

Do we go by Ripe Barley or by the Equinox?

 sightedmoon.com/do-we-go-by-ripe-barley-of-by-the-equinox/

By Joseph F. Dumond

News Letter 5848-053???

12th day of the 12th month?5848 years after the creation of Adam

The 12th Month in the Third year of the third Sabbatical Cycle

The Third Sabbatical Cycle of the 119th Jubilee Cycle

The Sabbatical Cycle of Earthquakes Famines, and Pestilences

This is also the end of the Forty Eighth week of this the Third Tithing Year for the Levite, the alien, the fatherless and the widow Deuteronomy 26:12 February 23, 2013

Shabbat Shalom to the Royal Family of Yehovah,

In the News this week was a report about the Avian Flu. Please read this special report to your family. It is that important.

Some 200 dead crows were found near Jefferson, IA , and there was concern that they may have died from Avian Flu.

A bird pathologist examined the remains of all the crows confirmed the problem was definitely not Avian Flu, to everyone's relief. However, he determined that 98% of the crows had been killed by impact with trucks, and only 2% were killed by an impact with a car.

The State then hired an ornithological behaviorist to determine the disproportionate percentages for truck versus car kill. He determined the cause in short order.

When crows eat road kill, they always set-up a look-out crow in a nearby tree to warn of impending danger.

His conclusion was that all the lookout crows could say was "Cah", but none could say "Truck."

Have a nice day...

I found this funny and each time I read it I laugh. And I have read it over a dozen times.

This has been a rough week trying to get people not to fall victim to this Daniel Time line lie. I have been called many things this week. And it has taken a toll and I have not included those emails from brethren that are vulgar. Yehovah knows what you have sent. Some Messianic Leaders want me to keep quiet, to stop saying things and to stop scaring the brethren. I will not say any more on that but I could say a lot. But being silent is not something I am going to do.

Brethren there three things that make me livid. That push my buttons and get me upset.

One is the Lunar Sabbath Lie. I have had many debates about this with many people over the years. One of those I had midrashed with many times wrote me to apologize this past month. He said he and his assembly in Australia had quit keeping the Lunar Sabbath and were now keeping the 7th Day Saturday Sabbath. He wrote to apologize in case he had said things to me that were not proper.

Apologies were not needed. Most in the west have no clue how to have a good midrash. At least two parties must come to the table with passion and have differing views on a subject in torah. I do this often and back my position with biblical facts and historical facts. It is fast and hard hitting and feels like a brawl. But when done right both parties leave as brothers whether they agree or not.

But here in the west they often leave hating each other and never talking again.

This was demonstrated with my post this week about those packing up. If you have a sound position then state it and back it up and prove it. I will do the same. But to resort to calling me vulgar names does not help your position.

The Second thing that sets me off is as most of you already know are the conspiracy lies and Illuminati and Jesuit and Masons and Chem trails, Aliens and all this sort of thing that some mix in with their Torah understandings.

I have seen too many who preach this go off the deep end with asinine reports mixed in with torah teachings. They bring great discredit to the torah when they mix it together and then no one takes their testimony seriously.

The third one is the Daniel Timeline lie. All three of these are lies. If it was a theory and stated as such and discussed as a theory, then this would be different. But too many take it as fact and that it must come true. I have argued with those who do this and unless you agree with them then you're not going to be considered.

So because it is believed as fact I came out and spoke this week. Because people will get hurt by this deception. I do not regret it.

Now we have seen the 20th and the 21st if this is the day you use, go by with nothing happening. This weekend Purim will pass and we will see if this holds water. But it is not over yet, we must wait until the Days of Unleavened Bread 30 days from now before they might concede. Some are already distancing themselves from this.

Once our brethren have settled down and gotten over being upset I hope you all will share with them the Sabbatical and Jubilee years cycles so they too can know Yehovah's Time line, not Daniels but Yehovah's.

Here are some other comments sent in this week. Some I will not share.

Hi Joseph,

Thanks for the heads up here. I am very familiar with Monte Judah's teachings and turned away from it all just a few months ago. I didn't realize there were other groups following in the same path. I checked out both the websites you listed in your newsletter. I found it interesting that the person behind them is not readily revealed. After a cursory exam of the websites, I still did not learn who. That is telling something to me.

Just a comment. I studied under Avi ben Mordachai for two years and still stay in touch. I was delighted to learn that you have spent the last two Sukkot's with him in Israel. Good man!

Keep up the good work.

“B.J.”

Have a great day!

