

Tuesday March 12, 2013

Summation:

Hi Folks,

Today is an incredibly beautiful day here in Shores. We are well into the 80's and climbing. All of Israel is experiencing very unseasonable rises in temperatures and will for the next 5 days according to the forecast. The winds are very strong from the south which is good for drying out and forcing the barley crop to mature quickly. Unfortunately in may not bode well for a sighting this evening because such conditions inevitably bring in a lot of haze. But we wait on God/Elohim to make that decision as sunset approaches.

We have not made it to Jerusalem today but I was able to get some pictures of fig trees here at Shores that we have followed for several years as well. Their timing has always been that of the ones by the Old City. We endeavor to use the same fields of barley, vineyards, fig trees, etc., from year to year so we have an accurate history of growth conditions to compare to and follow through on.

Some have referred to us as witnesses to the start of the year. That is not a correct labeling of us. We are simply inspectors and recorders of the witnesses in creation given by the Creator as to the start of the year. For the sake of all the new folks let me run through them briefly.

The first and foremost witness is the barley itself. It must be physiologically mature enough to be able to be used for a wave sheaf offering during Unleavened Bread if the year were to begin at the end of the 12th month. Once again we only use barley which has germinated on its own and which is found in agriculturally good ground. We do report on the conditions of mechanically planted barley as well for there are some folks who use that. We try to serve most needs as to one's personal beliefs without prejudice. We do not use irrigated barley. It is our belief that God/Elohim will influence the meteorological conditions to time the barley harvest. We also have 6 more criteria or witnesses to the start of the year. They are as follows not in any order of preference.

- 2) Grapes from the older vineyards and not the designer grapes of today.
- 3) Storks migrating through the Jordan Valley and doves singing their mating songs (which they have been doing the past two days each morning)
- 4) The lambs being of sufficient size to be used at Passover which I will address in more detail shortly.
- 5) The Red Anemones, a beautiful flower which can cover the landscape at times.
- 6) The fig trees budding which we have followed for several years now. (Thank you

Peter for that focus.) Our Savior teaches us summer is near when we see the tender sprouts appear.

7) The heavy rains and cold temperatures.

I am reminded of some scriptures Brian Hoeck customarily quotes in regard to these. Song of Solomon 2:10-13; "My beloved spoke, and said to me: Rise up my love, my fair one, and come away. (very prophetic) For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the Turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth her green figs and the vines with the tender grapes give a good smell. Rise up my love, my fair one, and come away." I could say a lot about this here but the reason I bring these scriptures up is to point out there are these and many, many more scriptures which address each of these witnesses throughout the bible as to their patterns for the season of Abib. They are recorded in many of the studies and reports to be found on the web site. The reports from 2005 onward have lots of information as to such as well as agricultural patterns and facts.

Let me address the lambs for that can be confusing to some. They are an integral part of determining the start of the year. To qualify for a Passover lamb there are multiple criteria used. One is it must be of its first year or less than a year old. That is simple to read and to grasp. The reason only under one year why however is very important to keeping Passover at the time the Creator decides. Remember everything is patterned, placed, and influenced by Him in creation to point us to Him and His purpose. In this case we are talking about appointed times. In a normal 12 lunar month year the ewes give birth (in Israel) between January/ February time frame. We are talking about the norm not the exception. With that happening the lambs will be of sufficient size to be utilized for eating at Passover for the entire household of a father, and in some instances for the neighbor's household as well according to Exodus 12. Simple so far. Now let's say we come to a year in which the Creator has started the breeding season later for the purpose of having them ready and acceptable for an intercalated year. That is why I personally use the flocks under control of the Bedouins for they do not use things like artificial insemination. If someone were to declare the next year to be a 12 month year then there would not be lambs meeting the requirement for Passover. Why? Because many of the ewes would be just giving birth and the lambs would be too young and tender for God/Elohim had intended them to be ready for a month later. The Lambs from the prior year would already be more than a year old for they were born during the January/February time frame. What a catastrophe in a sacrificial system. No lambs and probably no wave sheaf as well. Not good. Can you see why they are a witness, a marker, to Abib starting? I hope this helps in your understanding of such things. The more you know about all this the less you will be able to be deceived.

