

## **MORE BARLEY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

I want to continue to train you in how to judge the reports that come from Israel so you can know. You must judge. You are not to let someone tell you whether or not the barley is aviv. You judge. Then you will know. Before you can judge you must understand how various groups judge whether the year begins this month as in the Karaites or whether it began last month.

I am not asking you to believe me or trust me. I am asking you to learn how to judge and how to examine the evidence provided to discover the truth.

Devorah has provided us with more evidence. I want you to examine it and know that she is in fact confirming our position that Passover was in fact last month.

To begin to understand you must be educated on the barley. My friend Norman Willis put out a video last year when I was in Israel and he has done a very good job in this video. So please listen to what he says and understand how the Karaite position is changing and has changed over the years. Click this link to watch and watch it a number of times if you need to. It is important.

This past week Devorah came out with her Barley report. I noticed something at the 2-minute mark that I thought was amazing. Yet Devorah does not comment on it.

Let me show you two screenshots I took and you judge. This is a section of brown barley and she has randomly grabbed one stalk to show you how ripe it is. But look at the stalk. Look at it before you continue to read. What do you see?



### Barley Inspection Report - March 16 & 19, 2023



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The head is already shattered. That is, the top of the stalk is already missing. It has begun to reseed itself. Then as I looked at this picture over again, I noticed another stalk that Devorah does not choose. So I took another screenshot of it for you to see. Remember that those following the Karaite timing for the barley still have 25 more days from when the video was taken until Wave Sheaf Day on April 9, 2023, according to their own schedule.



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1:59 / 48:36

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When you get to the ripe barley sections, she shows you around 20:50 stop the video and you examine the barley. I can clearly see many other heads that have already shattered. Can you?

Why is this so important to know and to understand and to be able to explain? Because from the month of green ears, not the month of brown ears, not the month the equinox is in. No Yehovah clearly said from the month of green ears, the first fruits, the very first fruits you shall offer. And from that point, you can now count to all your Holy Days in Lev 23. But if you get it wrong, then you will keep all the Holy Days at the wrong time.

It was important for you to change from the Hillel Calendar to the Barley and Crescent moon. I understand how hard that was. Now you must drill down and perfect your understanding more, so you can obey Yehovah and keep the Holy Days according to His timing. Not so they line up or are close to the Hillel which is now getting further and further out of sync according to their own authorities.

This is your assignment this week. Watch and learn how the two groups judge the barley in the video above and then you judge the report Devorah has submitted yourself and you decide. I am not even going to put up the evidence that Becca Biderman and Randy Cates posted about the barley being Aviv LAST MONTH. YES, LAST MONTH. Let's not even use that published information. Let us just use the understanding from Norman Willis above and then use that with the evidence Devorah has now provided. By doing so you should be able to come to a very simple conclusion knowing that there are still 25 days until Wave Sheaf Day. And that conclusion men and women of Yehovah's jury is simple. The first fruits of the barley harvest have already passed. and if we wait another 25 days these too will be lost. But please do not let me lead the jury here. Judge for yourselves.

Also I want you to keep in mind what the word Aviv means.

Strong's Dictionary of Hebrew Words:

Number:

24 (find all occurrences in KJV Bible)

Transliteration:

'abiyb

Phonic:

aw-beeb'

Meaning:

from an unused root (meaning to be tender); green, i.e. a young ear of grain; hence, the name of the month Abib or Nisan

KJV Usage:

Abib, ear, green ears of corn (not maize)

Jackson's Dictionary of Scripture Proper Names:

green ear (of corn)

Potts' Bible Proper Names:

Green ears of corn:—first month of Jewish sacred year

And as you watch the video make note of the brown or golden ears of grains. So is it the month of golden ears?

Devorah has also sent out her update this week to answer specific questions she is getting. Here they are. Again I am posting this here for you to judge. For you to see through what is false information and what is true.

Please make us aware of what you have determined in the comments below. Show the world you know how to judge the barley and when to keep Yehovah's Feasts. She makes 9 statements below. Which are true and which are false and why? Please include the why. Numbers 5 and 6 should be of interest to all of you.

### **1 What is Chodesh HaAviv?**

Chodesh HaAviv (Month of the Aviv) is a descriptive name for the first month of the year (Ex 13:3-4, Ex 23:15, Ex 34:18, Dt 16:1), It's when the barley fields are Aviv and ready to be harvested (Ex 9:31, Lev 23:10, Lev 23:14, Joshua 5:10-12).