You will notice the next email like many of them that I get has incorporated in the conspiracy teachings. This is what is called mixed seed from the tree of good and evil.

Br Joseph,

I'm indebted to you for the understanding of fleeing during the Feast of Unleavened Bread as they did from Egypt because this spring, America will be like Egypt at the time of 2nd Passover "as in the days of Noah" when destruction came in the 2nd month with Passover timing (Noah entered the ark on the 10th day, same day the sacrifice was selected in Exod 12:3) and "like a man traveling to a far country" (Matt 25:14 cites the provision in Num 9:10:11) for late Passover because Y'shua was taking the far journey and will return according the law still in effect (Matt 5:18) at 2nd Passover. Not a visible coming—He wasn't visible in Egypt either, but very real destruction from which we should flee as martial law will be set up after they use HAARP to make a huge earthquake (Joel 2:10,11; 1Thess 5:1-3)

Please give me your candid response to the attached page

Shalom

Ruhling

My candid response can't be repeated off the construction site. Brethren do you see how deprived of the truth some people get when they use the conspiracy teachings. There was one leader who used a distorted picture of one of the cardinals inline for the Popes job and compared him to an Alien. Is this what keeping Torah is all about? Has the leadership become so far removed from the truth that they have to invent it? Is the unknown prophetic events not open to discussion and reason or have they become the main doctrines of certain group written in stone which we have already identified?

If it is then I am out of here.

If you study the Prophecies of Abraham and look at the Sabbatical cycles you will see exactly when Noah went in the ark and exactly when Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed. You will see exactly when Israel was destroyed and how it matches up with other events in Abraham's time. You will also see how the 7 years of plenty and the 7 years of famine line up from Joseph's time, according to the Sabbatical cycles and even the two witnesses.

But to continue to ignore the Sabbath as many Christians do and then to not keep the Holy Days as the Christian do not nor the SDA leaves you just plain ignorant of what is coming. And to not even look at the Sabbatical cycles and to choose not to want to keep them as many in the Messianic groups choose to do is slapping Yehovah in the face for these are His Appointments and unless you keep them you do not and cannot understand prophecy and all you do is guess at best. And it is this guessing that leads people to believe those teaching it and they get hurt.

So has this guy above sold his house and moved out of the USA or does he not believe his own writings that the end is this second Passover?

Dear~brother~Joseph~I~read~this~mail~with~concern~in~my~heart~for~u~dont~upset~urself~so,

You~have~warned~many~times~let~those~who~choose~to~disbelieve~be~free~to~make~their~choices.

Us~who~are~left~behind~will~work~and~pray~with~u~Yah~willing,

May~Yah~bless~u~abundantly.

Shalom

Mahdokt

Joe

I was wondering how long it was going to take before people started to panic once I saw those videos on Monte's site. It is also too bad that they are so set and not open to other perspectives. Then again you knew this was going to happen especially once this got closer.

Take care.

James

Dear Joseph,

I agree. This is most unfortunate.

If only our people would do their homework and understand Daniel's future 70th Week and understand that the abomination of Desolation comes at the midpoint of those final seven years and 3.5 years after the Daniel 9:27 confirmation of the covenant then we might not see this foolishness.

Blessings,

Gavin

Grandpa Joseph; VERY GOOD!! Thank you for this post. I watched the guy, and he has not changed much. You are absolutely correct. knowing the Jubilee cycles, even though they are not precise as far as exactly when a prophecy is going to occur, if we know what cycle they are usually occurring, then we know when to watch. Thank you for the admonition to be doing our Fathers business where ever we find ourselves (my interpretation). I just called some friends who are hook line and sinker with the wrong accounting of Jubilee cycles. I explained briefly and got the "well I feel we are much closer, there can't be another 20 years". These are scripturally literate people believing a "ministry". Reason has never had much to do with our opposing viewpoints.

If I may, one of you greatest assets in the Prophecies of Abraham" for me, is that you relate that all these occurrences happened generally within these cycles, Curses of Lev 26 being the point. I did not come away with you saying this will occur on or in the cycle, necessarily, but if history tells us anything, I would expect)——. If I am not mistaken I recently read you stating that Yeshua would come in 2033. It sounded very definite and to me reverses some of your strength of simply saying by what has happened previously, I would expect — thus and such. Joe, if you are wrong, you have done just what these other guys are doing. I suggest you leave things as you stated in the Prophecies of Abraham. Close is the best anybody has and you have blown the Shofar as accurately as possible. That is good enough. Specific dates and promises, puts you in a whole different league, I for one hope you don't change leagues and join the crowd. You do your best

when you only related what your research shows. Unless of course Yah has revealed that 2033 is the year. Be blessed my brother. You are doing Yah's work.

