

# Shefa Vineyard Report 2015

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 [sightedmoon.com/youve-read-the-2300-days-of-hell-now-what-are-you-going-to-do/](http://sightedmoon.com/youve-read-the-2300-days-of-hell-now-what-are-you-going-to-do/)

By Joseph F. Dumond

February 5, 2016

**(Extracted from News Letter 5851-049)**

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**26th day of the 11th month 5851 years after the creation of Adam  
The 11th Month in the Sixth year of the Third Sabbatical Cycle  
The Third Sabbatical Cycle after the 119th Jubilee Cycle  
The Sabbatical Cycle of Earthquakes, Famines and Pestilence  
The Year of the Tithe for the Widows, Orphans & Levites  
1 month to get ready for the Sabbatical year that begins at Aviv 2016**

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February 6, 2016

Shabbat Shalom Brethren,

Shefa Vineyard Report 2015

In the summer of 2012, we agreed with Boaz and Rinah Dreyer of Israel to plant a vineyard in the Negev Desert. This vineyard was to keep the Shmitta year of rest according to the Jewish reckoning. Sightedmoon.com agreed to sponsor a large portion of this project if we could lease the land until the next Jubilee year, 2045. We would also have our portion of the vineyard keep the Sabbatical year of rest according to our understanding. Two different Sabbatical years kept by two different sections of the same vineyard under the same conditions in real life.

In the fall of 2012 Boaz and Rinah and some volunteers planted 3,000 vines. Our friend “Sting Ray” was one of those who stayed on and did a lot of work laying out the water pipe system needed to water the vines. Our portion of this project would be 300 vines.

That spring of 2013 as the vines were just getting started, we suffered a great locust attack. You can read about this and see the picture on the [Shefa web site](#). This necessitated the replanting of the entire vineyard. Although 10% did survive I was told they were not identified as I had asked, making it impossible to know which vines were planted in 2012 or 2013. I was very disappointed.

This was to change some of our plans. Because a grapevine is considered to be a tree it must wait 3 years before you can take a harvest.

Lev 19:23 And when you shall come into the land, and shall have planted all kinds of trees for food, then you shall count the fruit of them as uncircumcised. It shall be uncircumcised three years to you. It shall not be eaten. 24 But in the fourth year all the fruit of them shall be holy to praise Jehovah. 25 And in the fifth year you shall eat of the fruit of it, so that it may yield to you its increase. I *am* Jehovah your God.

I believe the year begins at Aviv and Boaz believes it starts at Trumpets. By us planting in the fall of 2012, this would mean my 4<sup>th</sup> year would be the harvest of 2015. The year that just finished. But because of the locust and the replanting of the vines in the summer of 2013 and not marking those that did survive, our 4<sup>th</sup> year is now going to be in 2016, which is also the Sabbatical year.

We cannot harvest during the Sabbatical year. This now means that in 2017, when we can harvest, we will take all the fruit of the vines and give them to Yehovah. 100% of the fruit goes to Him. Yes, this would then be the 5<sup>th</sup> year, since planting.

We are told twice not to gather the grapes during the Sabbatical year. So, although we are to take all the fruit in the 4<sup>th</sup> year we must now wait one more year before we can give them to Yehovah.

Lev 25:5 You shall not reap that which grows of its own accord of your harvest, neither gather the grapes of your undressed vine. It is a year of rest to the land.

Lev 25:11 That fiftieth year shall be a jubilee to you. You shall not sow, neither reap that which grows of itself in it, nor gather in it of your undressed vine.

I have written Boaz and advised him in January of 2016 that we intend to keep the Sabbatical year and our 4 rows of vines are not to be harvested or pruned this coming year. He can prune them up until the first of Aviv and Boaz has agreed to have our rows pruned in February before the Sabbatical year begins. We also advised him that next year he will not be able to prune the vines until after the first of Aviv 2017. Because Boaz is doing our work for us on our vines we have also agreed to give him 50% of our vines in return for his labour on our behalf, when we can begin to harvest.

Now let me share with you the information about the vineyard that Shefa Israel has posted. You can also see the pictures of the plot of desert we began with and what it looks like now [on our web site](#) or Shefa Israel.