### **2 Why is it important to start the year in Chodesh HaAviv?**

Chodesh HaAviv needs to always be the first month of the year (Ex 13:3-4, Ex 23:15, Ex 34:18, Dt 16:1), this ensures that we celebrate Chag HaMatzot (Feast of Unleavened Bread) at the time of year we were taken out of Egypt (Ex 9:31, Ex 12:1-2, Ex 12:17, Ex 13:1-10, Ex 23:15, Ex 34:18, Dt 16:1). This genius system keeps the calendar/feasts in sync with the agricultural (solar) cycle.

### **3 Where does the barley grow in Israel?**

Israel is a very small country with lots of different climates, and you can find volunteer barley pretty much all over. Barley, which doesn't like a lot of water, is grown commercially in the Negev and Beit Shean regions, which are particularly arid and so the barley ripens quickly. We also know they grew barley in the Jordan Valley (Joshua 5:10-12) and it's all over Jerusalem, which is one of the last places the barley ripens due to its high altitude.

### **4 Is Chodesh HaAviv when the first fields are Aviv or when the last fields are Aviv?**

Lev 23:9-14, Ex 23:14-19, and Dt 16:16-17 seem to indicate that we are supposed to have harvestable fields throughout the Land of Israel (Lev 23:14), so that at everyone can bring the omer of their harvest on Yom HaNafat HaOmer (The Day of the Wave Sheaf Offering).

### **5 Can we harvest before Yom HaNafat HaOmer?**

Understanding Dt 16:9 in its context (Dt 16:9-12) it seems clear that the verse is talking about Chag HaShavuot (Feast of Weeks), being seven weeks from when the grain harvest begins, i.e. from when we harvested the barley, which is the first of the winter crops to ripen, and not implying that there is prohibition again harvesting before Yom HaNafat HaOmer. In fact, we clearly need to harvest before Yom HaNafat HaOmer:

1. We need to harvest before Yom HaNafat HaOmer, in order to bring the reshith (firstfruits) of our harvest for the Wave Offering (Lev 23:10).
2. We are prohibited from eating from the harvest before Yom HaNafat HaOmer (Lev 10:14), which implies the harvest has already begun.
3. The descriptive name for the first month, Chodesh HaAviv (Month of the Aviv), suggests that this is the month when the fields are Aviv, i.e. ready to be harvested (Ex 31:9, Lev 23:10, Lev 23:14, Joshua 5:10-12), and the fields need to be harvested when they become ripe (Mark 4:29) or they will shatter, meaning the heads become so dry and brittle they fall to the ground.
4. It's common that we don't find any Aviv Barley at what would have theoretically been Yom HaNafat HaOmer the previous month, but then we have shattered heads, by Yom HaNafat HaOmer the following month, so obviously we are expected to harvest before Yom HaNafat HaOmer.

### **6 When do the fields need to be Aviv by?**

Some think the fields need to be Aviv by the beginning of the month, as it is called CHODESH HaAviv (MONTH of the Aviv), while others say the fields need to be Aviv by the 10th of the first month, when the men would choose a lamb (Ex 12:3), take the omer of their harvest (Lev 23:10), and start heading up to the Temple to bring the Passover sacrifice.

### **7 Are barley fields harvested all at once?**

Barley fields are harvested by going from one end to the other, although this can take time if it's a large field (they are not harvested in patches). The development of a cultivated barley field is much more uniform, than some of the volunteer fields we find.

### **8 Are there lambs and kids at this time?**

On our inspection we saw lots of lambs and kids, including one kid which was born that morning. In fact, the shepherd was carrying the baby goat around, as he could barely stand up while the heard grazed, and the mother goat was trailing close behind with the afterbirth half our of her.

### **9 What is the weather like there now?**

We have had a lot of heavy rain lately throughout the country. Here is the accumulated rainfall from the past 6 days (Friday March 17, 2023-Wednesday March 22, 2023), as well as the temperature today (March 23, 2023):

Northwestern Negev – 140mm (11-23 Celsius)

Beit Shean Region – 11mm (13-25 Celsius)

Jerusalem – 50mm (12-19 Celsius)

\* Remember, farmers can't harvest if it's still raining, as it requires leaving the sheaves out to dry, as well as threshing and winnowing outside. If it rains after the barley is harvested, it will become moldy.