Opa Jim

The Prophecies of Abraham show us that in 2033, Satan is to be locked away. That will be the end of the 3 ½ years of Tribulation. But do not assume you are clear until then. There is the coming war in which the USA is defeated between 2017 and 2023 and the captivity that you will be in from 2023 - 2030.

If I understand the scriptures correctly and this is something we can argue over for the next millennium. But I feel the Messiah will come back at the beginning of the 8th Millennium and that King David will rule for this 7th Millennium.

This is not my great concern at this time. My concern is having the brethren keep the Sabbatical year in 2016 and get ready for the war and captivity. Not so much about pinpointing when the Messiah arrives.

I have gone back and forth between 2033 and the 8th millennium as to when the Messiah comes. It is not my main concern though.

Another sister wrote in to say;

Praise and glory to the Creator of heaven and earth, YHWH! You did a mighty witness for Avinu, Joseph! I pray with all my heart that the majority of people will listen to you. You know, if this thing turns into an uproar, it may be the opportunity of a lifetime to witness and witness big time! We know our wise King turns all things for good! I have faith that this is what will happen. It is time to put on the whole Armour of YHWH! My goodness I have to study more now and learn to respond better to people asking questions. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for being a faithful servant. I am glad you exposed this... the people deserve the truth!

Shalom, shalom!

Illinois

Hi-

Thank you very much for this email. In it were truths that I had never before heard explained. I know that it must be difficult to stand up to other groups, but we must stand up for the truth. There are so many out there leading Yah's people astray. My family and I have done the whole "fleeing" prematurely thing and now understand that we must watch, wait and work while we wait for Yah to deliver us. Thank you for warning the sheep. Sometimes we can be pretty dumb and trusting.

Thanks again,

Jessica

Joseph, I may not know much about Torah, but I am learning, and I have many shortcomings. I bought your Abraham Prophecy book and found it to be most informing. Thank you

The purpose of this short encouragement is as follows:

1. Tale-bearing
2. "Preface" and "Disclaimers"

You have studied for many years to put this information together, and I am grateful to be able to see what took you thousands of hours to put together. In my discernment, and it is just what I am sensing; Monty may have spent many hours too, but it seems you are being more 'Hebraic' in a fuller and cyclical-"wheel-within a wheel" understanding in my opinion. However, it appeared to me, and I clarify, (no offense intended) that you are showing impatience with one of your brothers, and you are not choosing your words carefully. I saw Monty's video last week in an email I received from his Computer. Must say, the first thing I looked for was Prefaces and Disclaimers. Monty expressed this many times in the outset of his teaching. If someone less discerning than I am gets your "warning" about your brother they might share this distaste with someone else, and so on and so forth. If I had a voice, I would shout it from the mountain tops: "Yahisrael"! DO NOT FORGET THE BLESSINGS OF YOUR FIRST LOVE, AND HOW IT HUMBLLED YOU!"

Joseph, we cannot forget where we came from. We should always be giving thanks for the fact that we have SO much more understanding than most at this 'point. In my humble opinion and that's all it is. I believe it would be constructive brother, if you re-word your heading to say: "Rehearsing at the right Season for the right reasons" Because This is what Monty is doing whether he holds to your understanding at this point or not. And I will be doing it with a congregation here in Salem as well. And still holding to what I have gleaned from your book too. I believe we are to rehearse the fleeing part too.

I am not offended, I am just angered at how clever SA-TAN can be.

Shalom-Shalom (Perfect Peace)

Gordon

Your Excellency Grandpa Joseph,

It's Happened Before

Reading a timeline in the Book of Daniel, thousands in the US became convinced Yeshua was would return on October 22, 1844 to cleanse His sanctuary (the Earth). On that date, Christ would cleanse the earth with fire, the righteous dead would be resurrected and along with the righteous still-living, meet Jesus in the air to join Him for a thousand-year Sabbath in heaven. When Jesus (Yeshua) did not return thousands who had sold their homes and failed to harvest their crops were devastated. This is what was known as the Great Disappointment. As a former SDA I'm familiar with the scenario. Those about to repeat this folly, might want to educate themselves about the Great Disappointment.

Peter

Another sister wrote;

Well today is the day that they should start putting up the altar on the temple mount according to Monte Judah. So, we will watch and see what happens. Will the enemy take advantage of this date? We will see.

