

## Abib Report: Thursday February 23, 2017

Hi Folks,

It is a wonderful thing to be here in the Land for the 16<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. During our drive in from the airport last night we could not help but notice the absolute splendor of the almond trees blooming all around us. Almond trees are a lookout to us inspectors. They are the watchmen of late winter as we and some others coin them. They bloom first and lose their leaves last. A real tough species of tree! In every single past year, they have always blossomed the month prior to the first month of Abib. That was the case last year as well as the intercalated years of 2005, 2008, 2011, and 2014. I say that, for it is a pattern to what month we are in agriculturally.

For many of us 2005 was the start of a pattern for barley maturing as to a very specific calendar cycle. For the record, 2005 was an intercalated year; a 13th month added based on all the signs of winter **not** changing to summer. It was also the first year we in the body, inspected as a group by ourselves, for things had changed, 2004 was a transition year for the collective inspections we had done together with another faith based group in 2002 and 2003. I have promised some that I will write about the early days and why we split into two inspection efforts. No trashing, just the simple history so many can put their minds to ease on that subject, instead of bantering about it.

Here is the pattern started then:

2005 intercalated, 2006 normal, 2007 normal

2008 intercalated, 2009 normal, 2010 normal

2011 intercalated, 2012 normal, 2013 normal

2014 intercalated, 2015 normal, 2016 normal

2017 ????????

As most of you know I am a pattern person. But we must prove all things, thus we are in the Land just prior to the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> month according to our understandings.

Today we drove up through the Jordan Valley and stopped to look at some of the traditional locations another group use. We did this to see what stage of growth the barley (goat grass) was in for it is always dying long before any other locations. Most was just out of, or still emerging from, the boot. This area has a heavy stone base with some soil mixed in. Biblical agricultural principles tell us it will spurt up quickly and then die quickly due to shallowness of

good soil and that is exactly what it does year in and year out. For those of you who have walked through these areas you are obviously saying to yourself; that is very young in the Zadoks growth scale; flowering to be exact.

We traveled on further up the road until we came to the convergence of the Jezreel Valley. This is where one of our go to early fields is located. It is one of many locations that qualified the normal year which we are in at the present. It is also the same field followed up on prior to wave sheaf last year (by Rebecca) which had dropped most of its seed. You can view it on the video from Rebecca, which she took, and which is on the site if you have not already. Compare it to the pictures we took the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> month last year and you will see the big difference. As you will see from the photo, most of the barley was still in the boot. There were also oats emerging and emerged at this location, but 2-3 weeks away from dropping in any quantity. This is the youngest we have ever seen this field. It will not be ready in any way shape or form to meet the minimum requirements to start a new year and the month of Abib. Nothing we inspected today will either. Huge amounts of volunteer or wild barley were still in the boot which most know is stage 4 on Zadoks Scale.

There were no other signs in the North to indicate other than they are weeks away from meeting minimum standards of Lev 2 even if Sharov conditions started and persisted for some time.

We did see some of the **wintering** migrators, like; egrets, cranes (brown) not storks, but no African Storks. They have not entered the Land yet through either of the two migration corridors.

Our traditional fig tree locations are still dormant. None of the old vineyards has any green sprigs on them let alone the sour grape in flower. The designer grapes in the central Jordan Valley which are shrouded with coverings and irrigated have some small amounts of foliage on them but are completely unacceptable for use.

Everything today has upheld our thoughts that this will be an intercalated year.

Tomorrow we will visit our traditionally early locations in the Northern and western Negev. Today was just spectacular weather here for our inspections.

Becca, Linda, and Brian



Goat grass barley location in Jordan Valley



Traditional field of volunteer barley at the head of the Jezreel Valley



Oats in a field of barley