



APRIL 2018



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Letter From MICHAEL

Friends & Torah Fans,

Following Passover is the Feast of Unleavened Bread, a seven-day feast during which nothing is eaten that contains leaven. Being seven days in length, this feast always includes a weekly Sabbath (Saturday). The day after that Sabbath ("the morrow after the Sabbath" - Leviticus 23:11) we are told to bring the "first fruits" of the barley harvest and raise it as a wave offering. This is the Day of First Fruits.

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The term "aviv" is specific to barley and represents an early stage of maturity that determines whether the barley will be suitable to serve as a grain offering on the Day of First Fruits.
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specific to barley and represents an early stage of maturity that determines whether the barley will be suitable to serve as a grain offering on the Day of First Fruits. If the barley is not ready, it cannot be harvested. If it cannot be harvested, the grain

The Day of First Fruits offering, in Temple times, was the primary reason that the barley crop was examined to determine if it was "aviv" a few weeks prior. The term "aviv" is

offering cannot be performed. If the grain offering on the Day of First Fruits cannot be performed, neither can Passover be celebrated beforehand. This is why the maturity of the barley crop is so important. If required, an entire month is added to the calendar every few years in order to allow the barley to mature for this very special day.

Adding an extra month to the calendar is exactly what happened the year Yeshua was crucified. The barley was not aviv, so Yeshua had an opportunity to make one last round of teaching in the Galilee (Luke 17:11) before he would become our Passover sacrifice. A month later, he offered himself up for our iniquity; it was a Wednesday. As the Bible states in Matthew 12:40, he was in the ground for three days and three nights. He was raised on the Sabbath and then, as the Day of First Fruits began, he raised the "first fruit" saints whose graves were opened at his crucifixion and presented them as a wave offering in the Heavenly Temple to YeHoVaH. This was the fulfillment of the Feast of First Fruits.

What made this offering so significant in Temple times was that it was given from the first harvest of the year – not knowing if any more crop would mature! As such, the Day of First Fruits was, and still represents, a "faith" offering; a declaration that the giver trusts the Almighty to provide throughout the coming year. This day is a perfect opportunity to put your faith into action. Show your trust in the Almighty to provide for you as you provide for others out of your abundance.

Michael Rood

First Steps In A *Healthy Direction*



By Scott Laird, ND

Like a textbook from heaven, the Bible is God's instruction manual to His children. And, to most people's surprise, God's very first instructions to human beings in the Garden of Eden were about our diet:

"Then God said, 'I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.'"

- Genesis 1:29

Let that sink in for a moment. The FIRST instruction God gives to mankind – yes, the FIRST and arguably most IMPORTANT instruction – is how to nourish the human body. And notice that God does not say, "After you eat some plants, put that cow I just created into a corral, raise it, drink its milk, then kill its offspring, cut it up, roast it over fire, and eat it." He didn't even tell Adam to go fishing. The ONLY thing he instructed Adam to do for nourishment was to eat what grows from the ground.

Here's something else to consider. God loved Adam. He created Adam to be the ONLY being that was created in his likeness. Adam was his baby, his crown jewel, his masterpiece, the crescendo in the creation symphony. Obviously, he wants Adam to be healthy. So, he's not going to forget to tell Adam to eat something or deliberately wait and then add some more to the menu later. No. God, in his very first conversation with mankind, immediately and

deliberately tells Adam what to eat in order to live and be healthy in one simple statement: raw, whole, plant-based foods.

God's original, perfect plan for our nourishment still works today. The vast majority of people find that when they adopt a well-balanced, plant-based diet – high in fresh vegetables, low in processed foods (if any), plus a moderate intake of fresh, whole fruits, nuts, and seeds – they are able to achieve and maintain their ideal weight. And the best part? When they lose the weight, all of their other physical problems (associated with excess toxins the body had been holding on to in the form of fat) simply melt away and their health is restored.

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Like what you're reading? **Get the book!**

This article is an excerpt from **Escape Root: The Secret Passage to Lifelong Wellness** by Scott Laird, ND. Order this book online at **ARoodAwakening.tv/Escape** or call **800.788.7887**





Is The **First Fruits** offering **IMPORTANT** to us in today's world?

First let's ask, "what is First Fruits?" The Day of First Fruits is a special day held in the midst of the week-long Feast of Unleavened Bread in early spring at the beginning of the barley harvest in Israel. It was observed on "the morrow after the Sabbath" (Leviticus 23:9-11) that occurred during that week. The Day of First Fruits is a time of thanksgiving for the Almighty's provision.

Leviticus 23 details how, in Temple times, the people were to bring a sheaf of grain to the priest, who would wave it before the Almighty. A burnt offering, a grain offering, and a drink offering were also required at that time. This offering was to be made of the "First

Fruits" of the barley harvest. No other grain

was to be harvested until the

First Fruits offering was

brought to the Almighty. The

offering was made in

remembrance of Israel's sojourn

in Egypt and how the Almighty

provided for them throughout

their deliverance from slavery,

and their possession of "a land

that floweth with milk and

honey."

