

# Abib Report 2010

Hi Folks,

We hope things are well with you all and that you are all set for Passover and UB. Thanks for your patience, it has been a very busy week for both Linda and I with the family, business, and brethren. We love the Sabbath! I hope these pictures come through. They are good representations of the development of fig trees in Jerusalem this year. We have included a picture of an olive tree (bottom right corner) just below the Old City walls so you can see how advanced the olives are as well. It has been an exceptional year of balance in Israel for growing. I see the temperatures have stabilized at normal this past week and are headed back to above normal this coming week but certainly not rivaling the temps of early March and during our visit.

Happy feast!

Brian, Linda, and Kids



## Abib Inspection Summation 3/16/2010

Tuesday March 16, 2010

## Summation of this year's inspection results and caution for 2011

Dear Brethren,

We hope things are well with you and that you are preparing for Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread. We have had a very interesting trip to Israel this year. I knew prior to leaving that it would have some new learning opportunities available. The reason I knew this is because I follow the weather in Israel starting in January. I utilize several different online services to do so. I have done this for a number of years, to establish a pattern of the best growing conditions for the barley crop there when addressing meteorological factors. I take the current years data and compare it to the long term monthly average data. I have 3 sources which I have downloaded the data from. You can get all the monthly data for high temps, low temps, mean temps, dew point, wind speed, precipitation, etc. As well you can get record high and low temps, rain and snow, etc. These are very valuable tools to utilize to help us develop the meteorological patterns, which promote the early or late growth of the self-seeded barley crop in Israel. It is a very simple process that anyone can follow.

For instance the average high for the month of Feb in Jerusalem is 53 F with an average low of 40 F. (All the providers of the data are usually within 1 degree of each other). The average mean temperature is 47 F. This past February broke all the averages with temperatures well above them for many days on end. Some days completely shattering them! That tells us that the young barley will be very "happy" in the sun for barley loves the sun if it has the root to utilize it. With adequate water they will grow and mature rapidly. Such was the case this year. March picked up where February left off. The old high temp for Jerusalem in March was 86 F. The first 15 days of March set a lot of local records. This is the reason we have found such a balance in all the crops throughout the country regardless of the altitude or region.

Lets use the wheat crop for an example. If you look at a picture of fields in the Negev and the Golan Heights you could not tell the difference for their appearance as to development. This has been a very big lesson for me personally, for prior to this year I would have said it probably could not happen based on my experiences conducting inspections here over the past nine years. All the indicators that we track that go along with the prelude to the month of Abib have been exceptional over the past 3 months time frame.

The growth of the grapes has been an eye opener as well. Some vineyards are more than 50% leafed out. The sour grape is well into bud in many of them. (Even in Jerusalem vines are starting to leaf out). This has been the case throughout all our travels in every region and altitude this year.

The migrating storks are another. We have seen thousands upon thousands of them coming up through the Jordan Valley and elsewhere in the country. These very large magnificent birds are incredible to watch. When flying north they ride the thermals rising from the heated surface of the earth. They form giant "twisters" as they do so. It resembles a funnel in design. They follow the Rift Valley (the Jordan Valley is the northern extent of it) up from Africa to their summer nesting sites in Europe. Never have we seen the numbers even close to this years.

The red anemones are another one of our indicators. They are just beautiful. I have forwarded a picture in the last report of one field where the crops have not yet overpowered them with their own growth as in the case in so many fields this year. We have mentioned them often in the past as to their timing with the aviv stage of the barley.

I mentioned the fig trees in an earlier report as well without saying much. It is something I am still patterning to be sure it coincides with the aviv stage as well. One of the brethren, Peter (I don't use last names unless given permission) had suggested it prior to this years search. I found this significant for it has been on my mind for several years. This year is starting to confirm it as an indicator as it should be based on Christ's teaching to us in Matt 24:32 "Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender (Greek, hapalos meaning soft) and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near.

