

# YAIY NEWS



These are  
the appointed times of  
Yahweh, holy convocations  
which you shall  
proclaim at the times  
appointed for them.

Leviticus 23:4 NASB

## Determination of Abib

What is the Scriptural and historical determination of *Abib*? *Abib* (H24, Sephardic pronunciation) is a term used in Scripture describing early growth or matured grain, depending on context. It is the latter, which is a marker in determining the month of *Abib*. It is the start of a Biblical New Year, which is in conjunction with the new moon (1st new moon of the year). Just as there can be either 29-30 days in a month, by visual observation of the new moons, there can also be either a 1st or 13th month declared (i.e., each year having 12 or 13 months). This is done by observation, looking to wild fields of barley, and to see generally if the majority of each field is in a mature state. The basic principle of confirmation should be by two or three witnesses (Deut. 17:6a).

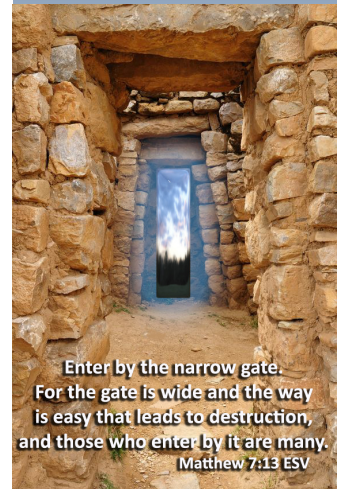


The Jews have followed Rabbi Hillel's Hebrew calendar for years and it ignores the zodiac of Babylon and Egypt. It is quite apparent that Yahweh has honored the Hebrew calendar. When a leap year (*ve adar*) is added, done seven times in a 19 year Metonic cycle to keep the Appointed Times (*Moedim*) in their proper seasons, *Abib* is delayed like clockwork. If this was not the case, the Feast Days would go through all seasons of the year as do the Islamic holy days. Passover, for example, would come in the spring, summer, fall and winter and back to spring in 19 years. When a leap year is added the warm thermal days are few; spring is cooler and drawn out. Cool rains and overall temperatures delay the growth of the barley so the appearance of near harvestable barley is postponed until the next new moon. The "*dehioth*" (postponements) in the current Hebrew calendar may re-position the days a bit. However, it is unlikely the Jews would be off an entire month in anticipation of Yahshua's appearance (e.g., Day of Trumpets).

The following Scriptural references should be prayerfully considered:

### Abib New Year: "Harvestable" Barley Fields

Visual "ears" (H24 *abib*) of wild barley (firm dough stage) are needed to declare a new year (Exod. 9:31-32; 12:2; Deut. 16:1). Wild barley (natural growth) is needed, but domesticated/cultivated on raised/tilled rows is not needed, i.e., no added compost, manure, chemical sprays, own watering system, etc. (Deut. 11:10-11). Yahweh gives rain in Israel, in season, to guarantee growth. Israel is known for winter rains (Deut. 11:14-15; Lev. 26:4; Psa. 104:27). Rain and growth (blessings) can be turned into drought and rot (curses), if we disregard Yahweh (Lev. 26:3-5, 14-39; Deut. 28:15-, 30:19).



Enter by the narrow gate.  
For the gate is wide and the way  
is easy that leads to destruction,  
and those who enter by it are many.  
Matthew 7:13 ESV

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## Determination of Abib...cont.

Not one year or even three years of drought diminishes what Yahweh says, nor the Scriptural markers used to determine a new year (1 Kgs. 17:1; 18:1-2).

The Israeli Ministry of Agriculture, in years past, has failed to eradicate the wild barley. Some have actually referred to it as “a noxious weed.” Man, however, cannot usurp or overrule Yahweh’s purpose, but rather we are to be workers with Him (Prov. 3:5-6; 1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor. 6:1).

Leviticus 2:14 *NASB*, speaks of “early” (H1061 *bikkurim*) first fruit, early ripened ingathering. “Heads” (H24 *abib*) harvestable grains. “Grits” (H3759 *geres*) beaten/crushed into flour. “Growth” (H3759 *karmel*) fully ripe and dried. New year timing is established by the new moon at *Abib* (Exod. 12:1-2).

A harvest is indicative of what is ready to bring in. In other words, when the fields or vineyards are ready for ingathering (Exod. 22:29a). Exodus 23:19a indicates the choicest of the choice, but what choice is there in a field or vineyard that is not ripened first? Fields (plural) are to be ready (Lev. 23:10; Rev. 14:14-16). Mark 4:29 *TS* is technically a Hebrew parallelism, “the crop is ready” and “the harvest has come” are saying the same thing.