I don't know if you know this but 119Ministries has tomorrow, Feb 21/22 as the day that the daily sacrifice/prayers of the saints stop (yes, they do teach that the sacrifice is prayer). Then they have Mar 22 as being the date for the abomination of desolation and the start of the great tribulation. They also have July 9, 2013 – the start of Ramadan as being the date that the anti-messiah will be waging war. Sep 1, 2016 (Feast of Trumpets) is their date for Yahshua's return with the rededication of the temple being on Nov 23, 2016 (Hanukkah). Those are the dates I wrote out on a timeline after watching their video

So, we have dates to watch out for and opportunities to share the Sabbatical Years & Jubilee Cycles and the Prophecies of Abraham to help our brethren remain balanced and not be deceived into acting rashly

Hope you have a good day!
Shalom

Do we go by Ripe Barley or by the Equinox?

Well, I have to tell you that I did get an ear full after last week's News Letter. I am hated for exposing the Daniel lie, and for telling people about the Purim lie, which they are going to be keeping today and I was also told off for telling you about the Chanukah lie. Lies, lies and more lies, and yet they continue to teach you how all these lying teachings they invent are connected in prophecy. Who was the father of lies? Yes Satan is.

My friend Jim, after telling me the week before to get off the self-pity party I was having and to get back to work, wrote this week to tell me some more.

Grandpa Joseph; Now that is more like it!!!! Great teaching. The Prophecies of Abraham are perhaps not exact, but by far they are the best effort to date. I realize that most of what you are talking about this week, I don't pay any attention to, be they whomever they may be. They are looking to be the first with the most, to reap the tithes of the sheeple. Good to hear you full of confidence again. Chanukah and Purim are part of the separation that has occurred between me and my son. Those who by some miracle (tongue in cheek) have suddenly come on the scene as great Messianic teachers, with some of the grandest choreography of any known Messianic "teachers", claiming the false celebrations are really true, have made me "unaccountable" to those closest to me. That grand teacher, would not even respond to my email challenging his claims. I have long proclaimed that Chanukah is a pure dilution of the Feast of Tabernacles, to include the 9 branch "menorah", the 8 day celebration, etc. To me they are counterfeits of Tabernacles and dilute the preciousness of the "keeping" of what Yah intended. Who can "remember" the marriage ceremony when an "equivalent" celebration is just around the corner? Who is it that is the author of confusion? Not Yah that is for sure. Celebrate what you want, but don't dilute Lev 23.

You are again functioning in your place. Keep on keepin on Joe. By the way I am so happy you get to see your grandchildren. You have no idea how empty things get when you are denied that opportunity.

Opa Jim

Last week we addressed the proper chronology of Passover.

And once I did this I was assaulted with those claiming that what I had said was not right and that it does not depend on the barley being Aviv at all. The only thing that needs to happen is for the New Crescent Moon to come AFTER the Spring Equinox.

Those who claim this do so to justify their current position and so they do not have to change and they hold this position after reading a book about the wheel of Stars. They totally rely on the Equinox and we all know this is told to us in Lev 23. No it is not spoken of there; do you understand this? The Equinox is not told to us or apart of the teachings of Lev 23. Then what is the Equinox; it is an invention of men and not Yehovah.

Yehovah tells us to make sure we have ripe barley for the Days of Unleavened Bread. And He states this in Lev 23. Yes it is stated right there in Lev 23 yet denied by those who will not and refuse to follow Yehovah's instructions.

So here we have a direct command in Lev 23 to keep and some refuse to keep it and instead they wish for you to follow them and keep something that men have invented. Hmmm, does not seem kosher does it.

Let us examine this and make sure I am not making this up.

Lev 23:10 Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, When you have come into the land which I give to you, and shall reap the harvest of it, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest. 11 And he shall wave the sheaf before Jehovah to be received for you. On the next day after the sabbath the priest shall wave it. 12 And you shall offer that day when you wave the sheaf, a male lamb without blemish of the first year for a burnt offering to Jehovah. 13 And its food offering shall be two-tenths part of fine flour mixed with oil, a fire offering to Jehovah for a sweet savor. And the drink offering of it shall be of wine, the fourth part of a hin. 14 And you shall eat neither bread, nor parched grain, nor green ears, until the same day, until you have brought an offering to your God. It shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

This Sheaf that is being spoken of here in Lev 23 is a sheaf of Barley. I do not see anything here in Lev 23 about the Equinox. But we do read about the Barley. Hmmm.

We have shared this before and it that time of the year when we review and those of us who are new are taught the truth.