There are several species of figs that grow in Israel. Every one of them we looked at had good foliage developing, with two species having fruit growing. There are early figs and late figs found in Israel and they are harvested from June until September. I will attempt to attach some pictures of them for you to see. We will follow this as a pattern for at least one more year to see at what stage the trees are at when the barley will be aviv.

And then there is the barley itself. In our traditional fields we could not find one plant still in the boot. It was difficult to even find a latecomer in the flowering stages. However we did observe some barley in the flowering stages where it was shaded from full sun but not much and not in our traditional early barley fields. This year most of the north of the country beats out the center and the south regions. The area around Beit Shean, from the head of the Jezreel Valley, north to the Sea of Galilee is the big winner. I never thought I would ever see that happen.

Lots of learning this year and it may be the calm before the storm. I will explain what I mean by that in a moment, for God always provides for us prior to a time of trouble.

It is a responsibility for each of us to educate ourselves to the doctrines of God. This is very personal, as we probably already know. We are to only follow the instruction given in patterns throughout the Bible to establish the criteria of how we are to walk in the way of God. That falls under the category of using the spirit of God to the complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. We are not to follow another blindly or be lazy in our responsibility of proving what others say by sifting it through the Word of God. We are also required to use the spirit God has given to every man for learning and understanding the things of man. Agricultural practices are a big part of this understanding, for God has utilized them as examples and criteria necessary for gaining wisdom as to the plan of Salvation and the

appointed times important to it..

All too often we as people take someone's opinion without researching the subject thoroughly. That's okay when buying an ice cream cone but not with the plan of salvation, and worshiping God in spirit and truth.

God has given us a lot of instruction about many agricultural patterns so we can discern

the right way and the wrong way of doing something as to His intent and meaning. I will put together some of them as they pertain to the subject at hand such as where does God say we plant crops, graze cattle and sheep, etc. at a later date. Some have been inserted into prior reports this year to illustrate their importance to our gaining knowledge, then understanding, and as a result of that wisdom to the dismay of mans folly. For now I want to caution any brethren who look to the lunar aviv calendar to be very aware of what you are doing. There are many deceived people who are deceiving others, some for the sole purpose of growing their ranks for prestige, and for filling their wallet. As members of the body of Christ we do not want to be choked out by thistles before our time of reaching maturity. Luke 6:43-45 is a lesson we need to all learn. We are to have a good understanding of the subject of aviv. We cannot mix a piece of pork with a bunch of beef and declare it is okay to eat because it looks and tastes like beef. Look deeply brethren and do not be easily deceived! Trust no one and that means me as well. Prove all things. Those of the body of Christ understand the significance of the wave sheaf, which is offered during the Days of Unleavened Bread and its representation as to our risen Christ/Messiah. We also understand the role as the Lamb of God, our Passover Sacrifice. Both of these are to be tamin or without blemish. God teaches us that no lamb with a blemish could be used for the Passover sacrifice. No three legged; one-eyed lamb cuts the mustard! It needs to be perfect and complete. That very same thing applies to the wave sheaf of barley. Both the lamb and the barley are representative of our Savior, one for His death and the forgiveness of sin, the other for His resurrection unto life eternal and the promise of the hope of such for us. Those who reject that our Savior has come already and fulfilled those roles tend to be careless about such things, even to the point of calling Him a false prophet and many such things.

We have a wonderful lesson given to us by Christ. You can find it in Matthew 13:1-9, Mark 4:1-9, and Luke 8:4-8. They all teach us the same spiritual and agricultural lessons. We call it the parable of the sower. Matthew 13:5-6, "Some fall on stony places, where they did not have much earth, and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away." Verse 8, "But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundred fold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears to hear let him hear."

This is right out of the mouth of our Savior, our Wave Sheaf. We are to be of His body. He is providing an incredible crop from good ground as such, not from stony ground.. The symbolism is lost on those who are not called of the Father. It has no connect for them so they attempt to trivialize such important examples and lessons. Brethren our wave sheaf of barley to start the biblical year has to follow the same biblical and agricultural patterns and lessons taught by Christ.