Now let's briefly cover some agricultural facts and patterns as to how they relate to intercalating and what we look for here in Israel. We are required to be able to discern such things so that we do not keep the appointed times of meeting with the Creator out of sync with His timing. You have heard it often but let's apply it in a very clear way, "Your New Moons and appointed feasts My soul hates; they are a trouble to Me, I am weary of bearing them" (Isa 1:14) Many of us today are being called out of that way of doing things. We are being directed and educated into a correct way of following the directions the Creator has left us in the Bible and in creation to keep His times of meeting and not our own or for that matter someone else's. This brings up the cautionary point that Satan does not want us to be in sync with God/Elohim. He is the master counterfeiter and deceiver. He will be waiting for opportunity to detour us from what is right to what is not right. We need to "test the spirits" brethren with a clear conscience and a knowledgeable base and not just rely on another. The body of Christ/Messiah needs to do her part in all of this. The inspectors over the years who are of the body understand this. They understand the function they are undertaking is about edifying the body and is not about acquiring money, influence, standing, notoriety, a following, or any such vain pursuit. In doing what is right one will give all the evidence to the body so that each and every individual can digest it and use it accordingly in their one on one relationship with Christ/Messiah.

That brings us to when and how we intercalate so let's just focus on barley for now. The scriptures tell us we are to start the harvest of the early grain (barley) during the days of Unleavened Bread. They also tell us we are not to consume any of that grain until after the wave sheaf has been conducted and accepted by God/Elohim. We can read that in Lev. 23. We also can read in Duet. 16 that we are to start a 49 day harvest or count once we put the sickle to the grain. That together tells us once the wave sheaf is offered on wave sheaf day during the days of UB we have 49 days to conduct the harvest. Once again I am paraphrasing some of the scriptures pertinent to what we are talking about. So now we have our basic rules as to timing of the harvest. It could not start as a major event until during the days of UB. Does that mean the brunt of the harvest does so each year? Of course not. There was the feast going on, a hag is a better term for they had to travel to where God/Elohim had placed His name. Remember there are 49 days to start and complete it. This obviously did not preclude the harvesting of a wave sheaf which was to be offered for then nothing would happen.

Putting this together with agricultural facts gives us a lot of instruction as to intercalation or adding a 13th lunar month. Our Creator influences the meteorological conditions to bring this all about. He is in control from year to year. Let's use this year as a starting example to gain some simple understanding.

When we started conducting this year's inspections we noticed something right off the bat. All the barley we were seeing was in the head between the Zadok Scale stages of 6-8. That is a defined period of growth in the life cycle of a barley plant. It is limited by God/Elohim Himself and placed in creation by Him. The life cycle can't exceed His parameters. This told us we were definitely going to have a normal year. We just needed to find the quantities of barley which would be mature enough to qualify as a wave sheaf offering approximately 21 days from the day we started. If we did not have a normal year all that barley would be lost for it would have matured long before the next possible time for a wave sheaf offering which would be 6-8 weeks down the road. The reasons why can be found in our reports and summations from 2005 and onward. Simply put it would drop, spoil in the intense heat, or be used up by animals and birds. So, we knew where we were in the timing of things barley speaking. This is not always the case however. In some years there is a complete mix with some in the boot (heads still not visible) to flowering, to milk stages, etc. Those years are more difficult to establish and that is why our Creator has given us the other markers or witnesses to look for to assist us. We did encounter one year when there was virtually no barley in agricultural ground out of the boot. No Heads visible. The only barley with heads, which by the way were dead and empty were the "goat grass" located on the hilly, stony grazing not growing crop ground. That year many of us intercalated for there would have been virtually no barley ready to harvest during the 49 days allotted for it. If the barley is mainly looking like grass it will not be ready! On top of that, all the other markers were not to be seen as well. Excuse me, the rains were torrential and continuous and it was cold! I don't bring this up to poke anyone in the eye. These are things we need to understand for we have all been deceived in the past in many things and will have those types of situations placed in front of us again and again regardless of what doctrine we are working with. I hope this is easy to follow. When looking to a normal year or an intercalated year we need to put all the witnesses together and then make a very big personal decision. Do not let anyone make it for you. Evaluate what you are presented using the spirit of God/Elohim which we have been given.

