

Apples of Gold

Zvi Kalisher's life-changing spiritual conversations

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

ARAB NEIGHBORS

Most of the world is against God's Chosen People, Israel. This nation occupies a very small piece of land, yet it is the subject of more news reports than any other nation. Jealousy fuels this animosity.

In Deuteronomy 7:6, Moses said to the Israelites, "The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth." Other nations want to be the special people and do not want to admit God chose Israel above them.

Throughout the Bible, God tells Israel not to fear. As the Lord protected us from Pharaoh in Egypt, so He will protect us from our present-day enemies.

Now we are in a situation similar to when Pharaoh chased the Israelites to the Red Sea. We are surrounded by Arab nations whose favorite slogan is, "Butcher the Jews! Cast them into the sea!" But we must never repay them with hatred. We must show them the love of Christ.

Often I have the opportunity to speak with my Arab neighbors. Just as with the ultra-Orthodox Jews, we sometimes speak for many hours before we get around to the most important subject of all, faith in Christ.

When I speak with Arabs, I must first draw them away from their blind hatred of the Jewish people. Then we can begin to speak about faith in Christ. They are usually interested in continuing our dialogue about Christ.

Recently, my neighbors had with them a sheikh, one who knows the Koran. I spoke with him, and he began by asking, “Where does the Torah say this land belongs to the Jews?” Quickly I showed him Genesis 13:14–17, Genesis 15:18, and Exodus 23:31, where the Lord promised the land of Israel to Abraham and his descendants forever.

The sheikh immediately said, “That cannot be. The Koran says it is not so.”

I replied, “Ask your teachers when the Bible was written and when the Koran was written. They will have to tell you honestly the Bible was written first. It is the authentic Word of God.”

He asked, “How can you, a Jew, speak about Christ?”

I replied, “I believe because Christ is written about in the Jewish Scriptures. As a good Jew, I must believe what is written there.”

Then they began to ask me more questions, just as the ultra-Orthodox Jews do: “Are you a Christian? Are you one of those who carries a big cross down the Via Dolorosa on Good Friday?”

I answered, “I belong to the living God, not to idols. I believe in the One who was pierced for our transgressions, as it is written in Isaiah 53:5. You will not find this in the Koran, which was written by a man. The Bible was written by the Holy Spirit of God, who spoke through the prophets.”

By this time, more of my Arab neighbors had joined the group, and they seemed interested in what I was saying. I told them, “Perhaps one day all Arabs and Israelis will be able to come together and speak as we are doing now. As it is written in Isaiah 11:6, one day ‘The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.’

But this prophecy can only be fulfilled once we all believe in Christ, the only one who can enable people to put aside their differences and hatred and love and serve one another through Him.”

Jesus commanded, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mk. 16:15). I pray we will soon see a great harvest among the Arabs, as well as among the Jewish people here in His Holy Land.