

Abib Report, Saturday, March 24th, 2012

Dear Brethren,

We apologize for the delay on reporting Friday evening as per the crescent. Our computer died on Tuesday night and last night our phone was located else where in Israel. With the Hoecks leaving on Thursday night we were left computer less. Linda and I did see the first crescent last night from 6:24 until 6:36. It was very difficult to see and if not for an opening in the haze over the Mediterranean we would not have done so. Those in Har Gilo could not see it for their elevation put them much higher than we were in Shoresh.

Happy Sabbath,

Brian and Linda

Abib Report, Thursday, March 22, 2012

Hi Folks,

When we last wrote in Monday's report, we mentioned we were going to inspect the area north of Tel Aviv for our next report on Tuesday. Our plans changed when traffic was backed up for miles, so we made better use of the time.

Today we visited all the areas around the Old City and the Mount of Olives. We expected to find the barley in the flowering stage, and we were not disappointed. Of course, the barley and oats that were growing adjacent to the walls and very stony surfaces had prematurely died. Often, you can see plants in such areas that have just barely cleared the boot with the head and then the plant dies. Remember, color alone does not determine aviv. Unfortunately, many folks who live in this day and age do not have an awareness of such things and can be misinformed. This is why we have endeavored in the past reports over the years to elaborate on such things. They are all there on the website for anyone who has an interest to view them.

We did get several photos of fig trees just starting to bud, which is, as most of you know, a sign that summer is near as Christ put it (Matthew 24:32, Mark 13:28, Luke 21:29). This has been an exceptional year in many respects. All the biblical aspects of the start of the year have been present during our inspections. The least prepared was the barley itself. However, by Wavesheaf Day, there will be abundant fields ready to harvest by biblical standards. That is one of the most important reasons why, as inspectors, we need to understand the growth and maturing process with its timing for barley. It is not a whimsical thing, but a clearly defined science. In the upcoming summary to this year's inspections, we are going to put together a very detailed report on the entire process. Most of it is found in the reports written in the past. What we will do this year is put it all into one location. We will also add many scriptures which identify the timing of the month of Abib outside of the barley itself. Over the past years, we have been able to put them

all to the test in helping to establish their pattern in Israel.

Most of us will be returning home to our countries of origin and respective families on Saturday night. For those of us who will be here Friday night, we will be looking for the new moon. We hope we have been of service to you and have provided the information you need in making your decision as to the start of the year and the setting of the appointed times of meeting with God/Elohim. The final summary should be out within a week for your use.

Our peace we give to you.

Brian and Ken Hoeck, Greg Ireland, Alan McDougall, Rick Andrews, Angie Boettner, Linda and Brian Convery

Fig Tree Budding Out



Fig Tree Budding in the City of Jerusalem



2-Row Compared to 6-Row Barley



Close up 2-Row vs 6-Row Barley



Cracked Open Grain of Barley in Advanced Dough Stage



Ergot fungi [genus *Claviceps purpurea*]

Abib Report, Monday, March 19, 2012

Once again, greetings from Israel.

We had an absolutely beautiful day to conduct our inspections in the Negev today. We put on 350 km and enjoyed the drive through this beautiful agricultural treasure in Israel. We travel to the same locations to inspect the volunteer barley year after year. It has taken many years of relentless driving to find these locations. They allow us to develop a pattern of growth of each location and are invaluable in our instructions from God/Elohim in establishing the appointed times of meeting each year. We will show you a series of pictures which will establish a visual for you and no doubt you too will place a high value on such things.

Our first stop was east of Ashkelon, but it was not to inspect barley. It was to inspect a vineyard which we use year after year which helps us to establish the time of the growing season we are in. We use two such locations to do so. At this particular one, the vines were leafing out and in flower.

A short distance west of here, we stopped to check one of our traditional barley locations. It is rewarding to see how much barley there is this year. In many locations, it is so abundant that it is choking itself. The barley growing here was pretty much all past the flowering stage (6 on Zadok's Scale) with some stragglers. Most were in the milk development stage (Zadok's 7) with some in the dough development stage (Zadok's 8). It was very healthy barley.

We decided to head further south where there had not been as much cold, cloudy, and rainy weather coming in off the Mediterranean Sea this past winter. On our way south, we stopped at our second vineyard location. Once again, it was leafing out well. This is very important, for we have established its significance biblically and agriculturally to aviv in many of our past reports.

We arrived at our next series of inspections east of Gaza and were greeted by fields of volunteer barley at our traditional locations. Our first location had a lot of plants with kernels in the dough development stage (anywhere from 8.3 to 8.5). If we had looked at more, we would have

undoubtedly come up with some 8.7 specimens. What was noticeable about this location and the next several, was the fact that the volunteer oats were dropping their seeds. We have established over the years how this happens just prior to the barley being at a state of physiological maturity so that it can qualify as aviv as Leviticus 2:14 establishes in the Word of God/Elohim. Our next location produced similar results.

