

Apples of Gold

Zvi Kalisher's life-changing spiritual conversations

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

ONLY GOD CAN SEND A PERSON TO PARADISE

During the recent election campaign here in Israel, various candidates battled for the office of prime minister. One candidate in particular—a rabbi running on an ultra-Orthodox party ticket—placed an ad in the newspapers stating, “God will judge those who do not give their votes to our political party!” A few days later, he ran another stating, “If you vote for our party, you will earn a place in the Garden of Eden. It will be your passport to paradise!”

These claims upset me, and the Lord gave me the courage to go to the party's headquarters to discuss them. As soon as people there saw I was not wearing a hat or beard, they became suspicious and asked, “Who are you, and what do you want here?”

I replied, “Your newspaper ad states you have the power to send people to paradise if they vote for your party. As far as I know, God is the only one who has this authority. Has He given you power to act on His behalf?” They thought I was crazy and called over one of their so-called fighters to set me straight. He asked why I was attacking them. I responded, “I have not come here to attack you. I would like to know why you are using God's name in your advertising. The Ten Commandments state, ‘You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain’ [Ex. 20:7]. Therefore, I have come to ask why you misused His name in this campaign.”

They asked what political party I represented. “I do not represent any

party,” I replied, “but as a believer in God according to the Scriptures, I consider your statements blasphemous. I know what the Lord expects of us as His Chosen People, and I could not rest until I came here and told you. If I had not come, I would have been guilty before God. He has instructed us to go to all nations and preach the gospel of the Lord. Instead, you are misusing His name.”

The man then asked, “Do you know the Talmud?”

I answered, “I try my best to keep the law of the Lord, but I do not follow your false beliefs.”

He then asked, “Do you know about the 613 oral laws?”

I replied, “It is impossible to keep the Ten Commandments, so how do you expect a person to keep 613 laws?”

By now he was frustrated and said, “Let us get down to the bottom line. What is your faith?”

I replied, “I have been waiting for you to ask, and I thank the Lord the time has now come. I believe in the Lord—not according to your false traditions, but according to the Scriptures. You are trying to draw others into your trap, and it is my duty, before God, to try and stop you. I did not come here to threaten you, as your rabbi has done by telling people if they do not vote for your party, God will judge them.”

He then changed the subject and asked what I thought about the coming of the Messiah. I opened my Bible, read Isaiah 53, and asked, “Do you think we should be looking for the Messiah to come, or to return?”

“What do you think?” he asked in return.

I replied, “I do not have to think. I know because it is written here in the Bible, which was inspired by the Holy Spirit. The Messiah has already come once, and one day soon He will come again.”

Before I left, I gave my testimony about how I came to believe in the Lord Jesus as my Savior and Israel’s Messiah. I pray I will have further opportunities to speak with them and that they will see the danger of taking the Lord’s name in vain.