover. I met this wonderful couple Michelle and Mark that had sold everything and moved to Israel, they lived in a small Muslin village where they ministered to them full time. They came up to me and invited me to a Bibles study to close Shabbat in an apartment not far from the park and I agreed to go. We then arrive in this beautiful building called “Windows of Jerusalem” and go up to the 14th floor to this beautiful apartment that has a breathtaking view of Jerusalem and the Old City. As we go into the apartment i see



Isaiah 41 8-9 and 19-20



6 or 7 walking staffs all hand made with Hebrew inscriptions on them and focus on this one staff and then realize: "This is the staff from my dream back in the Dominican Republic" and didn't say anything but was amazed! This was the staff in my hand! So Michelle the wife of the couple that had invited me says "Oh by the way the guy we are coming to see makes these staffs and sells them".. But I still didn't mention anything, I did quietly asked Abba if i should buy it as i did not have much money. I did not receive an answer so I assumed it was no and

was fine with that and amazed.



Michelle in Independence Park, Jerusalem

Towards the end of the Bible study Abba has me share my testimony on how I got there and we had a Blessed time in fellowship. Then Michelle comes up to me and says "Rafael, I don't want you to thank me but Abba is telling me that we are supposed to buy you a staff and you need to come and pick one out" WOW! I just started crying and then shared my dream with both



Michelle and her husband Mark. We then go to choose a staff and I'm drawn to the one I saw in my dream but my flesh liked one that had the 23rd Psalm on it. However Michelle then says pointing to the one I saw in my dream and says "I think this is the one you are supposed to have" I said "I think you are right" and grabbed it! Afterwards another wonderful couple Michael and Kimberly came up to me and told me that they were hosting a Tour of the Old City of David beginning on Monday for 3 days and that they would Bless me with it and it would not cost me anything. WOW! Then another brother slips me some money. Then I get invited out to dinner in a very nice and expensive restaurant WOW! So there I am with my cup overflowing with Abba's Blessings! Sitting in an expensive restaurant fellowshipping with all these wonderful brethren with money in my pocket a brand new beautiful staff invited to be on an expensive Tour of the City of David! I was so overwhelmed! I then got a ride home so I didn't have to hike back. I got home and just thanked Abba on my knees overwhelmed and overcome with His Blessings!

The following morning I head to the Garden Tomb for Resurrection Sunday service and come together with believers from around the world like Joseph's coat of many colors to Praise the King of Kings in the place where He conquered death and sin HalleluYah!

It was just amazing! I then went home and rested before beginning my Tour the next morning thankful and in awe of His Majesty and Blessings!

The next morning I showed up at the Jaffa Gate in the Old City to begin the tour where I began another divine encounter with my dear Brother Dave McKnew from Seattle. Also the Tour being led by one of the best tour guides in Israel my brother Hanoch Young.

So this is where the story begins for Rafael and I. At the end of day one of the tour, we all go out for dinner together as a group and I believe this is where we start to get to know one another. During the next couple of days of our tour, Rafael hears that I will be heading to the Galilee area and mentions that he would like to be baptized in the Jordan River. I let him know that I would love the company and I too would like to be baptized there as well and was planning on it. I told him that I had a reservation to go on the boat "Faith" on Sunday and hoped he would join me. So here we are two guys from the U.S. who have never been to Israel, felt



lead to be in "Jerusalem for Passover", and to be baptized in the Jordan and wanting the Father to guide our every step while we are there. The experience is hard to explain but we both felt we were constantly blessing one another and everything was so eloquently in sync by the direction and hand of the most high!

At the end of our third day touring with Hanoch Young on the Western Wall Tunnel tour, we finished our day with a nice lunch together before going our separate ways for the rest of

the day.

Rafael and I would meet up together on Thursday to take a bus to visit Yad Vashem Holocaust museum and pick up a few items from the Yehudah Market before Shabbat, which is the last day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread starting at sunset that evening.

