

YAIY Quick Study Sheet

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). 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 1st new moon of the year, and processed (i.e., put to the threshing floor, dried, stored, etc.). See Leviticus 23:10, 14.