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After I posted the information above, I then received the following report from Devorah's Date Tree. I really do not want to post it. But I have asked you all to learn how to judge. Sadly this report from Devorah is going to ruin their credibility going forward. And I regret seeing this. But you are to learn how to judge. So read it and watch the videos and then judge. I have posted this at 8:38 Eastern so it has been added after some of you may have already read it.

*Dear Friends,*

*I was a surprised to see how many of you are asking when I'm planning on beginning the year, as I thought it was clear from what I've been sharing that with you, but for those who would like it spell it out more explicitly, here we go.*

***Does the year begin when the harvest has started throughout the Land?***

*When I read Lev 23:9-14, I see that everyone is supposed to bring an omer of the reshit (best) of their harvest to the priest, and that this is to be done in all of our settlements (Lev 23:14). This coincides with that fact that we know that everyone is supposed to bring the reshit (best) of their harvest to the Temple on the three harvest festivals (Ex 23:14-19, Dt 16:16-17). Therefore, I would like to see a significant amount of Aviv in the Jordan Valley / Plains of Jericho, which we know should be harvest-ready by Chag HaMatzot (Feast of Unleavened Bread) (Joshua 5:10-12) and Jerusalem, as it's one of the last regions for the barely to ripen and we know everyone is supposed to bring an omer of the reshit (best) of their harvest to the priest (Ex 23:15, Lev 23:14, Dt 16:16-17).*

***What is your understanding of Dt 16:9?***

*When I read Dt 16:9 in its context (Dt 16:9-12), I see the verse talking about Chag HaShavuot (Feast of Weeks) being seven weeks from when the grain harvest begins. The verse is obviously referring to the seven-week count from Yom HaNafat HaOmer (The Day of the Wave Sheaf Offering) (Leviticus 23:15-*



16), which celebrate the beginning of the grain harvest, the barley, which is the first of the winter crops to ripen.

### **Is there a prohibition to harvest before Yom HaNafat HaOmer?**

There is no prohibition against harvesting before Yom HaNafat HaOmer. In fact, we clearly need to harvest before Yom HaNafat HaOmer, in order to bring the *reshit* (best) of our harvest for the Wave Offering (Lev 23:10). Not to mention that as the name suggests, *Chodesh HaAviv* (Month of the Aviv) is the month when the fields are Aviv, i.e. ready to be harvested (Ex 31:9, Lev 23:10, Lev 23:14, Joshua 5:10-12), and the fields need to be harvested when they become ripe (Mark 4:29) or they will shatter, meaning the heads will become so dry and brittle they fall to the ground. In fact, it's common that we don't find any Aviv Barley at what would have theoretically been Yom HaNafat HaOmer the previous month, but then we have shattered heads, by Yom HaNafat HaOmer the following month, so obviously we are expected to harvest before Yom HaNafat HaOmer.

### **What does "reshit" mean?**

In Lev 23:10 we are told that when we have harvested the harvest, we are to bring an omer of the "reshit of our harvest" to the priest. The word "reshit" is found interchangeably with the word "bikkurim", and sometimes the two words are even found next to each other (Ex 23:19, Ex 34:26). Although, "reshit" and "bikkurim" literally mean first (Gen 1:1), because the first is considered special/chosen (Ex 4:21-23, Dt 21:15-17), these words are often used to refer to the best (Jeremiah 49:35). So in Lev 23:10 we are instructed that after we have harvested the harvest, to bring an omer of the best of the harvest to the priest (some say this is referring to the fresh harvest, as opposed to produce that's been sitting in the silo), and we know it's not pleasing to Yehovah when we don't give Him the best of our harvest (Gen 4:1-5).

### **Was the New Moon Sighted on March 22, 2023?**

The New Moon was not sighted on March 22, 2023, from Israel, and I don't think we are supposed to assume that atmospheric obstructions (aka "Acts of God"), such as overcast, are a mistake. Rather I believe we are supposed to look for the New Moon and trust that if we are meant to see it, it will be revealed. That's what I believe the ancient Israelites would have done.

### **How do we know the New Moon must be sighted from Israel?**

The Biblical Calendar is based on the development of the barley crop, and the New Moon being sighted, in Israel (Dt 6:1). In fact, the Biblical Calendar

doesn't work properly if one tries to establish it based on signs outside of the Land (Gen 1:14). For example, if someone in Australia were to begin the year based on the local barley crop, they would end up starting the year six months after they are supposed to. Likewise, if the stars were too low for the New Moon to be sighted in Israel, but someone decided to start the month based on the moon being sighted in another country, that would lead them to keep the holidays on the wrong day.