With so many people being led to this watershed understanding of the true Biblical Calendar we must be vigilant and on guard. We need to repeat over and over what it is we are to be looking for. They are simple patterns running through scripture and creation which will be repeated over and over each and every year. This is all a learning process. All we wish to do is download what we have learned and have been given so that others in the body can do the same. It's that simple. We hope we have been able to conduct ourselves to that degree, as do all the inspectors we work with in the body from year to year.

Our peace we give to you!



Monday March 11, 2013

Hi Folks,

As reported earlier today we were very successful and blessed in our inspections in the south. One of our concerns was the lack of lambs we were seeing on our stay here to date. That changed abruptly today. We saw flocks which had many lambs with them. That of course means the lambs were of sufficient age to accompany their moms in the fields while they feed. That is good because they would fill the size requirement for Passover for those who use them. That is one of the signs we look for to confirm the Abib season.

As you will see from the pictures many of the domestic barley fields will be ready on their own as to dryness to be ground into flour by Wave Sheaf Day if not sooner. We could have easily gathered a sheaf today for drying purposes and then grinding into flour shortly thereafter. These fields as a whole ranged between 8.5 and 8.9 on Zadoks

scale. That is good news for all you folks who use the domestic barley. Pictures #1 and #2 are indicative of the condition of many fields. We saw thousands of acres in this approximate condition from Beer Sheva to Kisufim.

The volunteer barley was also well advanced in some locations. Directly across the street from the picture above you can see a field of volunteer barley which is also in the 8.5 to 8.9 range. If the picture is clear enough you can see the accompanying volunteer oats had completely dropped already. This location is at the intersection of 232 and 242. The volunteer barley is hidden from view up on a raised field above road level so one could easily drive by it. The area as usual is indicative of early maturing grains regardless of type. It is a mainstay traditional location for us. Other fields in the area were also in the dough stages but not as advanced as the ones just mentioned and shown in picture #3. We also encountered a pattern in the barley getting younger the further we inspected to the north. This has been the case often. However once again today the youngest barley we saw was in the flowering stages. That means a full head formed but no substance to the seed yet for those who are new to the site. Tomorrow I will try to get out a brief discussion on some very basic agricultural terms and facts as to why and how we categorize the stages of barley to fit into a normal year starting or to adding a 13th month. It should be helpful to many. It is quite humbling to have thousands of people visiting the aviv search page on the site. No we are not alone if you were wondering to yourself. Picture #3 of the volunteer field which is shown in picture 3 if required to, could have a sheaf harvested and dried by roasting or other methods to be able to be ground into flour.

Today Rick and I were fortunate to be joined by Pierre. He is a brother in the faith and has been following the barley since the mid 80's in Israel. He is a resident of Omer which is just to the east of Beer Sheva. He also proved among other things of great value to be a good GPS unit and volunteer chauffer. It was a wonderful trip together today.

One of our other concerns from yesterday as to the lack of the Red Anemomies (picture #4) was addressed by him today. They had already flourished and died off. That is why we could not see the normal volumes of them.

Tomorrow we will attempt to get to the Old City and get some pictures of the fig trees we have been following for several years now to demonstrate if they too are a marker for the abib season. For now, it is off to bed for we are beat. We will also attempt to locate the first crescent tomorrow evening before heading out.

Happy Feast!

Brian, Rick, and Pierre



Monday March 11, 2013

We found several whole fields of volunteer and domestic barley which will be completely ready for grinding by Wavesheaf in the Southern Negev. We will send pictures out later.

Sunday March 10, 2013

Hi Folks,

It is day 27 of the new moon for those of you who count from the first crescent in Israel. That would make it 21 days to wave sheaf day if the start of the new month and year falls on the 14th starting at sunset the day before. There is the possibility of visibility Tuesday night if all conditions are perfect.