Many of the inspectors over the years have witnessed exactly what Christ has just taught us. Barley, which has sprouted quickly, grown to the head and died a premature death before maturing is not acceptable to God for any offering let alone one representing our Savior. It is a counterfeit! Do not be deceived by those who push it as acceptable, for it is a fraud with no life in it. It is not tamin; without blemish, perfect, and complete. We have emphasized over the years that aviv is not a look but a stage of maturity at which the seed can reproduce itself. Barley that has sprung up on stony and rocky ground can live long enough to produce a head but it dies before it reaches maturity. You have a stalk with a head but it died before it could fill up and produce a seed that could reproduce. It is empty in that regard even though it "looks" the part. It reminds me of the parable of the 10 virgins. All ten arose and trimmed their lamps. The Greek word for trimmed means adorned the outside. But as we know only 5 had filled their lamps with oil. They all looked good on the outside but 5 were empty and useless for the required function.

I have a very good reason for bringing this up at this time. This terrible hoax and deception was fostered on many of the brethren some years ago to facilitate the start of the biblical New Year. Our position and all our information on that year's inspection are on our site. There were not fields of acceptable mature barley growing anywhere in Israel be it self seeded or otherwise from good ground not even close. Dead, useless, blemished, barley from stony and rock strewn hillsides was used to deceive many.

I have a brother in Christ who points out to me that I facilitated that because of the very reports I put out. He tells me I should have been clearer in my terminology and other things. Now he may have a point but he may not. Three very experienced inspectors and not just I wrote all of the reports we put out that year. That is important for many reasons. I guess if we erred it was assuming the readers understood what we understood. From that day forward it has been a personal mission of mine to try and educate brethren to what is acceptable and what is not in the inspection process using biblical and agricultural examples, and defining what we mean by them. This is why we published the booklet "The Abib of God, how to determine the state of aviv barley in Israel". It is also the reason we provide a lot of information in our reports.

We must all get involved in the process of understanding all its biblical and agricultural components so we are not fooled or deceived by another. That may become very relevant for 2011.

The end of the 12th lunar month in 2011 will take place at sunset on Sunday March 6th. At that time it will either be the start of the first or the 13th month. There are many years here in Israel where unacceptable barley from stony ground has died and turned color. It has always been unacceptable to us just as roadside barely has. Unfortunately there are those who have an agenda outside of Christ's clear direction who present it as acceptable.

As my grandmother always used to say to me, you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink. All any of us can do for each other is articulate the hope that is in us. We need to educate ourselves to all the factors that go into making a biblically accurate agricultural decision on our own once the evidence is presented. For next year we will have to be ever so vigilant for another reason. We may experience a maxima of the sun, which occurs normally about every 11 years in a cycle. There are times when it moves out of this cycle into the 10th or 12th year. When a maxima occurs, solar flares can bombard the earth repeatedly. There are some beautiful effects and some terrible effects associated with it. You can look them up on the Internet in many locations including NASA's site. When it comes to grain crops it can have a very important effect. Research shows that during those years, yield production falls and prices increase because the crops mature very early and they do not have the normal time to fill out to their optimum size in the head. If one does occur next year we will know by January. All the data we have acquired over the years will be put to the test.

Please pick up the individual task of getting the weather data and follow it during the months of Jan, Feb, and March. You do not need to do it for every day but even a week at a time can prove very enlightening. Use this year's data and the inspection results to form a bench mark and evaluate everything else by it. There is obviously a reason why God prepared us the way He has this year. Often He does so in the calm before a storm. Lets prepare ourselves as to any and all eventualities pertaining to the determining of the state of aviv and the start of the first month of the Calendar of God and thus His appointed times of meeting with Him to worship Him in spirit and in truth. We all need to play an active part in the process, get knowledge and then understanding so we can gain wisdom to sift what is presented to us by men.

Our Peace we give to you,

Brian

## Fourth Report: 3/15/2010

Hi Folks,

Greetings from Jerusalem once again. We have come to the end of our field inspections for another year. Today we inspected some of our reliable locations in the N W Negev as well as the W Central Negev. We decided not to travel to the area's around Beer Sheva because of the intensity of the sand storm for it was bad enough in the western central locations.

