

Abib Update: Wednesday March 6, 2019

Hi Folks,

A beautiful day in Israel and a little sunburned. That's okay! Better than the snow and 10 degrees F at home. We picked up some baggage today at Alon Junction in the persons of Todd Palmer and Brian Hoeck. They appeared to resemble barley inspectors. All aboard. We had a great time.

The Jordan Valley is the lushest I have seen in the 18 years of inspecting. That is following the thoughts before coming but certainly confirmed them as did our findings in our early fields at the confluence of the Jezreel and Jordan Valleys. What was interesting is the oats were so big and swollen they have choked out the barley except for a few patches. The recent rains had flattened the oats and the barley in many locations as we drove through.

We did not exit the Jordan Valley without seeing our white storks. It was too early for thermals but they were content to stare at us, with a group skedaddling when we looked too long. We also observed some swifts in two locations having some fun and lots of swallows staking out their territory. Laughing doves were everywhere. We did see a pair of turtle doves near Bet Shaun.

On our way back we saw a lot of fig trees on route 65 and Route 6 as we drove along. We did see a lot of vineyards in their leafing out stages between Ramla and Route 3. Brian H and Todd accompanied us to the fields near Gaza today. Always nice to share the experiences with others.

Chanse has been watching the swifts and swallows outside of our residence. Bird life is exploding. Wonderful to see and listen to, with doves pairing up a cooing to attract one another.

Todd and Brian mentioned often the noticeable difference in the fields they saw on Monday compared to today. That is the beauty of the Land, there is no spring or fall just winter and summer. When the switch flips it flips. Following are some of today's pictures, and yes many of you know we will not be looking for barley

any longer this year. We have had what we need personally since Monday but look to assist others in their requirements.



Above you will notice this year's rookie sitting in the aviv barley so he does not forget what it looks like. Notice he is quite happy to do so. If you are not aware, this is more than an omer requirement. The key is, will he remember his lessons. This field is traditionally one of our early ones near Re'im Junction for those not familiar with it. The goats and sheep are kept away under penalty of death from the farmer. Because of that it is allowed to reach maturity.

There are many domestic fields changing color which by this time next week will be something to see. Following is the ruler of this year's domestic for those of you who use such. It consists of hundreds of acres but only some of its portions are seen in the picture.





With this we will close out the barley portion of our inspections for the year. We hope we have provided each of you with the evidences you need to make your decision as to your faith requirements. We certainly have made ours. Thank you all for loving the Elohim and committing yourselves to Them.

Tomorrow we will be rushing up to the north and spend time with the birds. Then into Jerusalem to have lunch with a brother in the faith who immigrated here in the early 1980's. If I did not mention it earlier Linda is back at home cuddling our newest granddaughter Cora Elizabeth.

Brian and Chanse