

Rood Review

Restoring the Hebrew roots of the Christian Faith

April 2026

Prophetic Shadow Pictures in

The Day of Firstfruits

The resurrection of the saints in Matthew 27:52–53 is not random: it fulfills the prophetic shadow picture embedded in Yom haBikkurim—the Day of Firstfruits.

After the Passover lambs were placed in the ovens, the Cohen Gadol (High Priest) and his entourage crossed the Kidron Valley to the barley fields on the Mount of Olives, opposite the Temple Mount. There they bound ten standing (uncut) shocks of aviv barley in preparation for harvesting, then returned to the Temple before sunset — the beginning of the first day of Unleavened Bread, a High Sabbath (which began Wednesday at sunset in the year of Yeshua's crucifixion). They would come back after the weekly Sabbath to harvest the barley.

That Wednesday evening, the High Priest entered seclusion on the Temple Mount for three days and three nights — Thursday, Friday, and Saturday days; Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday nights — allowing no one to touch him until after the Firstfruits were presented on Sunday morning.

At the close of the weekly Shabbat, just after sunset Saturday evening, the High Priest's entourage returned to reap the standing barley. The grain was parched, ground, and prepared through the night for its presentation the next morning.

In that same fading light, while many gathered for the Bikkurim harvest, the saints of Matthew 27:52–53 were raised, immediately following Yeshua's resurrection. As the High Priest remained untouched in seclusion until the earthly Firstfruits were offered, so Yeshua said, "Do not cling to Me" (John 20:17), permitting no one to touch Him until He had presented the heavenly Firstfruits — the resurrected saints — before the throne in Heaven.

Only after presenting the heavenly Firstfruits before the Father did He allow others to touch Him. Like the High Priest on earth, Yeshua's seclusion ended when the heavenly offering was complete.

Yeshua's death, the mid-week High Sabbath, and His resurrection at the close of the weekly Shabbat align precisely with the priestly ceremony of Firstfruits. If more believers understood how the Feasts of the LORD reveal Messiah, how many eyes would be opened?

There are people in your life who may never hear this from me. It's your turn to share the truth.

See you when the smoke clears,



Michael J. Rood

Why The Feast of Unleavened Bread Matters

The Feast of Unleavened Bread is not a minor footnote in Scripture — it is a central pillar of YeHoVaH's appointed times. It is one of the three pilgrimage feasts described in Deuteronomy 16, when every man of Israel was commanded to appear before YeHoVaH in Jerusalem.

Most believers know the command: For seven days after Passover, no leaven is to be eaten.

But why remove something as common as leavened bread?

To understand this command, we must remember the world in which the Torah was given. In the ancient cultures of Mesopotamia, Egypt, Hattusa, and Israel, bread was not just food, it represented life itself. Bread was the most basic staple of survival. This reality is reflected in Deuteronomy 8:3: "Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of YeHoVaH." Moses chose bread intentionally because it represented the one food people believed they could live on alone.

Today we hardly think about bread. If we want a loaf, we drive to the grocery store and get some. But in the ancient world, bread required time and labor. It was a process. Sourdough starters alone could take five to ten days to develop. Different cultures prepared bread in different ways — it represented culture. The way you prepared and fermented it revealed who you were and where you belonged.

This is exactly why the Feast of Unleavened Bread matters. Israel had lived in Egypt for centuries. Egyptian culture, habits, and influence had worked its way into their lives like leaven into dough. But the moment the Passover lamb was slain, and redemption began, God commanded an immediate break — for seven days they ate bread made only of grain and water.

No fermentation, no lingering influence, no trace of Egypt.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread reminds us that redemption is not just about being delivered from slavery, it is about removing the culture of slavery from within us. Through the blood of the Passover Lamb we are set free, and we are called to purge the leaven of the world from our lives.



THIS MONTH ON...

Shabbat
NIGHT LIVE
with Michael Rood

THE PROPHETS

MISUNDERSTOOD MESSENGERS OF YEHOVAH
with Matthew Vander Els

Almost everything you've been taught about the biblical prophets may be distracting you from hearing what they actually said. In fact, once you understand the true purpose of a prophet, you may realize YeHoVaH has used you in prophetic ways without you even recognizing it.

The most enigmatic figures in Scripture, the prophets were often homeless outcasts, labeled drunk, deranged, or worse, confronting injustice and calling their people back to YeHoVaH.

In this series, Matthew Vander Els challenges us to rethink who the prophets were, what they represented, and how we should hear their timeless warnings today.

APR 10 | 17 | 24 & MAY 1

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Love Gift Collection
April 2026

When you discover biblical truth, your first instinct is to share it with passion. But what happens when that passion is met with resistance — or rejection?

Is there a wiser, more effective way to approach those who believe your zeal for God's instructions is misguided?

Andrew LeClair reveals how refining his approach transformed confrontation into conversation — and ultimately into a full-time ministry. Now traveling the nation with his family, he equips pastors and everyday believers to rediscover that the Torah is the Christian's blueprint for a set-apart, holy life.



YOUR GIFT WITH \$50 OR MORE

How To Challenge False Doctrine is not for sale and it's not available to watch online, but we'll give it to you as a thank-you gift to stream on the **MichaelRood.tv app** or on DVD or Blu-ray for a love gift donation of \$50 or more in April.

YOUR GIFT WITH \$100 OR MORE

With a love gift donation of \$100 or more, we'll give you **How To Challenge False Doctrine** plus a limited edition print of **The Red Sea Crossing**, based on original acrylic artwork by the Rood Crew's own Tiffany Pinnachio! (8" x 10" frame not included)

YOUR GIFT WITH \$300 OR MORE

With a love gift donation of \$300 or more, we'll give you **How To Challenge False Doctrine**, the Red Sea Crossing print, plus a wooden wall hanging featuring the Name of God, scanned from the Aleppo Codex!



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NOTE: This Love Gift is available through April 30, 2026, or while supplies last. Blu-ray discs will not play in a regular DVD player; you must have a Blu-ray player.



Omer Count Coloring Contest

Get ready for a fun and meaningful activity for your kids!

Download and print this "**Counting The Omer**" coloring page created by The Rood Crew's own Tiffany Pennachio! Your children can color a little bit each day as they count the 50 days of the Omer.

We've also included a helpful "teaching page" so you can talk with your kids about the 50 days of Counting the Omer — from the Day of Firstfruits (Sunday, April 5) to the Feast of Shavuot (Sunday, May 24).

Encourage your kids to take their time and enjoy the process as they add to their coloring page each day. When the Omer count is complete, you can upload their finished artwork on or after May 24.

All entries must be submitted by May 31.

ONE LUCKY WINNER will receive a kids' prize package including

- A toy shofar
- Go Color biblical coloring book, and
- Go Color biblical matching game
- Tic-Tac-Toad game

Please remember: **No early uploads, please!**

This activity is all about helping kids learn patience and obedience as we wait on the LORD.

RULES:

- Download the coloring page AND the Omer Count Teaching page
- Color one number per day from day 1 to 50.
- When you've reached Shavuot (NOT before), snap a photo of the finished page and EMAIL IT HERE for a chance to win a Passover Kids Prize Package.
- NO EARLY UPLOADS - take your time, teach as you go. Contest entry must be received by email between May 24 and May 31, 2026