We found the self seeded barley to be in very good health. For the most part it was in one form or the other of the dough stage. I do hope everyone has a copy of the chart we have provided. It is part of the booklet we have on line, explaining how to determine aviv in the land of Israel. We did find some barley which was already aviv on its own. Please remember aviv is a term we have assigned to a stage of physical maturity and not a color. It is when the seed can reproduce itself and nothing less. At that time it can be dried and ground into flour as we have demonstrated to all over the years to qualify under the minimum requirements for a wave sheaf offering of grain.

You will see from the pictures coming that some locations contained self seeded barley as far as you can see. We also have included some pictures of domestic barley, grapes, and a field of anemones growing. We have addressed the significance of them in the booklet and in reports over the years as to their timing each year.

In yesterdays report we included a picture of wheat so you could see how far along that crop is. Fields we had observed on Thursday that had started turning color in portions of them, have now turned in their entirety. That is the power of high temperatures, wind, and sun. (Harvesting practices today require the grain to be 12-14% dried to harvest with a combine for a lot of reasons. Such things are not required under the old

hand and sickle method.)

This has been an exceptional year in Israel for the grain crops. It is the most balanced I have seen in 9 years of inspections. The absolute majority of our traditional locations were all in the dough stages of development whether in the north, central, or southern regions of the country. That has never been the case in previous years. That leads me to believe that the vast majority of a barley harvest would be focused around an intensely small window of time, maybe a 2-4 week window of the seven weeks allotted to it biblically. That is why we are instructed to put the sickle to the grain immediately upon its ripening and under such circumstances a lot of it would be left in sheafs to finish the drying stages with the reapers moving as quickly as possible to cut it. I will be talking about that as well as a lot of other things in our summation which I will probably send out tomorrow. In that I will address the year 2011 as well for it is a year we must all be vigilant in, so that we use only the bible to define what we are looking for as signs from our Creator as to the start of the year. Pierre has so accurately reminded me of this for the passover season is one of watching intently and being vigilant.

We were able to find a new location in the lower levels of the Judean Hills today that should prove very valuable to future inspections. It has very good soil and receives lots of sun but is not visible from the road. We located it by "accident" one might say. It has some very advanced barley in the dough stage. We are very thankful tonight for a drop in the temperature. During the day it was in the high 90's during the inspections of the Negev. Tonight it has dropped into the 60's and we are going to be able to have a real sleep.

Keep in mind that barley will take less than 20 days to become aviv on its own under normal conditions once it enters the dough stage. Some types like the red strain take much less than that. Please do the math and it should be easy for you to make your decision as to when the New Year will start. These are very important personal decisions for each and every one of us to make. We are to seek out our own salvation and not follow a man but Christ our head. Use all the information we have testified to and witnessed to you in doing so. If you do not have a booklet or understanding in these signs provided for our evaluation each year let us know and we can get one to you. they are also available for downloading off both sites in English. On the abibofgod.com site they are also available in Spanish and Sacred Names versions.

The summation should be available on Tuesday or at the latest on Wednesday prior to the first crescent. I hope we have provided enough evidence in a timely manner to those of you who use the conjunction or last crescent. It is our purpose and mindset to serve all the brethren who follow the Lamb where ever He goes.

In your service the inspection crew.



### Third Report: 3/14/2010

Hi Folks,

And once again greetings from Israel. A very hot Israel. To illustrate how hot it has been lets look at a few simple facts that anyone can get off the internet from various sites. Lets look at the monthly averages for Jerusalem. Now keep in mind Jerusalem is high up in the Judean Hills. The regions below it have much warmer temperatures. The average high temp for March is 61 F, the average low is 43 F, with a mean temp of 52 F and an average rainfall of 3.9 inches. The average highs and lows have been shattered here to date this March. We are in the 80's in Jerusalem. We are only 10 days into March! These are very important statistics.