**Are you planning on doing a second inspection?**

We have no current plans to carry out a second inspection, but if you'd like us to inspect any fields again, let us know which fields/region, and what date you would like us to go out, and we'll see whether we can accommodate that.

**When are you planning on begging the year?**

As I'm not impressed with the current state of maturity of the barley crop in the Jordan Valley nor Jerusalem, and we are expecting more heavy rain in both these regions this weekend, I don't think we will have harvestable fields in there in time for Chag HaMatzot to be this month, and so I'm leaning towards beginning the year next month.

On March 26, Devorah sent out the following email to again justify her position. Micahel Rood and Arthur Bailey have split from Devorah and will be keeping Passover this coming April 7, 2023. They will not add an Adar Bet as Devorah is.

Dear Friends,

I understand that some of you have been thinking about whether we are supposed to begin the year based on the earlier or later developing regions, and so I thought I'd share some of my thoughts on this with you. When I read Lev 23:9-14, I see that all the verbs are "you (pl)", which may suggest that everyone is supposed to bring an omer of the reshit of their harvest to the priest. In fact, it specifically says that we are supposed to do this "in all our generations, in all our settlements" (Lev 23:14). Suggesting that as we multiply and expand throughout the country, we still all need to bring an omer of the reshit of our harvest to the priest for Yom HaNafat HaOmer (The Day of the Wave Sheaf Offering). This understanding is further supported by Ex 23:14-19 and Dt 16:16-17, which states that everyone is supposed to bring the reshit of their harvest to the Temple on the three

harvest festivals. How can they do this, if the festival starts before the barely has finished developing throughout the land?

**Was the omer a national offering brought from the first Aviv field in the Land?**

I don't see that when I read Lev 23:9-14, Ex 23:14-19, and Dt 16:16-17, but if that is your understanding, by all means start the year based on the earliest field in the Land.

**What is the "reshit" of our harvest?**

In Lev 23:10 we are told that when we have harvested our harvest, we are to bring an omer of the "reshit of our harvest" to the priest. "Reshit" literally means "first" (Gen 1:1), therefore some think this means that when we start harvesting, we are to put an omer of that in a basket (Dt 26:1-11) and bring it with us when we go up to the Temple. Others think "reshit" here means "best" of our harvest, based on the fact that "bikkurim" which also literally means "first", is also used to refer to something that is special/chosen (Ex 4:21-23, Dt 21:15-17), and we see "reshit" used in this way as well (Jeremiah 49:35). We also know it's not pleasing to Yehovah when we don't give Him the best of our produce (Gen 4:1-5). In my study, I have found "reshit" and "bikkurim" to be used interchangeably and didn't find any significance that the word "reshit" is used in reference to Chag HaMatzot (Feast of Weeks) (Lev 23:10), and the word "bikkurim" used in reference to Chag HaShuvaot (Feast of Weeks) (Ex 34:22). In fact, sometimes the two words are used together (Ex 23:19, Ex 34:26).

**What is your understanding of Dt 16:9?**

When I read Dt 16:9 in its context (Dt 16:9-12), we see that Chag HaShavuot (Feast of Weeks) is seven weeks from when the grain harvest begins. The verse is obviously referring to the seven-week count from Yom HaNafat HaOmer (The Day of the Wave Sheaf Offering) (Leviticus 23:15-16), which celebrates the beginning of the grain harvest, the barley, which is the first of the winter crops to ripen.

**Is there a prohibition against harvesting before Yom HaNafat HaOmer?**

I do not see any prohibition against harvesting before Yom HaNafat HaOmer. In fact, we clearly need to harvest before Yom HaNafat HaOmer, in order to bring the reshit (best) of our harvest for the Wave Offering (Lev 23:10). Not to mention that as the name suggests, Chodesh HaAviv (Month of the Aviv) is the month when the fields are Aviv, i.e. ready to be harvested (Ex 31:9, Lev

23:10, Lev 23:14, Joshua 5:10-12), and the fields need to be harvested when they become ripe (Mark 4:29) or they will shatter, meaning the heads will become so dry and brittle they fall to the ground. In fact, it's common that we don't find any Aviv Barley at what would have theoretically been Yom HaNafat HaOmer the previous month, but then we have shattered heads, by Yom HaNafat HaOmer the following month, so obviously we are expected to harvest before Yom HaNafat HaOmer.