The third location was exceptional. We could see from the road that large patches of volunteer oats had already dropped their seeds and the husks were dried out. In their locations, the barley was well advanced into the dough stage. Here we found kernels in the 8.7 stage. We could snap the seeds in two using a fingernail and some pressure. This particular field can be seen on the cover of our 2006 Abib booklet with Rick standing in it.

We headed south and east after this, taking the time to look at a traditional, early wheat field. Alan is particularly interested in doing so, for he has been growing wheat and barley in excess of 40 years. On that note, let us say we did stop and inspect some domestic barley fields. By domestic, we mean mechanically planted barley and not volunteer barley. There are thousands of acres of barley planted just on the roads we traveled this year. These fields, located in the sandy soil areas of the Negev, will be ready within several weeks to meet the minimum requirements of Leviticus 2:14. We did inspect another barley location southwest of Udim Junction. This area also showed that large amounts of volunteer oats had already dropped their seeds and the barley was already well into the dough stage. Once again, with 21 days to Wavesheaf Day, there is a lot of time to mature to be harvest ready. Ancient biblical methods (Deut 16:9) of harvesting by sickle and sheafing in the field would require approximately an 18 to 20% moisture content as opposed to mechanically harvesting by modern methods requiring a 12% moisture content or less.

We headed back north after this. Once again, at every location we stopped north of Kiryat Gat and for that matter some distances south of it the barley was already in the 6 through 7 stages, flowering and milk development. The exceptions to this were the locations adjacent to roads, which are completely unacceptable, but even these plants were not more than an 8.7 due to the extremely wet and cold conditions this past winter in the Negev.

We did see numerous flocks of storks moving through, which is a lot for the Negev, and spotted more second stage anemones. Below, you will see a series of helpful photos and captions.

Tomorrow we will head up the coast north of Tel Aviv. We have not spent a lot of time in that area in the past few years because of the congestion of traffic. However, Pierre sent us some photos several weeks ago of some stalks he had picked for us to view. They were well into the milk development stage. As Pierre would tell any who would ask, it is a blessing living in the Land for such things. He has been inspecting the crops for approximately 30 years for setting the appointed times of meeting. With his assistance, it is easy to know what to expect many weeks before we arrive. No fingernail biting! But we must still conduct the overall inspections and follow the patterns of aviv each and every year.

Our peace we give to you.

Brian and Ken Hoeck, Greg Ireland, Alan McDougall, Rick Andrews, Angie Boettner, Linda and Brian Convery

The following pictures show the comparison in growth between the same locations during an intercalated year (2011) and a normal year (2012).

Notice the foliage on the normal year grape vines and the robust head development of the normal year barley. The 2011 barley (intercalated) looks like grass for the heads are in the boot. Pictures speak a thousand words. We have hundreds of pictures which document the conditions from each year, and as you can see from these few, they are quite valuable to the process of detecting the patterns established by God/Elohim in these locations from year to year.

2012 Vineyard



2011 Vineyard



2012 Volunteer Barley



2011 Volunteer Barley



2012 Volunteer Barley Site 2



2011 Volunteer Barley Site 2

Abib Report, March 18, 2012

Greetings from all the inspectors in Israel. Our arrival on Friday afternoon placed us in a windy and rainy day. That has all changed with the wind shift from the northwest to coming from the southeast. This is very significant in the life cycle of the barley as well as other grain. With this condition of very low humidity, wind, and abundant sunshine with lengthening daylight, it hastens maturity of the barley.

We decided to take the Jordan Valley route for inspections. We left at 6:00 a.m. and put on 500 km. The Judean hillside of the valley has benefited from the generous, winter rains this past season. Wildflowers were visible all over including the second stage red anemones which we have identified over the past years as coinciding with aviv. The second stage red anemone has a petite stigma.



As most of you know from past reports, we do not like to spend much time in the valley just north of the Dead Sea. That which grows there by itself is not acceptable as a wavesheaf offering on Wavesheaf Day, for it is usually very anemic if in fact it even reaches physiological maturity

or aviv. The barley must be tamim (Strong's #8549 or without blemish) for us personally, for we do attach it in symbolism to our Savior. Others may not, but that does not affect our service to them in any way.

We stopped at many of the "old spots" en route to the agricultural fields located in the north of the valley. This was helpful to some new inspectors to clearly show the difference between that which is acceptable and that which is not.

