

► FEB 2021

# ROOD REVIEW

## MESSIANIC PROPHECIES: JEWS VS CHRISTIANS

SEVERAL YEARS AGO, I RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES FROM LIVING IN JERUSALEM FOR SOME TIME. LIVING IN ISRAEL IS, OF COURSE, VERY DIFFERENT FROM LIVING HERE. SO, WHEN I CAME BACK, I WAS CURIOUS TO GET A PERSPECTIVE OF WHAT WAS GOING ON IN AMERICAN CHRISTIANITY. DELIBERATELY CHOOSING PLACES WHERE NO ONE WOULD RECOGNIZE ME, I BEGAN GOING TO CHURCHES AND SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES. IT WAS SHOCKING FOR ME TO DISCOVER WHERE THESE AMERICAN CHRISTIANS WERE COMING FROM, ESPECIALLY THE OLDER GENERATION THAT I WAS ASSOCIATING WITH.

As I immersed myself in their milieu, I began to see a pattern. Over and over again, it became clear to me that American Christianity did not understand how or why their Jewish neighbors missed Yeshua's first coming. "How could the Jews miss Jesus – aren't there hundreds of prophecies about his coming in the Old Testament?" was the question I kept hearing in the Bible study groups. "How could the Jews not understand this?" they would ask, shaking their heads. Having lived among my Jewish friends in Israel for years, I understood their hesitations. Though they had the same Bible I did, they looked at it from a completely different perspective. The irony was, these American Christians were missing something just as monumental about Yeshua: His second coming.

If American Christians would make an effort to understand Jewish expectations of the Messiah's first coming, they would better understand his second coming as conquering King over all the earth – because they are the same! Jews understand that the Messiah is coming to save them from their enemies. They've got their checklist, they know what to look for.

They know he will come to enforce the Torah with a rod of iron for a thousand years, something American Christians completely miss in favor of "going to heaven." In other words, Jews missed the first coming but American Christians are in danger of missing the second!

I wanted to offer an explanation for all of this that came from a perspective other than mine, so I invited Nehemia Gordon to join me for a 3-episode Shabbat Night Live series this month (recorded before my stroke) called "The Messianic Prophecies." We're going to examine where Jewish perspectives of the Messiah come from, all the way back to Yeshua's disciples. What were the prophecies that really made sense to the people of Yeshua's day? Why do Jews today overlook prophecies that Christians think are plain as day? And how can we educate each other to understand both perspectives? Join us Friday nights in February and find out!

**See you when the smoke clears,**

  
Michael Rood



# THIS MONTH IN BIBLE HISTORY: **THE MIKVEH**

THIS MONTH MARKS AN IMPORTANT MILESTONE IN BIBLICAL HISTORY. IT WAS THE 20TH DAY OF THE 11TH MONTH ON THE HEBREW CALENDAR (FEBRUARY 16, 27CE) THAT YOCHANAN (AKA JOHN THE BAPTIST) "MIKVEH-ED" YESHUA IN THE JORDAN RIVER – BEGINNING HIS 70-WEEK MINISTRY. AT THE TIME OF HIS MIKVEH, YESHUA WAS NOT YET 30; HE WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE 29TH YEAR OF HIS LIFE OR, AS HE WOULD BE CONSIDERED IN WESTERN GENTILE RECKONING, 28 1/2 YEARS OLD.

THE WORD "BAPTIZE" IS A TRANSLITERATION OF THE GREEK WORD "BAPTIDZO", WHICH IS LADEN WITH PAGAN CONNOTATIONS. YOCHANAN WAS DOING THAT WITH WHICH EVERY ISRAELITE WAS FAMILIAR FROM BIRTH, THE "MIKVEH," WHICH LITERALLY MEANS "RUNNING WATER" AND WAS PART OF THE ONGOING PRACTICE OF REPENTANCE, CLEANSING, AND RENEWAL. THE MIKVEH IS ALWAYS COMPLETE IMMERSION IN RUNNING WATER AND WAS MOST OFTEN DONE IN PRIVATE. THE MIKVEH IS UNRELATED TO THE PAGAN PRACTICE OF BAPTISM, WHICH USUALLY CONSISTS OF SPRINKLING WATER UPON THE INITIATE BY A PRIEST.