There are many of you who use other methods for determining the new moon in your pattern of worship and it is due to your need for information today, that we have made the effort to cover two agricultural regions in Israel. They are the Northern Negev and the Northern Jordan Valley where it meets the Jezreel Valley. We focused on our traditionally early agricultural fields.

We have witnessed a real mixed bag today. For those of you who are newcomers to our site I will explain up front that we do not use locations in the Jordan Valley south of Mehola. Those locations have been used for grazing livestock for millennia. That is why we refer to the barley found there as “goat grass.” They are hilly and rock strewn with very poor stony soil. The areas which are flat in that location would not grow any agricultural crops without intense irrigation. Just looking at this year substantiated what we have understood for some time now. I pointed out in an earlier update this year that due to the unusual amount of rain which has hit this hilly region more barley would grow for a longer period of time here before prematurely dying due to lack of moisture in the stony soil. That is exactly what is taking place there now. It is dying out quickly with much of it never reaching maturity. It is short stalked and scraggly. Anemic is a good description of it. We would not use it as being representative of our Savior on wave sheaf day. He was Tamin (perfect/complete) without blemish, as any offering is supposed to be by scripture. Unfortunately some do not share that understanding at this time but hopefully will in the future. Pictures #1 and 2 are representative of this area.

The first field we usually check is north of the army checkpoint on route 90 but south of the 667 junction. Picture #3 shows this location. This location had barley in the late milk stage (7.7) and the dough stage up to 8.3 on the Zadok Scale. The majority would be in the late milk to early dough stage. If the weather remains warm and sunny with some wind thrown in this location should produce quantities enough for an omer of grain.

Please remember we are only searching for enough early barley to constitute a wave sheaf offering. This is when the harvest could start en mass if it were all ready. That however is never the case. There has been 7 weeks given after wave sheaf day to complete the barley harvest. There are also 7 geographical growing regions in Israel based on elevation.

We checked several other traditional areas at higher elevations in the Gilboa Mountains. As expected most of them were in the flowering stages with some in the milk stages.

Our next interesting location was at Tel Te’omim. We like to take a picture of an older vineyard there as a marker each year. That is picture #4 and should be compared

to last years in that location. Barley located adjacent to it was found to be in the Dough stages but not past 8.5.

We broke off here and headed to the northwest Negev near Negba. Picture #5 is of a field we usually inspect near Negba. Picture #6 shows a vineyard we use off of Route 232. Compare it to last years. You can see it is not as advanced yet not as barren as in an intercalated year. Like I mentioned earlier a mixed bag this year as in fact it should be for such an early start. I will mention that we found very little barley in the boot. The vast majority was all headed out in one stage or the other. The barley in these areas was young, in the flowering and milk stages except one exceptional location. In it we had 2 and 6 row volunteer growing with some 6 row domestic which had self-germinated from a previous year. Here we found the red strain mixed in and it was in the dough stages but not exceeding 8.3.

Where does this leave us? If we have lots of sun and high temperatures some of the barley we looked at will meet the minimum requirements of Lev 2 for roasting and grinding into flour for a grain offering. How much is a guess. The majority will be ready during weeks 3-5 of the harvest. That is similar to several years during the past 12. Today's inspections tell us that it is a marginal year when it comes to the start of the year in my opinion (Brian). That may change tomorrow when we inspect the areas of the Negev south of today's locations.

What was lacking today were the storks migrating north through the Jordan Valley. We got a picture of one small flock. One might call them the early birds. There was also a noticeable lack of Red Anenomes. We only saw a few small groups of them growing.

The domestic wheat fields are all over the scale with the most advanced being in the dough stage. Of course we don't use wheat but it is always of interest because in ancient biblical times wheat always matured much later than barley. There has been so much water this year all the grain crops have put a lot of time into stalk thickness and size. With a let up in rain the heads will get the full attention to mature.

Brian and Rick



March 7, 2013:

Our plane flight today has been cancelled due to mechanical problems. That will make a Friday report not possible. Sunday will be the first report from us.