Agricultural analogies can be used to help understand spiritual processes (Matt. 9:37-38; John 4:35; 1 Cor. 15:20-23; James 1:18). It should be noted that farmers who are governed by agricultural experience and responsible economics would, by mechanization, never patch-harvest “here a little, there a little” in fields with varying degrees of growth. Neither would we think this was done historically.

A sickle is handled during the harvest (Deut. 16:9; Joel 3:13; Jer. 50:16). Joshua 5:10-12 is not proof of harvesting a cultivated field. There is no mention of harvesting or offering of a wave sheaf. This is simply because they ate stored grains, which were already there for them to take (see **YAIY Quick Study Sheet: Count to Pentecost**).

## Reports from Jewish Citizens

We can utilize *Abib* reports by Jewish citizens of Israel, just as we can consider views from others. Obedience to Scripture for determining *Abib* is NOT tantamount to agreeing with the testimony of “anti-Messiah rabbinic” or “fake Jews,” as some are now saying. We have heard that Yahweh is with and for them (Zech. 8:23; Rom. 3:1-2; Rev. 12:13-16). Bless Israel, and be blessed (Gen. 49:9; Num. 24:9).

## The Wave Sheaf

A “sheaf” (H6016 *omer*) is about a ½ gallon (2.087 quarts; 2.3 liters) of dried grain (Lev. 23:12, 15). A wave (lifted up) sheaf is offered at the appointed time (Lev. 23:11). The requirement is not to eat of new grain until the wave sheaf (v. 11) is performed (Lev. 23:14). However, the harvest can be gathered at any time, in a year of unusual growing patterns, even before the 1<sup>st</sup> new moon of the year, and processed (i.e., put to the threshing floor, dried, stored, etc.). See Leviticus 23:10, 14.

## New Methodology?

We find the new methodology is against Scripture and historical reckoning. This year’s reports and observations, in searching for barley in Israel to determine if the next new moon should be declared a month of *Abib*, has been seen by many as a parallel to what occurred in 2016. Now we share additional information why the decision was made that this March 7<sup>th</sup> new moon, in the North America Region, was a 13<sup>th</sup> month rather than a Biblical New Year.

We started reviewing, as we normally do, any visual reports being sent out from Israel. Gradually more and more information was being provided from one team in particular, because a deacon with us was there with them. He expressed that he wanted to learn from a man who is considered an expert in agriculture and is also an elder in the faith. We were kept in the loop and eventually a link to another website [abibofgod.com](http://abibofgod.com) was sent to us from them. However, what was posted on March 5<sup>th</sup> was a little startling, basically stating that an *omer* (about half a gallon of dry grain) could be obtained by one small field, and that is all that is needed as a Scriptural barley requirement. Much to our surprise, as the same author years previously \*stated emphatically fields (plural) were needed.

We replied to both deacon and elder with the quote in question from [abibofgod.com](http://abibofgod.com) and opened the Scrip-

## New Methodology?...cont.

tures for a quick review:

Brian Convery stated, “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.”

Given the statement above, I would ask that we consider the Scripture references:

“Do not delay *giving* your harvest and your vintage” (Exod. 22:29a).

1. Harvest is indicative of what is ready to bring in. In other words, the field or vineyard is ready for ingathering.

“Bring the first of the first-fruits of your land into the House of יהוה your Elohim” (Exod. 23:19a).

1. The choicest of the choice, but what choice is there in a field or vineyard that is not ripened first?

“And when the crop is ready, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come,” Mark 4:29.

1. A Hebrew Parallelism: "the crop is ready" and "the harvest has come" are saying the same thing.

There was no reply, other than a short statement asking us to remember the barley would not last 6 weeks. After reading it, we received a video (along with other images from other areas) from the same team. Showing, nearly endless straight lines of barley on raised tilled ground and, at least, according to their estimate, 100 acres or more. It was clearly a large cultivated and farmed area. In the same video, we also hear the statement sent to us that this will not last 6 weeks. They were happy, they were joyful and laughing, but never have I personally seen a field like this used as evidence to declare a Biblical New Year. Deuteronomy 11:10 is just one reason a cultivated field should not be used.

