

Apples of Gold

Zvi Kalisher's life-changing spiritual conversations

<https://www.foi.org/zvikalisher/>

ABOUT WHOM IS THIS WRITTEN?

We are approaching Christmas, and during this time of year, some ultra-Orthodox men like to mock me. They do not like Jewish people who have placed their faith in Christ.

One morning they greeted me sarcastically, "Congratulations to you, Zvi!"

I already knew what they would reply when I asked, "Why are you congratulating me?"

"You do not know?" one mocked. "Your God is born!"

"You are going against yourselves," I replied.

"What do you mean?" one asked.

I replied, "You call yourselves the Chosen People of God, but you do not obey God. Isaiah 2:3 says, 'For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.' But look at what is going out of Zion! You are not spreading the truth about God because you do not understand it, even though you read it every day in your synagogues."

Now they wanted to know what I meant because they realized I was not speaking about the New Testament.

So I gave them my Bible and said, "Please, read Deuteronomy 6:13–15."

There it is written,

You shall fear the LORD your God and serve Him. You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are all around you (for the LORD your God is a jealous God among you), lest the anger of the LORD your God be aroused against you and destroy you from the face of the earth.

They were surprised. “How do you read our Bible and yet believe in This Man? Show us where it is written in the Bible about your God,” one said.

So I opened the Bible to Isaiah 53.

They read:

He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. But 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” (vv. 3, 5–6).

They all looked at one another. One asked, “About whom is this written?” The older men tried to persuade the younger ones to leave. But the younger ones persisted to know about whom this passage was written. “About This Man,” I replied. “And not only here, but in other places of the Bible as well.” So I showed them Zechariah 9 and Isaiah 9:6–9.

The students turned to their teachers and asked, “Why have we never heard about this? Why have you never taught us what is in our Bible?” The older teachers were extremely unhappy and tried to find a way to discredit me. One demanded, “Zvi! Show us where it is written that the Messiah was born in Bethlehem!”

I replied, “Read Micah 5:2. But read aloud so your young pupils will know the truth.”

Micah 5:2 says, “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.”

The young men now had many more questions for their teachers, who were not happy. The students thanked me for speaking with them. “We will come again and ask you more questions,” one said.

I pray they will believe according to the Bible so they will know the Lord personally. Then they, too, will appreciate this wonderful time of year and celebrate the birth of the Jewish Messiah who came to redeem us from sin, as prophesied in the Hebrew Scriptures.