

Apples of Gold

Zvi Kalisher's life-changing spiritual conversations

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OUT OF ZION SHALL GO FORTH THE LAW

Proverbs 19:21 says, "There are many plans in a man's heart, nevertheless the LORD's counsel—that will stand." I recently took my wife to the hospital for treatment of an eye condition. I planned to be there for an hour and then go to my neighbor's home to make some electrical repairs. But the Lord had other plans.

When we arrived at the hospital, there were many people in the waiting room. I said to my wife, "We may be here all day, so let us find a good seat." Many had brought newspapers to read, and the more religious people had brought the Talmud or other commentaries. I, of course, had the Bible.

Shortly after we sat down, an elderly man and his wife sat next to us. He quickly placed a copy of the Talmud on the bench beside me, so I could see it. He then said, "This is the most interesting part of my life, the Talmud! What do you think about it?"

I asked, "How many years has this book taken from your life?"

He replied, "Many years."

I responded, "I would not devote even one hour of my life to that book." He was very unhappy at my remark and asked, "Are you a Jew?"

"Yes, I am," I replied.

“Then how can you say such a thing?” he asked.

I took out my small Bible and said, “I have devoted my life to this Book. It is nothing like the Talmud.”

He was quiet for a few moments and then asked, “Where did you come from?”

“Poland,” I replied.

He said, “I am from New York. I have been in Israel for 15 years, and I have studied all that time in a yeshiva.” [A yeshiva is a religious school]. He continued, “I also belong to the Chabad group, which supports Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson. Which rabbi do you favor?”

I replied, “I do not prefer any of them, but I must love them because we were all created in the image of God.”

He said, “Well, I am glad we have some common ground. Do you believe the Messiah has to come now?”

“My dear,” I replied, “The Messiah must return, and he may return at any time.”

“Aha!” the man said. “Now I know who you are. I came to Israel so I would not have to listen to such statements from the goyim.” [Goyim means “Gentiles.”] “And now I am hearing the same thing in Israel from a Jew!” he said.

I replied, “Many like yourself have done the same thing to avoid hearing about the true Messiah. Do the Jewish Scriptures state the Messiah will come from New York or from Jerusalem?”

I gave him some time to think, but then another man in the waiting room answered, "One of the most popular verses in the Prophets is Isaiah 2:3, 'Out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.'"

This man and another continued their conversation about Christ with the man sitting next to me. I could tell they were true believers in the Lord. I was so happy that, for the first time I could remember, I was not alone witnessing about the Messiah. Now I was sitting back listening while other believers spoke about Him.

By now the man was very confused and could not believe so many people disagreed with him in Jerusalem. Finally, he asked, "How did you arrive at such conclusions?"

I spoke up again and said, "In Deuteronomy 16:20 it is clearly written, 'You shall follow what is altogether just, that you may live and inherit the land which the LORD your God is giving you.'"

Although this conversation lasted for more than four hours, it passed very quickly. I plan to return there again because it is a good place to witness for the Messiah.