Fast forward to a teleconference with the same team. In attendance were Elder Robert Davis (YPTC) and Elder John Reece (YAIY), and several elders from other assemblies. We (i.e, Robert, John, and myself) had already reviewed all of the above. We also reviewed most, if not all, the various other reports; many of them having images and videos as well. They all said and showed patchy at best, though one individual was reported to have seen, in his opinion, roughly half a field of wild barley in *Abib* state, which was brought up at the meeting. But, even if true, would not qualify.

**\* We all operated under this guideline.** Nehemia [Gordon] actually taught on his web site that in fact this is how ancient Karaites functioned. You can reach that instruction at; [http://Karaites-korner.org/ancient\\_abib\\_reports.shtml](http://Karaites-korner.org/ancient_abib_reports.shtml). Oh that’s right, it isn’t there anymore. A sign comes up saying it has been removed. That actually took place shortly after he was confronted with this by other experienced inspectors who were not present in 2005. Don’t fret however for I will quote part of it for you. “In Medieval Karaite discussions of the *Abib*, it is emphasized that the barley must not only appear in a certain form but must also appear in a large quantity to fulfill such verses as Lev 23,10 you will bring the sheaf of the beginning of your harvest [i.e. the barley has to be *Abib* in large enough quantities so that it can be harvested on the morrow after the Sabbath during Hag HaMatzot]. **It was generally agreed that the barley must be *Abib* in a majority of fields and in each field a**

## New Methodology?...cont.

majority of the stalks must be Abib.” [emphasis mine]

One individual essentially asked, “Why such a stark difference in the reports?” This is speaking of well known reports from Hebrew in Israel and Devorah’s Date Tree compared, for example, to statements and conclusions from Abib of God and Elder Solomon Meyer (in team first mentioned).

Our conclusion is that the conservative reports (Hebrew in Israel and Devorah’s Date Tree) are more in line with Scripture rather than some of these new methodologies we are now seeing.

Elder David Brett

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## Biblical Holy Days in 2019

Yahweh Biblical Holy Days are as follows, if the new moon is confirmed on April 6th, for the North American Region. Other regional areas, including Israel may be a day earlier or later.

- **The Passover** April 20th (Note: This is an appointed memorial time observed the evening before at sunset. It is not a High Sabbath.)
- **Unleavened Bread** April 21st – 27th (Note: April 28th, the day of Yahshua’s first ascension to heaven to present Himself as the Wave Sheaf offering to Yahweh, Lev. 23:11.)
- **Pentecost** June 16th
- **Trumpets** September 30th
- **Atonement** October 9th
- **Tabernacles** October 14th – 20th
- **The Eighth Day** October 21st



## Prayer List

Dolores Parker, Terrell Frasure, David & Barbara Creel, Charlie Pelton, Robert Dorchester, R.C. Fernald Family/Friends, Karen van Schalkwyk, Elder Lionel and Sandra Gets, Diana Murphy, Stella Rogers, Sean Rogers and Family, Loretta Reyes and Family, Michael Hutchinson, Georgiana Greene and Family, Linda Franchino, Al J. Pagano, Lois Firth, Hap Tew, Richard Rodriguez and Family, Kathy English, Jeff Gilman, Arthur Journey, Mark Strahan, Michael Davis, Shirley Morin, Mae Flowers, Alice Goodchild, Merle Tyler, Heidi Fleischmann, Chauncey Hargrove, Dirkie & Francious Swarts, Olivier B. Muzima, Esteban Garcia and Family, Winifred Marie, Charles Scott Jr. and Sr., David & Nancy Wilson Family/Friends, Audrey Wilkes, Adeline Black, Audrey Steadman, Adi Stahlin, Mary Giles, Kareem Greene Family/Friends, Ja’Quon & Schosche MucSarney, Rueben & Desire McIntyre, Henry Sunderman and Family, Tisha Palmory, Victor Kiiru, Kenya Evalo Washington, Roger Norman, Ngozi Anyaegbu Ikeogu, Onwuchekwa Veronica Nneamaka, Ememka John Wade, Errol Hunt, Chris and Marisca Barnard, Michael Johnson, Bob Covey, George and Kenya Washington, Terryn Willard, Melodie Illgen, Melanie Marks, Shaun Dampier, Jerry Castle, Leonard & Bertha Sefu, Marilyn Montague, Arturo Ramos, Jephthah Maika, Yvonne (in hospital, no last name given), Rebecca Bautista and Family, Rose Waddy, Jordan Vira and Family, Brent Houdeshell, Ryan C. Irving, Sr. Also include in your prayers, individuals seeking Yahweh from within prison facilities and for their families, overseas brethren, and the peace of Jerusalem.