As we should all know it is God who controls the weather and not us puny men. The scriptures tell us this throughout. In Deut 11:10-14 God reveals this to us and much more. He tells us about agricultural methods of watering in verse 10 as to being in Egypt and contrasts that with the method used in Israel in verses 11-14. He also tells us why He and He alone does so for Israel. It is a land of hills and valleys which drink water from heaven. He says He cares for it from the beginning of the year unto its end. He tells us why in verse 14, "then I will give you the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your grain, your new wine, and your oil."

Now brethren, it does not take a rocket scientist to figure out what God is telling us here. He is clearly telling us that He determines when He will influence the meteorological conditions for the crops growth in the times they are to do so. Does He say He will do that every year at the same time when that magic moment in the sky takes place at the equator 2,000 miles south of Israel? No! He says He will do so if we diligently obey His commandments, verse 13.

Unfortunately there are some incredibly deceived people out there who are teaching that the start of the new year, the growing and harvesting year, can't take place until after the vernal equinox. Lets illustrate how erroneous this is in both biblical understanding and agricultural understanding. Lets use this year as a ready example at hand.

The new moon will take place after sunset on Wednesday March 17. That would put the day for the wavesheaf and thus the start of the early harvest, the barley harvest, on Sunday April 4. That is a total of 21 days from today. That will start the 7 week harvest allotted to the barley. Deut 16:9 tells us that, as do other scriptures, as well as patterns throughout the entire bible. At the end of the 7 weeks we have the biblical start of another grain harvest at Pentecost or Feast of

Weeks. That is the wheat harvest Ex 34:22. That is the biblical sequence for the grain harvests. Of course the wheat used today is all genetically modified and when manipulated by specific planting times we find it actually being harvested in many years during the 7 week barley harvest time period. You can read a lot more about that on our site; abibofgod.com or steve.brunns.com/brianconverv.html.

So lets say the barley is ready to start harvesting this coming April 4th. Remember Israel was forbidden to start the harvest until the wavesheaf was offered during the days of UB, Lev 23:10-14. For the equinox folks the new year will not start this year until the new moon on Thursday April 15th after sunset. That would place the wavesheaf on Sunday May 2. That is 29 days that the barley would have to stand up to the elements, birds, four legged grazers and insects. Now those of you who have any type of grain growing background would be jumping out of your chairs right now. Most if not all would be inserting the fact it would not even be a harvestable crop at the end of the 29 days even if none of the above took place. You would be soberingly accurate. Any one of you could explain to the individuals who do not have your agricultural knowledge two very simple facts. The first is if ripe harvestable grain were to sit for 29 days longer than when it should be harvested it would undoubtedly drop its grain from the head to the ground after the Creators pattern. The second is even worst than that. The grain would start to sprout while in the head if it received rain or high humidity for any prolonged amount of time. This not only would render it useless for making flour but also sets up the conditions for a blight to start in it.

I think I have given enough information for all to research and decide for yourself about these two sets of circumstances. Do not follow a man! Use the spirit and the brain God has given us all to know both the knowledge of man and the knowledge of God, 1 Corinthians 2:10-16.

Please follow the biblical patterns which we are taught throughout the bible. Mark 4:26-29 is abundantly clear, for this is Christ teaching us. In 28-29 He says, "For the earth yields crops by itself; first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

It is a biblical and agricultural error to leave it unharvested for any days longer than it should let alone 29. I hear that some are actually referencing Noah and the flood to support the deceptive and anti biblical teaching of the use of the equinox. Once again please read what God said to Noah after the flood in Genesis 8:22. Seeds are planted in the colder temperatures of winter. Barley germinates at 34 degrees F. The harvest of that seed takes place in the heat of the summer. How simple is it? God determines and defines winter and summer by these simple clear signs and relates it to His harvest in Israel (Deut 11 once again). He then tells us we will know summer and winter by what? When it is cold and when it is hot! It is very hot in Israel, and the grain is growing rapidly! It is summer by every biblical description and sign, right down to the sour grape ripening in the flower before the grain harvest (Isaiah 18:5) and the fig tree budding (Luke 21:29-30). Someone should tell the thousands upon thousands of storks migrating through Israel to Europe that it is still winter.