In the New Testament, James calls

believers "a kind of First Fruits of His

creatures" (James 1:18). Just like the

sheaf of grain was set apart as a special

offering to the YeHoVaH, so are believers set

apart for holiness to his glory. The First Fruits

offering found its fulfillment in Yeshua: "But Yeshua

has indeed been raised from the dead, the First Fruits

of those who have fallen asleep" (1 Corinthians 15:20).

As such, Yeshua's resurrection paved the way for our

resurrection.

Paul taught the Corinthian believers to set aside a collection "on the first day of the week" (1 Corinthians 16:2). And, just as the offering of First Fruits was an occasion of thanksgiving, so the believer is to give with gladness. First Fruits symbolizes YeHoVaH's harvest of souls, it illustrates giving from a grateful heart, and it sets a pattern of giving back to the Almighty the first (and the best) of what he has given us.

At A Rood Awakening! International, we are continuing to work the fields that are ripe for the harvest. In the first quarter of 2018, we have spent hundreds of man-hours developing new technologies through the use of Apple TV, iPhone, iPad and Android apps, and Roku to create a single log-in way to bring Michael's video teachings to your phone, television, or computer via www.michaelrood.tv.

As the Day of First Fruits approaches this year on Sunday, April 8, Michael and I would prayerfully ask that you help us to take the Truth to the world with this new technology through your cheerful giving. Would you please pray and seek the Almighty's guidance to give your best offering to A Rood Awakening! International during this season of First Fruits? Only with your assistance are we able to conceive of new technologies and take the Gospel of Yeshua to a lost and dying world. Thank you and may God richly bless you as you bless others during this season of First Fruits.

Tedd

Tedd Clayton,
Chief Operating Officer

Unleavened Bread

Recipe

Remember, all week we are not to eat anything with leaven in it. You can buy matzoh (unleavened bread), but you can also make it yourself! Try this simple recipe.

Ingredients:

- 1 cup flour
- Dash of salt
- 3 Tablespoons water

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees.
2. Combine the flour and salt into a bowl and then slowly add water while mixing until you have a dough-like consistency.
3. Turn dough out onto a lightly floured surface. Divide into 2-3 pieces and roll out each piece.
4. Prick each matzoh piece a few times with a fork.
5. Put matzoh in the oven on a baking pan for a few minutes per side. Exact cooking time will depend on your oven and the thickness of your matzoh; just watch it carefully and remove when it is golden brown.
6. Enjoy!



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PASSOVER

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In this **2-episode** teaching, guest teacher Bill Cloud explains our awesome responsibility to guard the purposes of YeHoVaH and how to avoid sleeping on the job, allowing the enemy to take over!

"The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat."

- Matthew 13:24-25



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In a special **1-episode** teaching as seen on Shabbat Night Live, Brad Scott reveals the secrets of bringing the truth from an atheist perspective in *How To Talk To Atheists*.

"The great commission of Matthew 28 is NOT to win souls for Jesus. The great commission is to 'go ye therefore and teach all nations whatsoever I have commanded you.' So, because we don't go out and teach people what's right and wrong, good and bad, real and not real, they're ignorant of it."

- Brad Scott



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Yeshua was (Humble)!



By Matthew Hall, Director of Aviv Fellowships

There are many scriptures that can attest to the fact that Yeshua (Jesus) was full of humility throughout his life and ministry. In the Gospel of Mark, we learn that “...even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many (Mark 10:34).” Yeshua himself was not afraid to set the record straight by saying things like “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise (John 5:9).”

As Aviv Fellowship leaders, potential leaders, and/or members, we can look at the life and ministry of Yeshua to understand what it takes to build a solid fellowship of like-minded believers. I am of the firm belief that humility is one of the first steps to success in both ministry and everyday life. We all remember the proverb that was ingrained in us as children in Sunday school, “Pride comes before the fall” (Proverbs 16:18), simply because it was expected of us to have it memorized. However, the practical outworking of understanding that proverb is profound.

The Bible says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble” (1 Peter 5:5), and “Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted” (Luke 14:11). YeHoVaH has given us at least five truths about humility that we can apply not only the building of an Aviv Fellowship but to our personal lives as well:

1. Humility begins with a sense of submission to Yehovah through Yeshua. (Matthew 10:24, 1 Peter 5:6)
2. Humility does not return evil for evil. (1 Peter 2:21-23)
3. Humility asserts truth not to bolster ego with control or with triumphs in debate, but as service to Messiah and love for our enemies. “Love rejoices in the truth!” (1 Corinthians 13:6, Matthew 10:27-28, 2 Corinthians 4:5)
4. Humility knows it is dependent upon grace for all knowing and believing. (1 Corinthians 4:7, James 1:21)
5. Humility knows it is fallible, and therefore considers criticism and learns from it. (1 Corinthians 13:12, Proverbs 12:15, 2 Corinthians 5:11)

In summary, a fellowship that practices humility will submit themselves to YeHoVaH through a relationship with Yeshua by not rejoicing in triumphs in debate (“I’m right and your wrong”) but rather celebrating truth and revelation no matter where it comes from. A humble fellowship will not return evil for evil and has leadership that depends on grace for all knowing and believing while recognizing their fallibility and being open to healthy criticism.

DECODING THE PROPHECIES OF OLD



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