CONTRARY TO POPULAR ASSUMPTION, YESHUA DID NOT MIKVEH OTHERS IN WATER. INSTEAD, HIS DISCIPLES PERFORMED THIS ACT OF SANCTIFICATION AS IS STATED IN JOHN 4:1-2. AS WAS PROPHESED, YOCHANAN BEN ZECHARYAH WOULD MIKVEH WITH WATER, BUT YESHUA WOULD MIKVEH WITH THE RUACH KODESH (HOLY SPIRIT) AND WITH FIRE. YESHUA'S DISCIPLES CONTINUED TO MIKVEH WITH WATER THROUGHOUT THE BOOK OF THE ACTS AND UP TO THE PRESENT DAY. YESHUA IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN MIKVEH WITH THE RUACH KODESH – HE LEAVES THE "EARTHLY" WORK TO HIS EARTHBOUND DISCIPLES.

JUST AS YESHUA'S MIKVEH IN WATER MARKED THE BEGINNING OF HIS EARTHLY MINISTRY, THE MIKVEH OF FIRE KNOWN AS SHAVUOT OR PENTECOST IS THE NEW BEGINNING. IT FELL ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK. IT BEGAN THE 71ST WEEK, AND THE 491ST DAY AFTER YESHUA COMMENCED HIS MINISTRY BY HIS MIKVEH IN THE JORDAN. ONCE THE APOSTLES WERE FILLED WITH THE GIFT OF THE RUACH KODESH AT THE FEAST OF SHAVUOT (A COMMEMORATION OF THE DAY THAT THE TORAH WAS SHOUTED DOWN FROM MOUNT SINAI), THE TORAH WAS WRITTEN ON THEIR HEARTS AND THEY RECEIVED THEIR ORDERS DIRECTLY FROM THE RESURRECTED MESSIAH – JUST AS IS STATED IN VERSE 2 OF LUKE'S OPENING STATEMENT. ON THAT MOMENTOUS DAY, SHIMON KEFA (PETER) REVEALED THAT THIS GIFT IS AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON YESHUA'S NAME.

**READ MORE ABOUT THE MIKVEH IN THE CHRONOLOGICAL GOSPELS BIBLE.  
GET YOUR COPY AT [AROODAWAKENING.TV/BIBLE](http://AROODAWAKENING.TV/BIBLE)**



# The Messianic Prophecies

## THIS MONTH ON SHABBAT NIGHT LIVE

Nehemia Gordon joins Michael Rood to reveal the Jewish mindset on Yeshua and the prophecies about him! Learn why Jews doubt Messiah's first coming and what we can learn from them about his SECOND coming!

### HERE'S A PREVIEW OF WHAT'S IN STORE...

**NEHEMIA:** The disciples are sitting there in a house in Jerusalem and they don't believe the tomb is empty. The women say, "Angels appeared to us and told us the tomb is empty." The disciples' response is, "Old wives tales." That's literally the response.

**MICHAEL:** And this is less than a week after Yeshua told them that he would go to Jerusalem, be delivered into the hands of the Gentiles, the Gentiles will kill him, and then he would rise on the third day. Yeshua told them the whole story! So why wouldn't they believe him?

**NEHEMIA:** To a Jew of that day, they thought, "This must be a metaphor or something." Rising on the third day, to them, was symbolism that Yeshua would defeat the Roman legions. It couldn't possibly mean that he would actually be dead! After all, they believed he was the Messiah, how could he be killed? He's going to rise from the ground after being dead for three days? They'd never heard of that concept. But modern Christians would say, "These people knew Isaiah 53; how could they not know that Yeshua would be killed and would rise again?" I'm sure they read Isaiah 53 and they understood it the way many Jews understood it. They understood it according to the Targum, an ancient Aramaic translation. That passage was understood to be about a conquering Messiah who defeats the enemies of Israel, gathers in the exiles and brings peace.



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