The Biblical year begins with the first New Moon after the barley in Israel reaches the stage in its ripeness called Abib. The period between one year and the next is either 12 or 13 lunar months. Because of this, it is important to check the state of the Barley crops at the end of the 12th month. If the barley is Abib at this time, then the following New Moon is Hodesh Ha-Aviv ("New Moon of the

Abib”). If the barley is still immature, we must wait another month and then check the barley again at the end of the 13th month.

By convention, a 12-month year is referred to as a Regular Year while a 13th month year is referred to as a Leap Year. This should not be confused with Leap Years in the Gregorian (Christian) Calendar, which involve the “intercalation” (addition) of a single day (Feb. 29). In contrast, the Biblical Leap Year involves the intercalation of an entire lunar month (“Thirteenth Month”, also called “Adar Bet”). In general, it can only be determined whether a year is a Leap Year a few days before the end of the 12th Month.

Where is Abib Mentioned in the Hebrew Bible?

The story of the Exodus relates “This day you are going out in the month of the Abib.” (Ex 13,4).

To commemorate that we left Egypt in the month of the Abib, we are instructed to bring the Passover sacrifice and celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Hag HaMatzot) at this time of year. In Dt 16,1 we are commanded:

“Keep the month of the Abib and make the Passover (sacrifice) to YHWH your God at night, because in the month of the Abib YHWH your God took you out of Egypt”.

Similarly, we are commanded in Ex 23,15:

“You will keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread; seven days you will eat unleavened bread, as I have commanded you, at the time of the month of the Abib, because in it you went out of Egypt.”

The same is commanded in Ex 34,18:

“You will keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread; seven days you will eat unleavened bread, as have I commanded you, at the time of the month of the Abib, because in the month of the Abib you went out of Egypt.”

What is Abib?

Abib indicates a stage in the development of the barley crops. This is clear from Ex 9,31-32 which describes the devastation caused by the plague of hail:

“And the flax and the barley were smitten, because the barley was Abib and the flax was Giv’ol. And the wheat and the spelt were not smitten because they were dark (Afilot).”

The above passage relates that the barley crops were destroyed by the hail while the wheat and spelt were not damaged. To understand the reason for this we must look at how grain develops. When grains are early in their development they are flexible and have a dark green color. As they become ripe they take on a light yellowish hue and become more brittle. The reason that the barley was destroyed and the wheat was not is that the barley had reached the stage in its development called Abib and as a result had become brittle enough to be damaged by the hail. In contrast, the wheat and spelt were still early enough in their development, at a stage when they were flexible and not susceptible to being damaged by hail. The description of the wheat and spelt as “dark” (Afilot) indicates that they were still in the stage when they were deep green and had not yet begun to lighten into the light yellowish hue which characterizes ripe grains. In contrast, the barley had

reached the stage of Abib at which time it was no longer “dark” and at this point it probably had begun to develop golden streaks.

Parched Abib

We know from several passages that barley which is in the state of Abib has not completely ripened, but has ripened enough so that its seeds can be eaten parched in fire. Parched barley was a commonly eaten food in ancient Israel and is mentioned in numerous passages in the Hebrew Bible as either “Abib parched (Kalui) in fire” (Lev 2,14) or in the abbreviated form “parched (Kalui/Kali)” (Lev 23,14; Jos 5,11; 1Sam 17,17; 1Sam 25,18; 2Sam 17,28; Ruth 2,14).

While still early in its development, barley has not yet produced large enough and firm enough seeds to produce food through parching. This early in its development, when the “head” has just come out of the shaft, the seeds are not substantial enough to produce any food. At a later stage, the seeds have grown in size and have filled with liquid. At this point the seeds will shrivel up when parched and will only produce empty skins. Over time the liquid is replaced with dry material and when enough dry material has amassed the seeds will be able to yield “barley parched in fire”.

Abib and the Harvest

The month of the Abib is the month which commences after the barley has reached the stage of Abib. 2-3 weeks after the beginning of the month the barley has moved beyond the stage of Abib and is ready to be brought as the “wave-sheaf offering” (Hanafat HaOmer). The “wave-sheaf offering” is a sacrifice brought from the first stalks cut in the harvest and is brought on the Sunday which falls out during Passover (Hag HaMatzot). This is described in Lev 23,10-11:

“When you come to the land which I give you, and harvest its harvest, you will bring the sheaf of the beginning of your harvest to the priest. And he will wave the sheaf before YHWH so you will be accepted; on the morrow after the Sabbath the priest will wave it.”