### **Can we have two consecutive 13-month years?**

I tend to think that you wouldn't have two consecutive 13-month years, unless you changed a criterion of how you determined when to start the year, from one year to the next.

### **Is there a video of your inspection?**

You are invited to [watch](#) an overview of the Barley Inspection we carried out on March 16 & 19, 2023 (descriptions of the fields and video timestamps can be found in the description box below the video).

### **Are you related to Nehemia Gordon?**

Nehemia and I were married many years ago and have been divorced for some 20 years. I was an avid participant in the New Moon Observations and Barley Inspections Nehemia would organize, and when Nehemia decided to step down from working on the Biblical Calendar, I chose to step up and continue this important work. Like many of us, I have learned much from Nehemia, but my understandings may differ from his on some issues. Also, I have noticed some of you confuse me with Dev Arndt-Daniel, that works with Nehemia at his headquarters in Texas, while we have same first name, we are different people. In fact, there is no connection between Nehemia's ministry and the work our team does to restore the Biblical Calendar with the help of your support.

On Friday, April 7, 2023, Again Devorah posted the following to justify her position for keeping Passover Next month in May.

Dear Friends,

An important passage to understand when it comes to deciding when to begin the year is Lev 23:9-14, so let's take a look at it together.

ט (וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה, אֶל-מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר). י (דַּבֵּר אֶל-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְאָמַרְתָּ אֲלֵהֶם, כִּי-תִבְאוּ אֶל-הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר אָנֹכִי נֹתֵן לָכֶם, וּקְצַרְתֶּם אֶת-קִצְרֵיהָ-וְהִבַּאתֶם אֶת-עֹמֶר ראשית קצירכם, אֶל-הַכֹּהֵן.) יא (וְהִנִּיף אֶת-הָעֹמֶר לִפְנֵי יְהוָה, לְרִצְוֹנְכֶם; מִמַּחֲרַת, הַשַּׁבָּת, יְנִיפוּ, הַכֹּהֵן.) יב (וַעֲשִׂיתֶם, בְּיוֹם הַנִּיפְכֶם אֶת-הָעֹמֶר, כְּבָשׁ

תמים בן-שנתו לעלה, ליהנה) יג. (ומנחתו שני עשרנים סלת בלולה בשמן, אשה ליהנה-ריח ניחם ונסכה יין, רביעת ההין) יד. (ולחם וקלי וכרמל לא תאכלו, עד-עצם היום הזה-עד הביאכם, את-קרבן אלהיכם: חקת עולם לדרתיכם, בכל משבתיכם) ויקרא כג:ט-יד)

(9) And Yehovah said to Moses, (10) "Speak to the Children of Israel and say to them, when you (pl) come into the land which I give to you (pl), and **YOU HARVEST ITS HARVEST (pl), BRING (pl)** an omer (sheaf) of the reshit (first/ best) of **YOUR HARVEST (pl)** to the priest. (11) He is to wave the sheaf before the Lord so it will be accepted on YOUR (pl) behalf ; the priest is to wave it on the day after the Sabbath. (12) On the day YOU (pl) wave the sheaf, you must sacrifice as a burnt offering to YEHOVAH a lamb a year old without defect, (13) together with its grain offering of two-tenths of an ephah of the finest flour mixed with olive oil—a food offering presented to YEHOVAH, a pleasing aroma—and its drink offering of a quarter of a hin of wine. (14) YOU MUST NOT EAT (pl) any bread, or roasted or new grain, until the very day YOU BRING (pl) this offering to your God. This is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come, WHEREVER YOU LIVE (pl). (Lev 23:9-14)

### **Does everyone need to bring an omer to the priest?**

It seems to me, based on the following, that everyone is supposed to bring an omer of the reshit (first/best) of their harvest to the priest on Chag HaMatzot (Feat of Unleavened Bread):

1. The commandment that we are to bring an omer of the reshit (first/best) of our harvest to the priest is written in "you (pl)", suggesting that the commandment is directed at all of us (Lev 23:10).
2. We see the expression "wherever you live", both in regards to Yom HaNafat HaOmer (Lev 23:14) and Shavuot (Lev 23:17), and in Lev 23:17 it clearly means that everyone is supposed to bring the offering.
3. We know everyone is expected to bring the reshit of their harvest on the three harvest festivals (Ex 23:14-19, Dt 16:16-17).

