### Rood Review Restoring the Hebrew roots of the Christian faith

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May 2025

## Look Up and LIVE!

This month in biblical history, Yeshua, in His resurrected body, was moving between our dimension and the next, teaching His disciples until His ascension on the 40th day of the omer count, which will fall at the end of May this year. As the disciple Stephen faced his stoning, he looked up and saw Yeshua standing at the right hand of YeHoVaH, much as He had appeared in His glorified form (Acts 7:55). Stephen kept his eyes on Yeshua, both physically and spiritually.

Stephen's focus on Yeshua was not just literal. He was stoned for urging others to follow Yeshua and reject the Pharisaical traditions, not for speaking against the Torah. In fact, Stephen defended the Torah by following the example of Yeshua, the Living Torah. He didn't follow the commands of men but kept his gaze fixed on Yeshua.

This was a challenging stance in Stephen's day. The lines between the Pharisaic laws and YeHoVaH's laws were so blurred that it was hard to tell them apart. That's why Stephen boldly confronted the leaders of the Libertines, Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and those from Cilicia and Asia (Acts 6:9). Their solution was to falsely accuse him, as they saw him as a threat to their control over the people.

The Pharisaical system still exists today in rabbinical Judaism, and similarly, manmade Christianity often complicates the simple truth of the Torah—sin is simply the transgression of the Torah! When we allow ourselves to be entangled in these systems, we lose sight of the simplicity of Yeshua's teachings and risk becoming "twice the son of hell" as those who lead us astray (Matthew 23:15).

Stephen was "full of faith and power," performing great wonders and miracles because he kept his eyes on Yeshua (Acts 6:7). May we also keep our eyes on Him as we await our gathering and reward on the sea of fire and glass.

See you when the smoke clears,

Market J. Rood

#### Count The Omer to SHAVUOT!

This year, according to the Astronomically and Agriculturally Corrected Biblical Hebrew Calendar, the Day of Firstfruits was April 20, 2025. This is the first day of a 50-day "counting of the omer" that we are commanded to keep (Lev. 23:15-16) leading up to Shavuot when the Holy Spirit was given, celebrated on Sunday, June 8, 2025.

THIS MONTH ON ...



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with Matthew Vander Els

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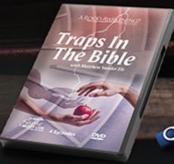
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