

# Apples of Gold

Zvi Kalisher's life-changing spiritual conversations

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## A FRUITFUL DAY

For many years, Israelis have been singing about the Messiah's coming. Not many are aware He has already come. That is why I go to the Western Wall every Monday and Thursday, when 13-year-old boys celebrate their bar mitzvahs.

One recent Monday, I decided to give Bibles—containing both testaments—to all of the boys. I knew they would receive prayer books from family and friends, but there is no divine presence in those books. Before leaving home that day, I prayed, asking God to guide me and give me the words to say. In Israel, you must go slowly and carefully when you approach people with the Word.

When I arrived at the Wall, I approached a few young Ethiopian boys after the ceremony. I said, "I want to give each of you a gift in honor of your bar mitzvah." At first they were afraid to accept the Bibles, but I explained, "There is a big difference between these Bibles and the prayer books you have received. Your prayer books were written by men—great rabbis, to be sure—but, nevertheless, just men. The Bible was written through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit of God."

Soon several other very interested young boys joined the group. One of their fathers came over, and he too was quite open. He told his son, "This is a very nice gift. Please accept it and read it." This gave me great joy and more courage. There were many gathered around us, and they all wanted to talk about the Lord. Most had never heard Jesus is the Messiah of

Israel. What a wonderful opportunity I had to tell them about Him.

After a while, an ultra-Orthodox man carrying a large shofar approached us. I asked, "Why have you brought a shofar? It is not a holiday."

He said, "You are right."

I then told him, "The Scriptures say the shofar is symbolic of announcing the salvation of the Lord."

He replied, "When the Messiah comes, I will blow this shofar."

I opened my Bible and read Isaiah 53:5–6: "He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all." I said, "This passage shows the Messiah has already come, and someday He will come again."

The man was very interested and read for himself the remainder of this chapter. All of a sudden, his countenance changed. He began to smile and was full of joy, saying, "Now is the time to announce the salvation of the Lord. He has come, and now He must come back!" Then he blew the shofar loudly. Many came over to see what was happening. Of all the times I have gone to the Western Wall and witnessed for the Lord, I have never seen such a reaction.

Some rabbis heard the shofar, and one came over to ask what I was "selling" to these "unsuspecting people." When he realized I believe in Christ, he asked to see my Bible. I gave it to him and pointed out portions in the Old Testament. But he quickly turned to the back and, upon seeing the New Testament, asked, "Do you think this belongs in our Holy Bible?" "Yes," I replied, and, to my amazement, he seemed very interested and

looked through it. Finally, he put the Bible in his pocket and walked away. What a wonderful day! I pray the Ethiopian boys will read the Bibles and come to faith in the Lord Jesus. I pray the ultra-Orthodox man who blew his shofar will understand the things I told him and surrender his life to the Lord. I pray the rabbi will read the Bible and his long-blinded eyes will be opened to the Messiah.