From this it is clear that the barley, which was Abib at the beginning of the month, has become harvest-ready 15-21 days later (i.e. by the Sunday during Passover). Therefore, the month of the Abib cannot begin unless the barley has reached a stage where it will be harvest-ready 2-3 weeks later.

NOTE THIS: READ IT ONCE AGAIN; Therefore, the month of the Abib cannot begin unless the barley has reached a stage where it will be harvest-ready 2-3 weeks later.

That the barley must be harvest-ready 2-3 weeks into the month of the Abib is also clear from Dt 16,9 which states:

“From when the sickle commences on the standing grain you will begin to count seven weeks.”

From Lev 23,15 we know that the seven weeks between Passover (Hag Hamatzot) and Pentecost (Shavuot) begin on the day when the wave-sheaf offering is brought (i.e. the Sunday which falls out during Passover):

“And you shall count from the morrow after the Sabbath, from the day you bring the sheaf of waving; they will be seven complete Sabbaths.”

Therefore, the “sickle commences on the standing grain” on the Sunday during Passover, i.e. 2-3 weeks after the beginning of the month of the Abib. If the barley is not developed enough so that it will be ready for the sickle 2-3 weeks later, then the month of the Abib cannot begin and we must wait till the following month.

It should be noted that not all the barley ripens in the Land of Israel at the same time. The wavesheaf offering is a national sacrifice brought from the first fields to become harvest-ready. However, the first-fruit offerings brought by individual farmers can vary in ripeness anywhere from “Abib parched in fire” to fully ripe grain which may be brought “crushed” or “coarsely ground”. This is what is meant in Lev 2,14:

“And when you bring a first-fruit offering to YHWH; you shall bring your first-fruit offering as Abib parched in fire or crushed Carmel” (Carmel is grain which has hardened beyond Abib to the point where it can be “crushed” or “coarsely ground”).

All of the above passages have been translated directly from the Hebrew and it is worth noting that the King James translators seem to have only understood the various Hebrew agricultural terms very poorly. In Lev 2,14 they translated Carmel as “full ears” and “Abib” as “green ears” whereas in Lev 23,14 they translated Carmel as “green ears”!

In summation, barley which is in the state of Abib has 3 characteristics:

It is brittle enough to be destroyed by hail and has begun to lighten in color (it is not “dark”).

The seeds have produced enough dry material so it can be eaten parched.

It has developed enough so that it will be harvest-ready 2-3 weeks later.

Q: Doesn't Genesis 1:14 show that the Vernal Equinox, not the barley, determine the holy day seasons?

We read in Gen 1,14:

“And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of heaven, to divide between the day and the night and they will be for signs and for times (Moedim) and for days and for years.”

From this verse it is not clear what is dependent on what. Certainly no mention of the Vernal Equinox is made. Perhaps the year is dependent on the moon or the stars? If the year is dependent on the sun, then what about the sun effects the beginning of the year? Gen 1,14 does not specify these things and we must turn to other Biblical passages to get a more precise understanding of the Biblical calendar. In Dt 16,1 we read:

“Keep the month of the Abib and make the Passover (sacrifice) to YHWH your God at night, because in the month of Abib YHWH your God took you out of Egypt”

Similarly we read:

“You will keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread; seven days you will eat unleavened bread, as have I commanded you, at the time of the month of the Abib, because in the month of the Abib you went out of Egypt.” (Ex 34,18)

The word “Abib” refers to barley which has reached a certain stage in its development. This meaning of Abib is preserved in the verse:

“And the flax and the barley were smitten, because the barley was Abib and the flax was Giv’ol. And the wheat and the spelt were not smitten because they were dark (Afilot).” (Ex 9,31-32)

To keep the Passover Sacrifice in the Month of the Abib requires taking the Abib (ripening barley) as an indicator of the beginning of the year. This is entirely consistent with Gen 1,14, for the ripening of the barley is dependent on the seasons of the year and therefore indirectly is controlled by the sun. Central factors, which cause the barley to ripen, are the lengthening of the days and the increasing sunlight, changes in humidity, and other factors which affect the environment. Therefore, it is the sun, which indirectly causes the barley to ripen, and thereby acts as an indicator of years. It is this indirect effect which causes the barley to become Abib which Gen 1,14 is referring to when it says the sun and moon will be for years.

It should be noted that the equinox is never mentioned in the entire Hebrew Bible. Gen 1,14, which has often been cited as proof of the equinox theory, does not mention the equinox either. On the contrary, the use of astronomical calculations for determining the time of the equinox, was in this period synonymous with the idolatrous practice of fortune telling and was certainly not practiced in ancient Israel (Isa 47,13).