I also want to point out that since we planted the vineyard in 2012, this area of the Negev has had rain, floods and snow which it has not had for many many year before. Just one of the many blessing Yehovah has bestowed on us.

A few more things that I want to point out. This part of the Negev is the same area to which the two spies came and took back a bunch of grapes. A single cluster which they had to carry between the two of them. It is also in this area that the Israelite's sojourned after they left Mount Sinai. There are carvings not far away from the vineyard showing Moses with the Ten

Commandments. Also nearby are the well of Moses and the well of Aaron. The Well of Abraham's sister-in-law and niece is also near our vineyard and it is her well that the town is named after. Be'er Milkah is the well of Milcah. Milcah is also the grandmother of Rebecca who married Isaac.

Gen 11:29 And Abram and Nahor took wives for themselves. The name of Abram's wife was Sarai. And the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran, the father of Milcah, and the father of Iscah.

Isaac's well and Jacob's well are also near this area.

Gen 26:18 And Isaac dug again the wells of water which they had dug in the days of Abraham his father; for the Philistines had stopped them after the death of Abraham. And he called their names after the names by which his father had called them. 19 And Isaac's servants dug in the valley, and found there a well of flowing water. 20 And the herdsmen of Gerar strove with Isaac's herdsmen, saying, The water is ours. And he called the name of the well Contention, because they strove with him.

Gen 26:25 And he built an altar there, and called upon the name of Jehovah, and pitched his tent there. And Isaac's servants dug a well there.

Gen 26:32 And the same day it happened, Isaac's servants came and told him about the well which they had dug. And they said to him, We have found water. 33 And he called it Shebah. Therefore the name of the city *is* The Well of Sheba to this day.

Today Beer Sheba is about 1 hour east of our vineyard.

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The end of the summer in 2015 marks the end of the Sabbatical year in Israel as well as the end of our third growing year. All three varieties are well established and prepared to produce their first year of fruit in 2016, It has been a lot of hard work coping with extreme summer temperatures – the highest in years – and rising costs. It is but by the Grace of HASHEM that we have made it this far!

The vineyard is not only our pride and joy but also a tangible fulfillment of Biblical prophecy. As of July 2013 we completed the replanting of the vineyard after our disastrous winter and spring seasons with the locust plague. We now have 2,250 vines of 3 varieties. They include; Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Shiraz or Syrah.

We could not be where we are today without the help of many individuals. People of all backgrounds and traditions, united by a love for the Land and the people of Israel, came together to help us make this all possible.

It is to our Almighty Creator that we give all the thanks, glory and praise.

*The wilderness and the desert shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the Havatzelet. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice, even joy and singing; the glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the honor of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of HASHEM, the majesty of Elohim. Make the weak hands strong and make the feeble knees sure.” Isa. 35:1-3*



Since 1996 we have strived to fulfill the vision shared with us by our Creator, to plant a vineyard in the desert. It has been a humbling privilege to work with so many people who have a heart and a calling to the Land of Israel and are prepared to put their hands and feet where their hearts are.

From almost every corner of the world we have received support for our vineyard. This support has come to us in prayer, in finances and in hard labor, and without the active intervention of the people who support Sighted Moon we would not be where we are today. We have agreed to do a Sabbatical Year or '*Shmitta*' experiment with Joe Dumond.

The purpose of this experiment is to ask the Creator to show us the significance of the *Shmitta*. We are going to keep the *Shmitta* along with everybody else in Israel except for 4 rows of the vineyard that will keep the *Shmitta* according to Joe Dumond's calculation. We are not wanting to put the Creator to the test, as this is only in the area of the '*asarit*' or tenth that we are permitted to test Him. By keeping a portion of the vineyard according to Joe's calculations and the rest according to the Rabbinic decree we believe that the Creator will show us what we are to do in the future.

A miracle in this whole experiment has already happened! Two people (Joe and Boaz) who would normally not have too much in common are now working together with the common goal of wanting to know the truth and HASHEM's heart. Not only that but have formed a bond of mutual respect for one another. In short, the fulfillment of the greatest command of all "*Shema Israel and love your brother*".