At the end of the day on Thursday, we went to the apartment of Bob and Valarie to close out the Feast of Unleavened Bread. It is a 7 day feast and the first and the last day are considered "high holy days"

and are treated like a weekly Sabbath. It was Thursday evening everything would be shutting down including the buses to the Galilee and I was suppose to head up to the Sea of Galilee Friday morning! My plan was to check out of my apartment and head up north and stay in the Mount Arbel area for three days, but God had other plans for me. When I discovered I was not going anywhere and there was no way I would be able to find a place to stay, I mentioned my dilemma to Rafael and he told me he had an extra bedroom in the apartment he was staying in! Not only did God want me to finish out the Feast which ran into the weekly Shabbat the next day, he provided for me a place to stay BOTH days and He wanted Rafael and I to get together because there were a couple of important sites I had not seen yet. Rafael said that he felt God was pressing upon him to take me to the Garden tomb and mentioned it several times. I told him I would like to see the Mount of Olives as well because this was something I really felt a deep desire to see but did not get a chance yet.

The end of the night on Thursday was one of the highlights of the trip for me. We had James Block



[View of the temple mount and Jerusalem.](#)

playing the guitar and we had about 40 or 50 people in this apartment from all over the world, overlooking Jerusalem and the temple mount, singing praise and worship songs and having a wonderful Shabbat. At the end of the night we turned off the lights in the apartment and faced the temple mount which was lit up not far away and sang the Shema, it was incredible.

She-ma Yisrael, YHVH

Eloheinu, YHVH echad

Hear O' Israel, YHVH is our God, the YHVH is One

This verse is followed by one line of text that is traditionally recited in an undertone:

Baruch SHEM kavod malchuto l'olam va-ed

Blessed is the NAME of His glorious kingdom forever and ever.

We were looking at the Temple mount with the lights of Jerusalem all around, where He placed His name forever from that window, singing this amazing song!

So Friday morning I checked out of my apartment and headed over to Rafael's apartment, he showed me the blisters on feet and I said why don't you put some band aids on your feet to cushion them from

your shoes? He said he wanted to get some but did not get a chance to before the stores shut down on Shabbat. I told him I have band aids and Neosporin! Then about 30 minutes later he told me his knees were bothering him from all of the walking he has been doing and wished he had some lavender essential oil to help reduce the swelling, I told him "I have that too". It was amazing, he was blessing me and I was able to bless him in return, it is awesome how God provides for us.

He then told me the story of his wife who had called him a couple days ago. She told him the rent was due and needed money also for the electric bill. Rafael told her he would get back to her because he was just about to do a live radio show interview from Jerusalem with a pastor friend of his back home in Texas. After the interview his wife called back and said, don't worry Rafael someone just heard your story on the radio and called me and just donated \$1000.00 to cover all of our needs and expenses. Wow, incredible.

The next day, Saturday we headed out for the Mount of Olives, Garden of Gethsemane and the Garden Tomb.

First we made our way through the Garden of Gethsemane, it was a beautiful garden and very crowded. Not really sure if this is really the true Garden but who knows.

We then made our way up to the Mount of Olives, Rafael went partially up but his feet and knees were bothering him so he waited for me while I headed up by myself since he was already up there a few days before. I told Rafael that he should be using his walking stick which would help him take some of the pressure off of his knees, but he said he did not want it to get scratched or damaged.



Mountain. At the summit is the "Monastery of Ascension", they wanted a fee to enter but being Shabbat I decided not to pay and sit on the steps just outside of the monastery. While I was there I was praying to the Father and thanking Him for the opportunity to be there and for the opportunity to meet

Rafael who was great blessing to my visit to Israel. I felt that the Father was clearly pressing upon my spirit that He had sent Rafael to me, to help guide and direct me. I became overwhelmed with emotion

When I got to the top where all the buses were parked and the people filled the tourist spot which is an observation deck overlooking Jerusalem, I decided to head to the very top of the



Picture on the Mount of Olives overlooking Jerusalem.



because that was my prayer, to be lead by the Father to go where He wanted me to go and not be bound by a tour group or schedule. I could see very clearly it was ALL orchestrated by the Father and I knew at that moment I needed to allow Rafael to help guide me more than me to dictate to him where we should go. So I started making my way down the Mount of Olives to where I had left Rafael and

we were off to the Garden Tomb where he had stated many times that he felt the Father was instructing him to take me.

On our way to the Garden Tomb we walked by the Damascus gate, you can see in this picture that the modern gate is much larger but if you look to the left and down closer to the ground you will see the original gate which is smaller and closed up.

We made our way into the Arab area of town and then over to the Garden Tomb, it was a beautiful and tranquil place and nothing I ever imagined.