### **What is the "reshit" of our harvest?**

"Reshit" (Gen 1:1) and "bikkurim" literally mean "first", and by extension they are sometimes used to mean "special/chosen" (Ex 4:21-23, Dt 21:15-17, Jeremiah 49:35). Therefore, the commandment seems to either mean that when we harvest, we are to put the first omer aside in a basket and bring it with us when we go up to the Temple (Dt 26:1-11), or it may mean that we are to bring the "best" of our harvest (Gen 4:1-5, Jeremiah 49:35). Either way, it's clear that "reshit" is not the first patch of barley that ripens in all the Land, or

even the first patch that ripens in your field, but rather it's taken from the harvested field (Lev 23:10). Also, it should be noted that "reshit" and "bikkurim" are used interchangeably, and there doesn't seem to be any significance that the word "reshit" is used in Lev 23:10 and "bikkurim" is used in Ex 34:22. In fact, sometimes the two words are used together (Ex 23:19, Ex 34:26).

### **Can we harvest before Yom HaNafat HaOmer?**

Some seem to think that Dt 16:9 means that we can't harvest before Yom HaNafat HaOmer (The Day of the Wave Sheaf Offering), however it seems to me, that it is using the phrase "from when the sickle begins on the standing grain" to refer to Yom HaNafat HaOmer, because it is contrasting between Yom HaNafat HaOmer, which celebrates the beginning of the grain harvest, with the Shavuot (Feast of Weeks), which celebrates the end of the grain harvest. Furthermore, how can it be forbidden to harvest before Yom HaNafat HaOmer, when we need to harvest in order to bring the reshita (first/best) of our harvest for the Wave Offering (Lev 23:10)? Not to mention that, Chodesh HaAviv (Month of the Aviv) is the month when the fields are Aviv, i.e. ready to be harvested (Ex 31:9, Lev 23:10, Lev 23:14, Joshua 5:10-12), and the fields need to be harvested when they become ripe (Mark 4:29), or they will shatter (the heads will eventually become so dry and brittle that they fall to the ground). I don't see any prohibition against harvesting before Yom HaNafat HaOmer, only eating from the harvest before the wave offering is brought (Lev 23:14).

### **Cultivated vs Volunteer Fields**

I prefer to look at cultivated fields when it comes to deciding when to begin the year, because we know the ancient Israelites sowed their seeds (Ex 23:10, Ex 23:16). A cultivated field is one in which the crop is rotated (this prevents the soil from inevitably losing the nutrients the crop needs), the soil is tilled (this breaks up crusted soil, mixes organic matter into the soil, and helps control weeds), the seeds are planted evenly (this prevents the stalks from multiplying too closely together which causes suffocation), and the crop is irrigated (this prevents the crop from feeling it needs to ripen quickly before the seed finishes filling out, we even have archeological evidence that they would use canals, ditches, and channels to move water for irrigation). In contrast, because volunteer fields don't have any of the above, the stalks are very flimsy, the seed will often be very thin, the heads easily break, and the field ripens in patches depending on where there is more stress. We see all the above to varying degrees, in different volunteer fields. Some are not as

*bad as others, but I think it's something we should be aware of when deciding which fields to base the beginning of the year, as we don't want to begin the year based on an unhealthy field, which is giving skewed results.*

***Was the barley crop developed enough this month?***

*On March 30, 2023 (Day 7 of the Biblical Month), we inspected the Jordan Valley and Beit Shean regions. We like to inspect these regions, because we know the Jordan Valley (plains of Jericho) had harvest-ready fields by Chag HaMatzot (Feast of Unleavened Bread) (Joshua 5:10-12), and the Beit Shean Region, which is adjacent (just North) of the Jordan Valley, is very conducive for growing barley. In fact, it's one of only two regions in which barley is grown commercially today in Israel (the other being the Negev). On our inspection, I did not find the fields in these regions to be harvest-ready, which is not so surprising given all the rain and cold weather we have been having (it even rained when we were there and poured on our way back). As I believe these regions should be more developed in the first month, I decided to begin the year with the upcoming New Moon observation (April 20/21, 2023). However, that is merely my opinion, and I encourage you to [watch](#) the video of our inspection, do your own Bible study, and make your own conclusion on when to begin the year.*

***Can we have two consecutive 13-month years?***

*I tend to think that we wouldn't have two consecutive 13-month years in a row, unless we changed a criterion of when to begin the year from one year to the next, which can happen as we better understand the Biblical Calendar. Others think it's completely plausible to have two consecutive 13-month years in a row, as the year simply begins based on the weather, which can vary from year to year.*