In tomorrow's summation we will also address another terrible deception being fostered on brethren as to the barley harvest.

I am almost typed out and have not given the report for today so lets do that now.

We traveled up the Jordan Valley starting from the intersection of road 1 and road 90 at the north end of the Dead Sea. One needs to travel many miles from here to find fields of acceptable self seeded barley which is only influenced by Gods meteorological events. There are lots of areas as you close in on the junction of the Jezreel Valley with barley growing along the road and the rock strewn hillsides. Neither of these are biblically acceptable for a wave sheaf. They grow in areas that are used for grazing not planting crops. Look how God defines all this. God likens such erroneous teachings of calling them acceptable, to unrighteousness and biblical injustice. Amos 6:12 "Do horses run on rocks? Does one plow there with oxen? Yet you have turned justice into gall, and the fruit of righteousness into wormwood." There are many more scriptures which teach us the same biblical principles of agriculture.

We traveled to one of our traditional fields on top of the Gilboa Mountains which overlook the Jezreel Valley. It has always been a very reliable location in the past for aviv determinations. I hope I can attach the pictures. (Remember I am the hammer and nail and shovel and dirt guy, and not the computer guy.) This field has deep rich soil and is covered in self seeded barley. The vast majority of it is in the soft to hard dough stages. It is very healthy and ripening rapidly. We continued on through the Gilboa Mountains, with the areas receiving lots of sunshine harboring barley in the soft dough stages. Those not receiving lots of sun were in the milk stages. Nothing in the boot. In fact all the areas we covered as far north as Korazim were remarkably balanced as well. We have never found biblically acceptable barley this advanced this far north and at these elevations ever before at this time of year.

Several years ago we took some individuals out to some of these areas around Tiberias for they were interested in knowing what barley looked like and how we determined the different growth stages. One of the locations we took them to is just north of where they worked out of or at least did at that time. It is the road to Huqoq and Livnim where it runs off of road 90. The barley was very healthy which surrounded the wheat fields there. The wheat was actually starting to turn color in the awns. The barley had huge seeds in the dough stages. We traveled up to Mt Hermon as a side trip and then came back through the Golan heights down Route 98. I was curious to see the state of the grain growing there at such high elevations what with everything else we had seen to date.

The wheat was starting to change color! Almost unbelievable for this time of year in that location. It was more advanced than many fields in the N Negev which we saw last Thursday. Barley was growing everywhere with some in the late flowering stage, much of it in the the milk stages, and a lot of it in the dough stages depending on location. Brethren, this has not been this advanced here before like this.

Wild oats had dropped in almost every location. Keep in mind we are talking about barley and oats growing in deep, rich, rock free, soil in early March.

Coming off the Golan and seeing the Yarmon or Yarmuk river valley is always an experience. We traveled onto Beit She'an after a few more stops. For those of you who are interested the best falafel shop in the world is located there. The region around Beit She'an was the mother load of acceptable barley. Another first for us. Of course this is why we travel throughout all the agricultural areas during the inspection period at the end of the 12th lunar month. God makes the decision on what will be ready for harvest from year to year where He chooses and for the reasons He chooses. It is our responsibility to do the very best we can in seeking out the clearly visible signs He leaves us.

It was a long trip back to Jerusalem and now we are getting ready to see what the Negev holds for tomorrow in our traditional locations.

Our peace we give to you,

Your fellow servants in Christ.



#### **Second Report: 3/12/2010**

Hi Folks,

Greetings from sweltering Jerusalem. It is really hot for someone who just left hills of snow back home.

We walked around the hillsides of the Old City this morning as well as the Mount of Olives. The barley there is very healthy, indicative of having received a lot of rain this winter or in the recent past. Nothing we observed was in the boot. Most was flowering and in the milk stage except for the red strain which was in early dough stage. That is what we would have expected based on past years experience with the barley we looked at in the lower elevations on

Thursday.