The areas just south and north of Beit She'an were loaded with wild (volunteer) two-row barley. It is an exceptional year in this regard. We found fields in this area to contain a lot of barley in the 6 through 8 rankings on Zadok's Scale. The characteristics ranged from flowering through soft dough. There were two exceptional fields that contained a lot of 8.5 soft dough. If you check our booklet, you will see that such fields will be aviv within twenty days from that stage. That is even under unfavorable conditions and with the possibility of an April 8th wavesheaf day there would still be time to spare. We are headed into some very dry, windy, sunny days ahead. This would only expedite the process.



We have attached a photo of an old vineyard located in this area which was also leafing out with buds. As most of you are aware, we have often talked about the significance of connecting this with aviv biblically in past reports. We like to seek out the older vines which have been around for at least a decade or more for many of the "designer" vineyards being planted of late are genetically enhanced and can give a false indicator.



Also, we must report the storks are migrating from Africa up the Jordan (Rift) Valley in great numbers. Once again, as most of you will recognize from past reports, this significant event is linked to aviv



We did inspect the fields we normally do up in the Gilboa Mountains. They were heavy with barley in the flowering and milk stages (6 to 7) just as would be expected at those high elevations with the stages of maturity found in the fields in the Valley floor.

We continued up to the Golan Heights around the Sea of Galilee down to Tiberias and up over the areas east of Nazareth. All these areas contained barley in the 6 to 7 range. I will add that we did see several fig trees which were putting forth leaves as well. We returned back down to Route 90 and back through the Jordan Valley to Jerusalem. We did witness great numbers of storks once again.

Tomorrow we will be inspecting our usual locations in the Northern Negev. Hopefully, after that report those of you who require the information earlier than others will have enough time to make your own determinations. Hoping your week goes well.

Our peace we give to you.

Brian and Ken Hoeck, Greg Ireland, Alan McDougall, Rick Andrews, Angie Boettner, Linda and Brian Convery

February 29, 2012

Hi Folks,

We hope all is well with you and that you are looking forward to a new Biblical Year. I am sending out this Abib Report after questions being circulated over; When does the Bible state the barley must be aviv so as to start the first month of the year? Apparently there are several individuals and groups claiming barley must be aviv by the end of the 12th Biblical month and if not then an intercalated month must be added. Never a dull moment.

This is not a new question or for that matter a new supposition either. We have addressed this at length over the years in our booklet; The Abib of God/Elohim, studies, and in the abib reports (primarily from 2005 on). You may want to review our summations from 2005 and 2008. They clearly explain the entire process of the growth and maturing of the barley crops using biblical and agricultural references and facts. What I will do is sum up a few of them to demonstrate our understanding of such things which shape our principles and rules for inspections, and how they are applied biblically to the calendar.

The scriptures tell us beyond a shadow of a doubt the barley crop or firstfruits of the grain harvest in Israel can't be harvested prior to the wavesheaf offering which takes place on the first day of the week (Sunday) which falls during the days of UB. This follows the Passover of the Lord. To those of us in the body of Christ these events and functions depict the death and resurrection of our Savior. Those who do not share this understanding from God find themselves at a disadvantage as to timing and sequencing of these events portraying the initial steps in the plan of Salvation.

There is no mention anywhere in scripture that the barley crop must be aviv by the end of the 12th month. The entire focus of the month of Abib is placed on the Passover and Days of UB and it is named for the function of offering a firstfruits offering which takes place on the Wavesheaf Day. As we know, these appointed times start on the 14th day of that month the month of Abib. The barley crop must have enough grain ready to start a harvest by the wavesheaf day which falls after the 14th of Abib. The barley harvested for this offering must meet the minimum standards as found in Leviticus 2:14. This means the kernels must be mature enough to be able to reproduce themselves. This can be demonstrated by several different methods. The obvious one is to dry them out naturally and plant them, which we have done often and you can see the results on the site. However this method is not practical is it for ensuring proper timing for such major events in our faith. Leviticus tells us the simple method is to roast the ears (kernels) and once dried attempt to grind them into flour. If you can accomplish this then you have met the minimum standard for a firstfruit grain offering. We have also done this often and examples can be seen in our booklet the Abib of God/Elohim on the website.

With the focus being on the wavesheaf it is obvious that the grain has until the middle of the first month to mature. That is why it is very important to have a good understanding of agriculture, and in particular grain growth and production. A quick look at the Abib booklet will show the value to the Zadok Scale we use for determining the stages of barley growth. If we find barley that is in the middle to the later stages of number 8 the Dough Development Stage we know that we will have grain which will meet the minimum biblical standards for a wavesheaf offering during the upcoming days of Unleavened Bread which would be at least 15 days out. This is all very simple to understand. There is no mystery in it, and certainly no hocus pocus.

