

The Ten Witnesses

- 1. Barley** – The primary witness. We look across the land prior to the end of the 12th Biblical month for *Leviticus 2:14* stage barley to be available to harvest for a wavesheaf offering by the upcoming 10th day of the next month. This gave the Levites who were scattered across the entire Land, in 48 cities, time to reach Jerusalem and the Temple with potential first of the firstfruits barley offerings. If not found, we intercalate a month to give it more time to mature. The name of the month “Abib” gives a description of the state of the barley we are looking for. *Exodus 12:1-2 And Yehovah said to Moses and to Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying this month shall be the Head (#7218 – to shake; the head (as most easily shaken) of months for you. It shall be the First (#7223) of the months of the year for you.*
- 2. Rain and weather** - Directly determines the maturation of wild barley. Rain and cold temps indicate a winter condition and slow this process down, while warm temps and sharav winds signal the end of winter bringing the barley to maturity where it is able to reproduce itself. *Song of Solomon 2:11 For behold, the winter is transitioning, the (heavy) rain has passed, it goes to itself.* Also, see *Acts 14:17.*
- 3. Flowers** - Many start showing up in the second half of winter, but it is the red anemones in conjunction with the dropping of the wild oats that we specifically look for. This typically happens at about 3 weeks prior to the first fruit barley being in a middle dough stage. The wild oats marks the timing of anemones. *Song of Solomon 2:12 The flowers appear on the earth....*
- 4. Grapes** - Here we are literally looking for this description given in *Isa 18:4-5: For before the (barley) harvest, when the bud is breaking forth and becoming perfect, and the sour grape is ripening in the flower, then He will cast off the sprigs with pruning knives and cut down and take away the branches.* We are looking for the start of new grape leaves shooting forth and the beginning of a sour bud in the old established vineyards (not designer grapes).
- 5. Fig Trees** – Typically these give their witness in all the regions of Israel at the same time, unlike the anemones which bloom for a couple of months. It is an absolute sign that winter is almost over. *Matthew 24:32 Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near.*
- 6, 7, 8, 9. Birds - Turtle Dove, Stork, Swift and Swallow.** These birds are migratory species controlled by instinct through the increase of daylight from the sun as it approaches the equinox in Jerusalem (16th or 17th of March). We are talking about a major migration event here, not local wintering birds. *Jeremiah 8:7 Even the stork in the heavens knows her appointed times; and the turtledove, the swift, and the swallow observe the time of their coming* (because of instinct placed in them ruled by the sun cycle). In addition to the arrival of the turtle doves, *Song of Solomon 2:12* makes a particular note of their singing as a witness.
- 10. Lambs** – We are looking for male lambs from the sheep (unimproved Awassi breed) or goats, without blemish, less than one Biblical year in age and fully weaned from its mother. *Exodus 12:3 Speak to all the congregation of Israel saying: on the 10th day of this month (Abib) every man shall take for himself a lamb according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household.* We look for them to be large enough to feed an entire household. This means it would not be a newly born baby lamb.