Vernal Equinox and Tekufah

Q: Is the equinox (Tekufah) mentioned in the Tanach (Hebrew Bible)?

The claim has been made by proponents of the equinox calendar theory that the word equinox actually appears in the Tanach. They are referring to the word Tekufah or Teqfah which appears in the Hebrew Bible four times. Tekufah is in fact the post-Biblical word for “equinox”, however, it never has the meaning of “equinox” in the Tanach. In Biblical Hebrew, Tekufah retains its literal meaning of “circuit”, that is something which returns to the same point in time or space [from the root Nun.Quf.Pe. meaning “to go around”]. To claim that Tekufah means equinox in the Tanach, just because it had this meaning in later Hebrew, is an anachronism. This would be like saying that there were handguns in ancient Israel because the word EKDACH, the post-Biblical Hebrew word for handgun, appears in Isaiah 54:12. Let us consider another example of this anachronistic use of language: Before the invention of the electronic computer during World War II, the word “computer” referred to a man who sat at a desk calculating (computing) mathematical equations. Imagine if we found an 18th century document mentioning “computers” and proclaimed to the world that there were really electronic computers in the 18th century. This is exactly what the equinox-followers are doing with the word Tekufah. To better understand this, let us consider the four appearances of Tekufah in the Tanach.

Tekufah in Exodus 34:22

The first appearance of Tekufah is in the list of Pilgrimage-Feasts (Hagim) in Ex 34:22 which refers to the agricultural character of the Feast of Booths (Sukkot):

“And the Feast of Ingathering at the circuit of the year (Tekufat HaShannah).”

Being misled by the Post-Biblical Hebrew meaning of Tekufah, some have interpreted “circuit of the year” anachronistically to refer to the Autumnal Equinox (it is doubtful whether the ancient Israelites even knew of the equinox and they certainly had no way of calculating when it would be).

This anachronistic reading leads to the suggestion of fixing the beginning of the year so that Sukkot (The Feast of Ingathering) falls out at the time of the Autumnal Equinox. However, a closer investigation shows that “circuit of the year” has nothing to do with the equinox. The list of Pilgrimage-Feasts also appears in a parallel passage in Ex 23:16 which describes Sukkot as follows:

“And the Feast of Ingathering at the going out of the year (Tzet HaShannah), when you have gathered in your work from the field.”

Exodus 34 is actually an almost verbatim paraphrase of Exodus 23 and it is important to compare and contrast these two passages; the differences are often very enlightening. Comparing Ex 34:22 and Ex 23:16 it is clear that the “going out of the year” and the “circuit of the year” refer to the same time. The “going out/ circuit” of the year is described in Ex 23:16 as “when you have gathered in your work from the field”. This agricultural ingathering is also described in Dt 16:13:

“You shall keep the Feast of Booths for seven days, when you have gathered in from your threshing floors and from your wine presses.”

The Feast of Booths/ Ingathering is described as the “going out of the year” because it takes place at the end of the yearly agricultural cycle of planting, harvest, threshing, and ingathering. At the same time, Sukkot is described as taking place at the “circuit of the year” because once the agricultural cycle ends it then immediately recommences (making a circuit, returning to the same point in time) with the planting of the fields after the first rains (sometimes during or shortly after Sukkot itself).

Tekufah in Psalms 19:7

The term Tekufah (circuit) appears in Psalm 19 in reference to the sun, but here too it has nothing to do with the equinox. Psalm 19 describes the heavens and sun, which from their unique vantage point are witness to all things in creation, and thus (metaphorically) testify to the incomparable glory of God. Verses 5-7 describes the sun:

“(5)... He [YHWH] placed a tent among them [the heavens] for the sun. (6) Which is as a bridegroom going out of his chamber, and which rejoices as a strong man running a race. (7) From the end of the heavens is its [the sun’s] going out and its circuit (Tekufato) is to their [the heavens] ends, and none is hidden from its heat”

Verse 6 describes the sun as a bridegroom that bursts forth out of his chamber and as a hero that runs along a path. Verse 7 then describes the “going out” of the sun at one end of the heavens and the “circuit” (Tekufato) of the sun at the other end. Clearly what is being described is the daily path of the sun which rises at one end of the heaven (it’s going out) and sets at the other end (its return), “and none is hidden from its heat” during the course of the day. What has confused some readers is that the going out or exiting of the sun refers to sunrise, but this unusual terminology is used throughout the Tanach. For example, we read in Judges 5:31:

