

Apples of Gold

Zvi Kalisher's life-changing spiritual conversations

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

IT IS GOD WHO IS ON OUR SIDE

Latrun is an area in Israel located on a hilltop on the road from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem in the Ayalon Valley. It is where Joshua commanded the sun and moon to stand still (Josh. 10:12). It is also where some of the fiercest battles against the Arabs have taken place.

Many years ago several believers came from a church in Latrun to visit our church in Jerusalem. When they realized that I am the Zvi about whom Elwood McQuaid wrote in his book *Zvi: The Miraculous Story About Triumph Over the Holocaust*, they invited me to their church to give my testimony.

Recently, they asked me to return. However, for Israelis, Latrun is a dangerous place. So I responded, "If you want me, you can come to Jerusalem." Some came, most of them Arabs who are not friendly to Israel.

One asked, "Do you hate Arabs?"

I replied, "Those who try to kill me I will not go to with roses. I have to defend myself."

"How can it be," he asked, "that you who believe in Christ hate your neighbors?" Now they became not so nice.

I told them, "I have lived in Israel 63 years. We have never attacked our

Arab neighbors, but have only tried to make peace. I have passed through the seven halls of hell during the Holocaust. Are you telling me to become again like a lamb going to the slaughter? You want me to let people kill me?

“Even God Himself is against such a thing. When I came to Israel in 1948, we were a mere half-million people, and you Arabs attacked us. You used a German saying we knew well: ‘Butcher the Jews and cast them into the sea.’

“And now you ask me such a question? We defend ourselves against you! And you can see who has been on our side.” Psalm 124:1–3 says, “If it had not been the LORD who was on our side,” let Israel now say—“If it had not been the LORD who was on our side, when men rose up against us, then they would have swallowed us alive, when their wrath was kindled against us.”

Then I asked, “Do you believe all that is written in the Holy Bible?” I showed them many facts from God’s Word, including Isaiah 41:8–11: But you, Israel, are My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen. You are My servant, I have chosen you and have not cast you away: Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand. Behold, all those who were incensed against you shall be ashamed and disgraced; they shall be as nothing, and those who strive with you shall perish. The man replied, “This is the first time we have seen this.”

“You remind me of the ultra-Orthodox Jews,” I replied. “They only read what the rabbis tell them to read. But now you have seen it with your own eyes. The Holy Spirit of God wrote this.”

After a long discussion, one of the men asked if I had a Bible in Arabic. I gladly gave one to him.

For many years I would not go to the Arabs to share the gospel. But in time, God gave me courage. Today it gives me great joy to bring them the good news of salvation through our Jewish Savior.

Now we are beginning to see our work produce good fruit. So I put my trust in the Lord and speak to people who are not so nice, like the Arabs of Latrun. But every now and then I meet Arabs who truly want to know the truth. And I am happy to tell it to them.