Brian

March 6, 2013:

Hi Folks,

Very busy here with a new granddaughter last night, more work than we can handle with the business, and Rick is driving through a blizzard to get here for our departure tomorrow.

Our itinerary should go as follows: Sunday in the Northern Jordan Valley (nothing acceptable for using in the central and southern part), Jezreel Valley, Upper Galilee, and Golan Heights. On Monday we will be visiting all our traditional locations in the Negev as well as Judean foothills. Tuesday we will be inspecting the locations around Jerusalem. We will send out a report after each day is concluded as is our habit.

We will make an effort to get out a report on Friday as well for some of you folks who require it by then. That will be dependent upon our plane making a timely arrival.

We will also report on all the other indicators of abib as we usually do such as the older varieties of grapes, fig trees, and migrating storks. Hopefully you will have enough evidence so that you can make a determination to the start of the year.

I would like to add that we are experiencing a very large number of hits on this page from interested brethren and others. This has been going on for over a month. Not everyone has the same worship patterns but almost all have a deep interest in the maturing of the volunteer barley and in many cases the domestic barley as well. As a reminder, we do not make any proclamations as to what anyone else is to do in their relationship with our Savior. We only present the evidence we find during the inspections and then each and everyone else needs to evaluate it in perspective to their understanding and commitment to Elohim/God.

Brian

February 11, 2013:

Hi Folks,

Over the weekend Pierre sent me a bunch of pictures which I felt a need to pass some of them on to everyone. They are very good for articulating several points which are relevant to using mature barley as a factor as to when the New Year starts. I hope my efforts to get 4 of these pictures attached is successful.

The first picture shows us a mixed bag of everything including some very health weeds. This is a corner location in a field. Note the variety of grain here. All are doing very well even amidst a lot of weeds. That tells us there has been lots of moisture in the soil. If there was not the grain would not be as healthy as it is for the weeds would have robbed any moisture from them. If the faucet were to turn off today one would see this come into play in a few weeks' time. That would make the grain attempt to mature earlier which could have negative effects on the kernels reaching maturity. The competing weeds would strip the soil of the surface moisture where the roots of the grain have established themselves. Most understand that, but it is always good to repeat it.

Pictures number 2 and 4 show really healthy plants. In Number four one can see the vastness of this particular field. There are many such examples in many different locations around the country which have thousands of acres of beautiful rich soil.

Some comment why are we looking at domestic grain fields? The answer is very simple and we have talked about it often in the past reports. We have established patterns between the growth of the domestic with the growth of the volunteer (self-seeded) barley crops over the many years of inspections in Israel. We know or have a very good idea as to the stage of growth the volunteer will be in based on the domestic. Secondly there are brethren who use domestic barley to establish the start of the new year. That is why you will always see us report on both. We are not to have dominion over another's faith. Those of us who conduct the inspections do so to serve the entire body of Christ.

Picture number 3 is important to one of the fundamental truths of using the grain harvest to determine the start of the year. To illustrate the point I am about to talk about, we can use pretty much any grain for they all have very similar cycles. There are some brethren who insist that scripture instructs us that we are to use "green ears of corn" to start the beginning of the year. By corn the KJV is talking about grain (for clarification). If you can enlarge picture 3 you will see little florets on the green heads of grain and even a few on the surface of the material under them. This tells us these green heads are in the flowering stage or #6 on the Zadoks Scale. The designation has 3 sub designations if I remember correctly. We know that this stage in the growth cycle is approximately 1 month away from maturity. Weather will determine whether

it will be the minimum standard for a grain offering as defined in Leviticus 2 or more advanced than that.

Now, just apply the rationale of “green heads” today. This evening will be the start of the 12th month for it should be the new moon in Israel. If green ears is what we are to use to determine the start of a new year then we would have a very big problem wouldn't we. In fact scriptures relating to the maturity of the grain and in particular the barley harvest do not contain any semblance of the word "green" in Hebrew or Aramaic. I am not pointing a finger in anyone's eye but just illustrating a sound biblical principle as well as agricultural awareness.