“Thus shall all the enemies of YHWH be destroyed; and all those whom he loves shall be as the going out of the sun (KeTzet HaShemesh) in its might”. (Jud 5,31)

Those loyal to YHWH shall shine forth with glory as the “going out of the sun”, that is sunrise. It may seem strange that sunrise is referred to as the “going out” of the sun. After all, in Exodus we saw that the going out of the year was the end of the year, whereas the going out of the sun is the beginning of the day. However, this is consistent with Biblical usage and in fact the common Biblical way of saying sunset is the coming in or entering of the sun. This is related to the ancient Israelite conception of the sun which at night was thought of as metaphorically dwelling in a celestial chamber (Ps 19:5). At dawn the sun goes out of this metaphorical chamber and the earth is lit while at night the sun comes into the metaphorical chamber and it is dark. This is also the thought behind the comparison of sunrise to a bridegroom coming forth from his chamber. Ps 19:7 refers to the going out of the sun (sunrise) at one end of heaven and its circuit (return to the same place, to its nightly chamber) at the other end, that is sunset (for a similar thought see Ecc 1:5). We see that here too Tekufah (circuit) has nothing to do with the equinox.

Tekufah in 2Chronicles 24:23

As seen above the “Tekufah (circuit) of the year” in Exodus referred to events in the autumn (the time of the ingathering). The same expression (circuit of the year) is also used to refer to events which take place in late spring as we see in 2Chr 24:23:

“And it was at the circuit (Tekufah) of the year that the army of Aram went up and they came to Judah and Jerusalem...”

In this instance the “Circuit (Tekufah) of the year” comes in place of the common expression “Return (Teshuvah) of the year” which appears several times in the Tanach as “the time when kings go out [to war]” as in:

“And it was at the return (Teshuvah) of the year, and Ben-Haddad counted Aram and went up to Afek to war with Israel.” (1Ki 20:26).

“And it was at the return (Teshuvah) of the year, at the time the kings go out [to war] and David sent Yoav... and they smote the Amonites and besieged Rabbah...” (2Sam 11:1)

The time that the kings went out to war was the late spring before the oppressive heat of summer and after the winter rains which made the mud roads in the Land of Israel impassable. We see here that Tekufah (circuit) of the year is used interchangeably with the more common Teshuvah (return) of the year. Whenever this annual set time for kings to go out to war comes around it is a “circuit of the year”, returning to the same point in time as last year.

Tekufah in 1Samuel 1:20

The term Tekufah (circuit) also appears in 1Sam 1:20 which says:

“And it was at the circuits (Tekufot) of the days, and Hannah conceived and bore a son...”

Here the “circuits” of the days refers to “the same time the following year” [or possibly to the completion of the term of pregnancy?]. It is worth noting that Tekufah is plural in 1Sam 1:20 as

tekufot “circuits”. If we apply the anachronistic meaning of Tekufah as equinox then we get the absurd translation: “And it was at the equinoxes of the days, and Hannah conceived and bore a son...” This emphasizes how important it is to understand Scripture in its historical and linguistic context.

None of the four appearances of Tekufah in the Hebrew Scripture have anything to do with the equinox. Instead, this term is used in Biblical Hebrew in its primary sense of a “circuit”, that is a return to the same point in space or time. Only in Post-Biblical Hebrew did Tekufah come to mean “equinox” and to read this meaning into the Tanach creates an anachronism.

Doesn't Josephus say that the New Year is determined based on the “1st of Aries”?

The “1st of Aries” is a reference to the Vernal Equinox and as seen above the Pharisees determined the New Year based on 3 factors, one of which was the Vernal Equinox. In his autobiography, Josephus himself informs us that he is a Pharisee, so it is not surprising that he should quote the Pharisee practice of intercalation. As is Josephus' practice he only gives the details of a which would be comprehensible to his pagan Greek readers. In this case Josephus does not mention the agricultural indicators of the New Year [according to the Pharisees the Abib and the Fruits] and only refers to the astrological indicators which his pagan audience would have been able to relate to. Josephus' repeating the Pharisee position on intercalation does not give it any more credence.

Now that we have proven our case that we need barley for the wave offering in the month of Abib, next week we will show why this is so important. It is so important that it blows me away each year as I think about it. Absolutely stunning, and to those who say we do not need to have barley and do not need to postpone the month if the barley is not ready, well they just have no clue how the plan of Yehovah is being worked out both in the past and in the near future.