

# Apples of Gold

Zvi Kalisher's life-changing spiritual conversations

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

## THE PRIVATE DETECTIVE

I live in an apartment building in Jerusalem where all the residents own their own flats. We have a house committee to represent the residents, and for 10 years I was a member of that committee. Over the years, I have made many good friends. Often I was invited to their flats, or I invited them to mine. We have had many good conversations about a variety of subjects, including my faith. Many were even sympathetic toward me when I was condemned by ultra-Orthodox Jews because of my faith.

When my last term on the committee was completed, a new resident took my place. He began asking questions about all the residents—what kind of work they do, how they live, etc. Everyone thought he was like a private detective, and then we learned he is a member of an ultra-Orthodox religious group and was reporting to them about us.

One day he came to my home to collect the maintenance fee. He began to ask many questions: “How well do you live? Do you go to the synagogue on the Sabbath? How do you serve God?”

I said, “I will answer you, but first answer a question for me. How many gods must we serve?”

“Only one,” he replied.

I continued, “I believe in the living God of whom it is written: ‘Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! [Dt. 6:4]. Which god do you

worship?”

He answered, “That is a stupid question. As I said before, there is only one God, the God of the Jewish people—the God I worship. All others in the world worship idols.”

I asked, “Does each nation have its own god, as each nation has its own political leader?”

This man belongs to a sect whose motto is, “Whoever is not for us is against us, and whoever is against us we must fight.” Regardless of what I said, he replied, “That is not the truth.”

I asked, “Which do you read better, Yiddish or Hebrew?”

“Hebrew,” he replied.

“Good,” I said, “Because I have a Hebrew Bible here; you can read it for yourself.”

He was very interested in my Bible, but after examining it, he asked, “How can you read such an unclean [non-Kosher] book? This contains the New Testament.”

I replied, “My friend, the New Testament is as much a part of the Bible as the Old Testament.”

He was very upset and asked, “Who told you the New Testament is part of the Bible?”

I answered, “Our own Jewish prophets wrote about Yeshua Hamashiach, Jesus Christ.”

He looked like his blood began to boil, and he yelled, "That is not true!"

"Yes, it is true," I told him. "The Bible describes people like you when it says, 'Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive' [Isa. 6:9]. Do you know from which book of the Bible that is taken?"

"Yes, it is from the prophet Isaiah," he replied.

I asked, "Is the God spoken of by Isaiah only for the Jewish people, as you said before?" I then read Isaiah 34:1: "Come near, you nations, to hear; and heed, you people!" I said, "This passage shows there is only one God, and He is for all nations. He has provided salvation through His Son for the Jewish people as well as for all nations because He loves us. But, as Isaiah 1:3 says, 'The ox knows its owner and the donkey its master's crib; but Israel does not know, My people do not consider.'"

He was quiet for a while and then said, "I must leave, but I will return and continue this conversation." I assured him he would be welcome in my home any time.

I pray the Lord will cause this man to search the Scriptures and question his beliefs. I trust I will have more open doors to witness to him about the God who shed His own blood for the sins of all people.