It is a blessing for us to have a brother living in the land of Israel who cares for us enough to assist us in our walk in Christ. So thank you Pierre on behalf of us all for your efforts.





February 5, 2013:

Hi Folks,

As many of you are aware Israel is experiencing an exceptional year for rainfall as well as moderate temperatures outside of a few snow storms which stretched into the southern portions of the Judian Hills. We have been able to see Volunteer Barley in the early stages (looks like grass) growing at high elevations in the hill country. That is exceptional in itself.

Pierre has forwarded some pictures of domestic grain fields 40km west of Beer Sheva near Kibbutz Kfar Aza. They are growing like weeds as the saying goes. Lots of moisture, sunshine, and warm temps (especially at night) promote such rapid growth. Notice the size of the "boots" filing out on many of the plants.

We are still a little over 4 weeks away from conducting our inspections across Israel. Should be an interesting year.



December 29, 2012 update:

Some are curious about how they can follow the rainfall and temperatures in Israel for the area's that we inspect barley. We have provided this info in the past as many of the long time users of this site know. We will once again do so for all the new folks who have joined in this endeavor so they too can do so from the privacy of their homes and not have to depend on another to do it for them.

We start with going to the Israel Meteorological Service website:
ims.gov.il/imseng/climate

This opens up the information we will be retrieving. Click on "rain radar" to see the current precipitation occurring across the country. If there is none the radar map will sometimes not come up.

We next want to click on "rainfall observations" directly above on the left. This is a treasure trove of information valuable to us. The map will show the many areas which are reported each day. It is from these that the annual records are kept. The chart beside the map will show the selected area's and all the data for them. The areas of greater significance to us are; Merhavva, Sede Eliyyahu, Bet Dagan, Tel Aviv-Quiyat Shaul, Negba, Besor farm, Jerusalem and Gamla. These locations paint a very good picture of the area's we inspect much of the barley crop in.

Lets look at Merhavva (Jezreel Valley area) as an example. Keep in mind these figures represent the time frame from August to August. When it states year to date that is the time period being used not January to January. This location has received 189 mm (7.44 inches) which is 109% of the time period normal. Having followed this location in December on a weekly basis we know a lot of that has fallen during this month of December. This is 41% of the annual normal. Keep in mind the majority of the annual rainfall (August to August) falls during the months of December/January/February. If you look at some of the other areas you will see some are well above the normal amount as of this date today.

Next we want to look at the tab for "Observations". This will give us the current temperatures across the country, with a lot of other information for the locations used for doing so. It is important when looking at these that we remember the time difference between our location and Israel. The temperatures you are looking at there may be the middle of the night if you are in a time zone which is many hours different than that for Israel. To get the highs you need to check at the right time which will give you the afternoon temps. You can also go to many other sites to get the highs and lows for any given day as well.

If you need a 3 day look ahead you can click on the "Forecast" tab. On occasion it will also tell you what is seasonable and what is not.

If you really want to get into the nitty-gritty you can click on "Agrometeorology" This will provide the evaporation data for a given day in a given region. This is valuable to understanding what is taking place in the soil and thus growing cycle of plants in the questionable area's some use for "acceptable" barley which I and the other inspectors

do not use. You can find out why in great detail in past reports archived here on the site.

This website (IMS) is a great location to obtain your information from. If you learn how to simply use this info for tracking the meteorological activity for the grain area's in Israel for the months of Dec-March you will have a better understanding of the pattern of growth in the barley crop in any given year. I personally check these at least once a week.

This year posses many possible different scenarios. So far the rain and temperature factors are encouraging. There are some downsides to it however. With a lot of moisture in the ground the unacceptable area's such as stony hillsides and ravines such as Ein Mabu'a, etc. will possibly have a greater degree of barley making it to maturity (yet still anemic compared to the barley located in the actual area's used for growing such for harvesting and not for animal grazing). As we have detailed in the past these area's have never been used for anything other than flocks of sheep and goats to graze on for millennia.

As in every year we wait on our Creator to show us His will.

Happy Sabbath!

Brian