Last spring Boaz and I had a very strong disagreement, which is putting it mildly. Again, this is over our different understandings of Torah. But we have rectified those differences and continue to work together as we had originally agreed to do. I have learned a number of things from Boaz and Rinah and they have also learned some from me. It is truly a miracle that we are able to work together.

Here is their latest update as of January 2016.

It seems to be that prayers are answered. After years of trusting HASHEM to fulfill the vision of a vineyard He gave us so many years ago, it is finally happening and this summer (of 2016) will see our first harvest. Baruch HASHEM!

Our thanks go to all the people that have made it possible for us to get this far. Those who heard us and have stood with us since 2006. It has been an honor to serve our Creator and see His provision through this time.

The release of our first wines will be in 2017, of which an 'asarit' – our tithe – will be given as it is holy to HASHEM. It also coincides with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem.

The growth and development in this last year has astounded even the experts and we can only put it down to the fact that we observed, along with the rest of the Nation of Israel, our Sabbatical or *Shmita* year.



## Sighted Moon

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We give thanks to HASHEM for bringing Joe Dumond and those who follow his teaching on 'Sighted Moon' across our path. Being both Jewish and Israeli citizens we, in order to maintain our kosher status, observe the Sabbatical year as ordained in Israel. Joe approached us with his own calculation as to when he thought the Sabbatical year should be and when the agricultural year should start. We are commanded not to test the Creator but we agreed to set part of the vineyard aside to apply Joe's theory in practice. At the time of writing we are still awaiting Joe's date for the start of his Sabbatical cycle. We will follow his instructions and then compare the results between the Jewish/Israeli Sabbatical cycle and Joe's calculation.

Our desire is that the results and differences will help to bring about clarity regarding the mitzvah of the Shmitta and to bring unity between the divided houses.

Those calculations are explained in our book *Remembering the Sabbatical Year of 2016*, which all of you need to get and study. Boaz looked at these calculations and could not prove

them false. It was after this that they decided to do this experiment with me, trusting Yehovah to show us the difference by the fruits. We will see if Yehovah does do this.

## How can you help?

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This year we are facing rising growing costs. Rina and I do not take a salary in any form from the vineyard. In particular, our water costs this year will be almost three times our original budgeted amounts. We ask that you help us to meet the costs and to see this magnificent prophecy be fulfilled. Donations can be made through [www.sightedmoon.com](http://www.sightedmoon.com) or [www.shefaisrael.com](http://www.shefaisrael.com)

I ask that you label your donations to the vineyard as such and that we do it through [sightedmoon.com](http://sightedmoon.com) to continue to show where the support for this project comes from.

## DOUBLE 'T' TRELLISING

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To help beat the heat of the desert and delay our ripening time, we have developed a unique type of tiered trellising. By controlling our shade canopy, we hope to have our grapes ripen at the same time as the rest of the country just before Sukkot. We believe that by lengthening our ripening process we will achieve both good sugar levels as well as improved skin density resulting in premium quality grapes.

### Trellising

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Because of our extreme temperatures and abundant sun, our vines tend to ripen too soon and canopy cover management becomes very important. After extensive research and the addition of local knowledge, we designed our unique version of what we call double 'T' trellising. This is aimed at achieving two goals. Firstly to let nature provide the canopy cover by not having to disturb the grapes during their growing period and by adding more fruit to the vine. These two factors should give us more fruit and a longer ripening period meaning higher quality skins. Next year will tell if this has been successful and whether or not we will have to make changes to the system.

### Next Year's harvest (2016 for Boaz)

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To say that we are excited about next year would be an understatement! All of our advisory professionals are also very enthusiastic about a very promising high quality harvest. Of course we are but co-workers with HASHEM and He will ultimately decide!

The harvest should take place around the end of August but we cannot be sure as the weather and our new trellis system will affect the norm – if there is one in the desert!

At this point we would like to thank all those who have helped to get through this vital year. The volunteer workers, the donors and the well-wishers have all had an important part in the battle against the weeds and the elements. B'Ezrat HASHEM we have succeeded! Looking forward to next season with great expectations