

# Apples of Gold

Zvi Kalisher's life-changing spiritual conversations

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## STANDING IN THE LION'S DEN

A few years ago, I learned that a well-known rabbi was going to speak in one of Jerusalem's big synagogues on the topic of life after death.

Naturally, I was curious about his thoughts on the subject, and I decided to attend the meeting.

During the question and answer session, the rabbi and I engaged in a heated discussion because I told him, in front of several hundred people, that a person can have eternal life only through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Finally, he said to me, "I never want to see you at one of my meetings again!"

But I never give up quickly, and I replied, "When you come to speak here again, you will see my shadow."

Recently, this rabbi returned to speak in the area, and I kept my word. What's more, I sat on the front bench. He spoke for more than an hour before he realized I was there, but as soon as he spotted me, he became tongue-tied. The people in the audience were surprised at his change in demeanor. He then ended his speech abruptly, without a proper conclusion.

Many requested a question and answer session, and the rabbi said, "I am in a hurry, but I will answer one or two brief questions."

I was the first to stand up, and I asked him, “How can you be so sure you will have life after death when you have ignored God’s commands?” The people were surprised to hear such a question asked of a rabbi, and they were interested to hear how he would reply.

The rabbi looked intently at me and began to accuse me of idolatry. I held up my Bible for everyone to see and said, “Here is the Holy Bible, and I worship the Lord according to it. Is this, as the rabbi says, idolatry?” I then asked the rabbi to show the audience the book he was using. Naturally, it was a commentary, not the Bible. I then asked the people, “Which book is more kosher? And who is practicing idolatry?”

I thank the Lord I was not afraid, even though I was standing in the lions’ den. I always remember the words of Luke 12:11–12: “When they bring you to the synagogues, do not worry about how or what you should answer. For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.” These words help me to face whatever comes my way.

I told them, “I believe, according to the Law, we are the Chosen People of God. It is our duty to go to people and preach the gospel about the Lord. I have no other books with me—no commentary books written by men. This great rabbi has come with fictitious stories. I encourage you all to read the Bible. Read all the commands of God. Then you will know how to worship Him and how to obtain true eternal life.”

Then someone asked, “Who is your God?”

I replied, “He is not my God. He is our God. He is one God for all the world, and He is the Savior, Yeshua Hamashiach. You can read about Him in the Bible.”

A few people asked to examine my Bible to see if it was the complete Hebrew Scriptures. Then I asked, “What do you think? Have I come to you

with fictitious stories, or with facts about the Lord our God?”

By then the rabbi had had enough of this discussion, and he left. I, however, stayed and had some very good conversations about the Lord. I pray what they heard that night—not from the rabbi but from the Word of God—will penetrate their minds and hearts and lead them to a true knowledge of the living Savior.