Let's look to this year in particular. As we have reported earlier Israel has received abundant precipitation, even in traditionally dry areas. The Kinneret (Sea of Galilee) is about 12 feet below flood stage. That is the highest it has been in years. As of Sunday it was raising an inch per day from runoff from some of the major storms which have crossed the area. In fact as I write Israel is supposed to get soaked again for the next couple of days with low temperatures accompanying it. It is experiencing a real winter this year and it could not have come at a better time from God. For those of you who are following such things you have seen the results of the Jet Stream (upper atmosphere winds) sinking far south over Europe. We here in the US have experienced it staying to the north of us this winter. This is all interrelated and can tell us what we can expect in the near future. The barley growing in Israel is right on schedule for a normal year if we are relying on Biblical and agricultural principles. If all goes to our thinking, Wavesheaf Day should be Sunday April 8th. That is 39 days from today or a little less than 6 weeks. That is an eternity in the life of grain growth, almost half its life span. If we were to use the unbiblical method of using the last day of the 12th month as our benchmark for determining aviv we would be putting our adherence to the appointed times of meeting with God/Elohim in jeopardy. This year that would mean the barley would only have 24 days from today. That's a 19 day difference. That would result in having two intercalated years in a row. That is something to give serious thought to.

As we have stated often in the past everyone has to make their own decision. We simply provide the necessary facts on the stages of growth of the barley growing during our inspections in Israel. Just a point of clarification, we only use wild barley and self-seeded barley from agriculturally acceptable growing areas for our determinations.

I personally can venture a guess and I emphasize guess at what we will find this year based on the past 10 years of conducting inspections in Israel and what I have observed to date. I believe we will find a huge amount of pre-aviv barley growing all over the country in every region inspected. That does not in any way mean we will not find any aviv fields. Most of the barley we inspect should have very thick and tall stalks if found in good ground. That is how barley and most other grains react to an abundance of rain and moisture in the soil that is if the soil is good soil and is not stony and anemic in nature. What happens after this exceptional hearty growth assigned to the stalk is quite fascinating. The kernels which have taken a back seat in the growth cycle now jump to life. They grow very quickly in length and then add large amounts of starches to themselves. This makes for very big plump kernels. With a little bit of wind and sun at this juncture we see rapid maturing and the grain taking on physiological maturity. If this is the case this year then we will need to use our agricultural understanding as well as the patterns set for

barley growth over the past ten years in Israel. We will also consult with those in the body who have been conducting these inspections since the mid 1980's and who live in Israel.

God/Elohim could change that instantly. Starting next week the weather could change in a way that would enhance rabid growth in the kernels. That would mean above normal temperatures and sun and wind. That is why we wait on Him to show us what He has decided regardless of what we may anticipate.

I hope this answers some of the questions being asked about this year's inspections and how we evaluate things in the field and in the scriptures.

Our Peace we give to you.

Brian

Dear Brethren,

We hope things are well with all of you and that you are being encouraged and blessed to persevere and overcome these difficult days for mankind that we find ourselves in.

My family and I send you our greetings.

Our plans are set for this years abib inspections. We will be conducting them the week of March 18th. Those who will be participating this year are Greg Ireland, Alan McDougall, Brian and Ken Hoeck, Rick Andrews, Angie (Andrews) Boettner (thanks Zach), Linda and myself.

We will be sending out the daily reports and a summation as has been our pattern over the past ten years. They can be accessed at abibofgod.com or steve.bruns.com/brianconvery.html. I would also think Brian and Ken Hoeck will have them available on their site as well. For those of you who want them sent directly to you via email please let me know. I don't take it for granted each year that the list will be the same for them.

For those of you who keep local observation or the last crescent we will try to have enough information for you by Tuesday night for you to make a determination as to the barleys maturity. Israel has gotten a well needed real winter this year as to precipitation. It has been abundant in the key areas we inspect year after year. In many areas it is still raining/snowing at a good pace. With all this precipitation we can expect an abundant crop of germinating self-seeded or wild barley The last week of February and the first week of March will give us a good indication as to what its maturity will be during our inspections. However we do wait on God/Elohim to clearly show us the week before the end of the 12th lunar cycle/month.

One of the possibilities we may encounter this year due to the widespread precipitation is that the desert and rock strewn soil areas may germinate a crop. As experience has shown us in the past very little of this barley will reach maturity if the weather turns dry and hot. The reason is simple for with very poor soil little moisture is retained in the soil and thus the plant is stressed beyond its ability to cope with and then dies prematurely before it reaches a state of aviv which is the ability for it to reproduce itself. We have discussed this agricultural fact often in the past years summations.

Just think we are only 7 weeks away from the inspections for this upcoming Biblical year. As always we ask for your prayers and not your money. What we undertake is just a simple service for the body of Christ and nothing else.

If there are any of you who have a special need as to the inspections please let us know and we will do all we can to accommodate it.

Keep safe and our peace we give to you,

Brian and Linda