

Abib Update: Tuesday March 5, 2019

Hi Folks,

As mentioned, we returned to the locations from yesterday to confirm our findings. Gisela joined us today and has accompanied us on two past inspections as well. She is familiar with the areas we inspect along Gaza. We have pictures of lambs which I will add at least one here. Never have I seen anywhere near this amount of lambs in the past and it has only been two days.

To say this is a diverse year here is an understatement. To date we have recorded a really wet year and we are gaining more understanding from our findings which supports our assumptions leading up to our inspections. We did see four more western Negev vineyards leafing out which is to be expected with our current findings.



The above picture is representative of the number of lambs. I think there are at least 18 in the picture and that was not the whole group. Lambs from both sheep and goats were observed all over the southern and western Negev.



Above is a picture of Gisela holding a representative wild barley red strain head. Please notice as one holds it and attempts to pick it up the seeds and awns separate. Even the non-red strain is in the semi-hard dough stages which accompanies the red in the early ground locations. We have been getting questions about how much barley we need to find to declare the new year. Our belief system is simple. The scriptures tell us we need enough first of the firstfruits of barley to complete an omer. Please read that again so we are not misrepresented. **First** of the firstfruits of the Land as Exodus 23:19 directs us. It is even more enhanced when you add Ex. 22:29 to the command, do not delay to offer the first of your ripe produce. Throw in Mark 4:29 and that is what guides us. An omer is way short of being even a small field, however we do try to locate

much more than would be needed to qualify for the First of (many/all) firstfruits. The harvest would not start for at least another three weeks after the month starts. That's it for us as to the barley requirement.

So, we hope that answers your questions on the subject. Please understand those are our faith-based rules and they may not be yours but we don't have a problem with that. Take the information given and use it accordingly, as to your belief structure.



Here we have an example of non-red strain. Notice how plump and full it is. There is a lot of this to be found. These will easily qualify for a wavesheaf offering prior to Passover if it is next Month.

Because of the varying standards folks use we have invited some other folks to join us Thursday morning to see for themselves. The area may be busy that day for other groups may be there as well. The majority of the barley examined all

over the region we looked at is no less than flowering (Zadok stage 6). Much of it is in stage 7. The barley is very healthy and thriving all along route 232 and to the east of it. Tomorrow we will be inspecting locations in the north. We have seen some swallows and swifts having fun playing above us in their aerial maneuvers.

Figs are shy to date but they often pop overnight so we will keep you posted on that. Domestic fields in many locations are starting their march towards color change and have nice seeds in them. Even with all the rain they are taking that step.

Tomorrow we will have some brethren traveling with us as well.

Gisela, Chance, and Brian