Some oats were getting ready to drop while others were still developing the seeds girth.

Peter you will be happy to hear the figs are where they should be based on the last couple of years observations. I will continue to follow them to discern any pattern. Thanks for your observations.

We will begin the intensive inspections Sunday and finish up on Tuesday at the latest. We will make every effort to get out as much information to those of you who go earlier than others as soon as we can. You are always in our thoughts and prayers.

Thank you,

Brian, Linda, Mike and Mary

### **First Report: 3/11/2010**

We arrived in Israel this morning to what is probably the warmest weather we have ever experienced here at this time of the year. Even at the high elevations of Jerusalem we were in the 80's.

We drove through some of the N Negev and saw a lot of fields of wheat just starting to turn in the head. Some fields more than others. We saw a lot of vineyards that actually had full leaves in that area and many were in the bud even up in higher elevations. We stopped and randomly checked some barley locations (self-seeded) and all of it was out of the boot with some in flowering stages, others in milk or worm stages, and some in the various stages of dough. Many locations with oats had already dropped their seed while others had not yet done so.

We are looking forward to actually getting the inspections underway on Sunday morning.

Some of you have been pressing me to make a proclamation as to the start of the year. Most of you know that is not what I am here for. Those of us who undertake the inspection process will report to you exactly what we find. It is up to each of you to use that information as we present it to make your own decision. What I or another do should not be the determining factor in what you do. The information should be used along with your understanding and commitment to the scriptures.

There are many different beliefs among those who use these reports. One simple illustration is that some keep the new crescent, some the conjunction, and some the last visible crescent. We all have to follow our own understanding and conscience in such things. We who inspect just supply a service to the body.

If we get the opportunity to do some inspections around the Old City and such tomorrow I will send out the results.

One thing we can count on unless something changes drastically is that with weather like this the barley will mature at a rapid rate. We are looking forward to seeing what is available in the Jordan Valley and the Negev.

Our Peace we give to you,

Brian, Linda, Mike, and Mary

We will be conducting the aviv inspections from Sunday March 14 through Wednesday March 17 in Israel. As is our custom we will be reporting our findings after each days inspections are concluded.

Based on Bruce Armstrong's calculations the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> month will be at sunset on Wednesday March 17. That will either start the beginning of the New Year (abib) or the start of the intercalated 13<sup>th</sup> month. The state of the self-seeded barley growing in Israel will determine which.

The Rabbinical Calendar calls for the month to start at sunset on March 15 making March 16 the first day. That calendar calls for the New Year to start with the 7<sup>th</sup> month and not the first as most understand.

For those who are aware of the Equilux (12 hours of both night and day in a given location) it will be from March 16 to March 17 in 2010 with the heavier focus on March 16. It will actually have 11 hours 59 minutes and 12 seconds between sunrise and sunset.

We are currently growing barley from last years inspection samples gathered from across Israel. We do this to verify that the barley was in fact aviv at the time. To be aviv the seeds must be able to reproduce themselves after the pattern of creation. If it cannot, it is not aviv.

There are some particular samples gathered from last year, which could have gone either way by observation. It will be interesting to see if they germinate. We conduct such experiments to broaden our base of knowledge to assist us in the field during future inspections.

We planted all the seeds on Sunday December 13. Today is saturday, December 19, and 6 sprouts are clearly visible already. This is a remarkable growth rate. Keep in mind we do not use them to determine or indicate the growth of the barley crop in Israel. It is only used to determine whether particular seeds collected from barley plants were in fact aviv. We will update the site later as to the progress and maybe add some pictures as well.

As is our command, we wait on our Creator to show us the beginning of the year from the end of the year.

“For the land which you go to possess is not like the land of Egypt from which you have come, where you sowed your seed and watered it by foot, as a vegetable garden; but the land which you cross over to possess is a land of hills and valleys, which drinks water from the rain of heaven, a land for which the Lord your God cares; the eyes of the Lord your God are always on it, from the beginning of the year to the end of the year.” (Deut. 11:10-12)

Our peace we give to you

Brian