Rafael took me to the opposite side of the entrance which overlooks Galgatha, (the place of the skull) and you can still see the skull likeness that is still



Inside the chapel at the garden tomb reading Psalm 68.



You can see the skull in the center left of the picture.

present today in the side of the hill where the messiah was crucified.

Next Rafael lead me to a chapel which

was the nicer of two at the Garden Tomb, it was very cool, peaceful and tranquil and we had it all to



him. That is how it opens up, it was amazing.

ourselves for a good 30 minutes. If you did not know it was there you would walk right by it. Rafael hands me his bible and I felt lead to read from the Psalms. I allowed God to choose which one and randomly opened and focused on Psalm 68. I suggest you read the Psalm when you get a chance and pretend that you are at the Garden Tomb and how fitting it is, I will tell you this it starts out; Let God Arise, Let his enemies be scattered: let them also that hate him flee before

We then made our way to the tomb, here is a picture of Rafael and myself in front of the tomb, but was



The seal that was broken.

interesting and what Rafael pointed out to me was a small hole just above and to the side of Rafael's head in the picture is a metal object driven into the stone. Rafael stated that it was where they had sealed the stone in front of the tomb.

By now it was getting close to 2:00 and we were suppose to head over to Independence park to socialize with people from all over the world and then head up to the apartment on the 14th floor for Torah study at 4:00.

Rafael had befriended a couple of guys from all places DOMINICAN REPUBLIC! The person in this picture with Rafael did not speak English and Rafael invited him to the Torah study. He said he did not want to go because he did not speak English very well but Rafael speaks fluent Spanish so he told him that he



Guy from Dominican Republic Rafael met in Independence Park.

would translate for him. It was a blessing that this gentleman came because he was quite vocal and had some great input and questions to be answered. Also, Michael Brown had some paperwork for Rafael because he wanted to hire Rafael to help him with his business that he ran from Aqaba Jordan. He was

gracious enough to offer him a job which could be accomplished from his home state of Texas.

These two events that evening and many other things which happened as to why we were suppose to stay in Jerusalem through Saturday evening.

Sunday morning I had made us both an omlette and we were packed and out the door by 5:40am to catch the bus by 6:00am. As we left the apartment Rafael looks back and notices there is a "light" on and says, I don't remember leaving a light on, I am going back in to turn it off. I told him to check the gas too because I did not turn off the main gas line in the back of the stove after using the oven and it needed to be turned off. When Rafael returned from the apartment, he had his staff in hand and off we went to catch the bus to the Sea of Galilee.



From the time we got on the bus and all through the day people were coming up to Rafael wanting to read and hold his staff.

When we got to the Sea of Galilee, we arrived at the boat 15 minutes before it was suppose to leave but thankfully the large group we were going out with were late. The ambassador from the Philippines to Israel was there with her family and friends, very friendly group. The name of the boat was “Faith” which is one of 2 boats Daniel



Carmel owns, he is a messianic Jew who is also a very talented singer who sang a couple of worship songs including Amazing Grace while we were underway.



After we returned to port we were hiking up the roadway back to the bus stop on the main road. I noticed that just off to the left of this asphalt road was a dirt trail along a very grassy, canal with corn fields and a view of Mount Arbel in the background. I said to Rafael, why don't you head over to that trail and I will get a picture of you walking along the trail with your staff. When he reached the trail and he said Oh my God, I can't believe it. I said what is it? He said this is the trail in my dream that I was walking along!

We then caught the bus to Tiberius and checked into the hotel we would be staying at that evening, then we threw together a few things and headed out for the Jordan River at the south end of the Sea of Galilee to be baptized. When we arrived at the baptism area, we managed to secure a spot where there were no crowds.



I have never been baptized in “living water” water that is flowing, it was a wonderful experience and a beautiful place that was peaceful and had quite a significant meaning to both of us.





So right after we finished baptizing each other a man was coming around kicking



Jordan River

everyone out, it was closing, what timing!

So we jumped back on the bus and headed back in to Tiberius and everywhere we went, people were coming up to Rafael wanting to check out his staff. People on the street were saying Moshe Rabbanu “Mosses the teacher” as he walked down the street with staff in hand. As we were dropped off in front of our hotel and the bus was pulling away Rafael yells OH NO! I said what? He said “I left my stick on the bus!!



So fortunately we knew where the bus was headed and I never saw Rafael run so fast and he was praying “Please Abba I pray I don’t lose my stick! I know its not mine and you can take it away from me at anytime but I am so sorry to be so absent minded! I was praying too as we rushed up to the main bus terminal in Tiberius which was just a few blocks away. Rafael headed to the group of buses that were coming and going from the main terminal and there must have been 20 or 25 parked there. I went over to the

main office to try and explain the situation to them so they could radio the driver.

As I was waiting to talk to the manager, Rafael approaches me with staff in hand and explains what happened. He looked out over all the buses and he recognized the driver of the bus we were on across the parking lot. The bus driver recognized Rafael at the same time. The bus driver with open arms yells across the parking lot to Rafael “I have your stick” and Rafael opened his arms and said thank you and

started running toward the bus driver!



The next morning we walked across the street and had an all you can eat breakfast at a beautiful restaurant overlooking the Sea of Galilee, what a wonderful time that was.

After breakfast we then went back to our room packed up and started making our way to the bus stop. I mentioned to Rafael that I was going to be

leaving from my hotel for the airport about 9:00pm to catch my flight that leaves 1:00am Tuesday morning. His flight did not leave until 11:00 am on Tuesday. So I suggested that he go back to Jerusalem and check out of his apartment then head out to the airport and stay in the hotel I reserved since I was only using it for a few hours. By the time he arrived at the hotel I only had about an hour to get my stuff together and say goodbye. I told him that this hotel was not meant for me but for you Rafael and he proceeded to tell me that when he check out of his apartment the guy told him that it was a good thing he was heading out then because if he had to catch an 11:00am flight he would have had to leave Jerusalem by 4:00am!



So this is what I have learned from this trip. When we love Yah with our whole heart, soul, mind and strength and we want to please and obey what He tells us through His word and through other people and circumstances around us. When we keep His commandments and feasts, meet Him where He is, listen for His so small voice that is trying to direct and keep us on His path, not our own. Amazing things happen. I asked Peter Rambo of B'NEY Yosef North America at Independence

Park, Do things like this happen all year round like they are right now?. He said “they do but not at the intensity that we see around the feast time, because it is then that the body is here and that is what makes it so powerful.

So you may be curious as to what the inscription say in Hebrew on Rafael’s staff, Isaiah 41 vs 8-9 and 19-20.



Isaiah 41:8-9

⁸ “**But you, Israel, *are* My servant,
Jacob whom I have chosen,
The descendants of Abraham My friend.**
⁹ ***You* whom I have taken from the ends of the earth,
And called from its farthest regions,
And said to you,
‘You *are* My servant,
I have chosen you and have not cast you away:**

Verse 19-20

¹⁹ I will plant in the wilderness the cedar and
the ACACIA tree,
The myrtle and the oil tree;
I will set in the desert the cypress tree *and* the
pine
And the box tree together,

²⁰ **That they may see and know,
And consider and understand
together,
That the hand of the YHVH has done this,
And the Holy One of Israel has created it.**



Rafael let me know after he read this story for the first time, he stated to me in an email; “I found out that Acacia in Spanish is “Huisache” the street I live on is named Huisache St.!!

I believe He answered my prayer in a mighty and powerful way to show me and others involved that He will provide and did through Rafael’s obedience to His instruction, the dream he had about the staff in the Dominican Republic and to later meet 2 men from the Dominican Republic in Jerusalem! His wife had to have the faith that the “manna would be there in the morning” and it was. Michelle and Mark who felt lead to invite Rafael up to the apartment and purchase the staff which Bob had made from Acacia wood and brought from Jordan, just so happened to have the verse written on it about the HAND of YHVH was and is creating and orchestrating everything!

Kimberly and Michael who felt lead to invite him on the tour of the City of David to meet David! HA! The Father has a sense of humor. None of this would have come to fruition if we ALL did not “Come to Jerusalem for Passover” which shows us ALL how important it is to come to Jerusalem for the feasts. How many more blessings are we missing out on when we want to do things OUR way and not His way? The Father sometimes send us a very clear and powerful message and instruction if we humble ourselves, listen for His so small voice and submit to His will and not our own. We need to trust Him with our whole heart and lean not unto our own understanding but be mindful of Him in ALL our ways and He will make straight our path!