

“THIS MONTH IS THE BEGINNING OF MONTHS FOR YOU, IT IS THE FIRST MONTH OF THE YEAR FOR YOU.”

Question 1 - When does the biblical new year begin?

Answer = It begins with the first month of the year which is the month of the **Passover**.

- **Exo 12:2** “This month is the beginning of months for you, it is the first month of the year for you.
- **Exo 12:3** “Speak to all the congregation of Yisra’ël, saying, ‘On the tenth day of **this month** each one of them is to take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household.
- **Deu 16:1** “Guard [**SHAMAR** H8104 watch for] the month of [the] AVIV, and perform the **Passover** to YHWH your Elohim, for in the month of [the] AVIV, YHWH your Elohim brought you out of Mitsrayim [Egypt]....

Question 2 - Why did YHWH choose the month of the Passover?

Answer = According to the scriptures, YHWH wants His year to begin at the same time of the year that the Children of Israel departed from Egypt [**Exo 23:15, 34:18 Deu 16:1**]. They were His chosen people, His **first-born** [**Exo 4:22**], His **first-fruits** [**Jer 2:3**] of the nations of this world to be called out of a sinful world to be an example of a righteous way to live; a light to the world. It was to be a new beginning and the bringing to fruition YHWH’s Plan of Salvation foretold shortly after the sin of Adam & Eve following the creation of the world [**Gen 3:15**]. The Children of Israel departed in the **morning after** the Passover slaughter of the **14th** day of the **1st month**; i.e., they departed in the morning of the **15th** day of the **1st month**.

- **Num 33:3** So they departed from Ra’meses in the first month, on the **fifteenth** day of the **first** month, on the **morrow of [the morning after] the Passover**, the children of Yisra’ël went out with boldness before the eyes of all the Mitsrites,

Question 3 - How can we know what time of the year the Children of Israel left Egypt?

Answer = The barley was in the state of maturity called **AVIV**

- **Exo 9:25** And the hail smote in all the land of Mitsrayim [Egypt] all that was in the field, both man and beast. And the hail smote every plant of the field and broke every tree of the field.
- **Exo 9:31** And the flax and the **barley** were smitten, for the barley was in the head [H24 **AVIV**] and the flax was in bud.

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Question 4 - What announces the 1st day of a month?

Answer = The 1st twilight crescent of a renewing moon.

Question 5 - What crescent moon begins the 1st month of the year?

Answer = The crescent moon that occurs when the maturity of barley is found to be in the growth stage of **AVIV**; harvestable by the time of **Lev 23:11**.

- **Lev 23:10** “Speak to the children of Yisra’ēl, and you shall say to them, ‘When you come into the **land which I give you**, and shall reap its **harvest**, then you shall bring a sheaf of the **first-fruits** of your harvest to the **priest**.”
- **Lev 23:11** ‘And he shall wave the sheaf before YHWH, for your acceptance. On the **morrow after the [7th day] Sabbath** the priest waves it. [**The 1st day of the week during the seven days of Unleavened**]

Question 6 - When does the harvest begin?

Answer = The harvest begins the same day as the **Lev 23:11 first-fruits** wave offering.

- **Lev 23:14** ‘And you do not eat bread or roasted grain or fresh grain until the same day that you have brought an **offering** to your Elohim – a law forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.
- **Lev 23:15** ‘And from the morrow after the [**7th day**] Sabbath [**Lev 23:11**], from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering, you shall count for yourselves: **seven** completed Sabbaths.
- **Lev 23:16** ‘Until the morrow after the seventh Sabbath you count **fifty** days, then you shall bring a new grain offering to YHWH.
- **Deu 16:9** “Count **seven** weeks for yourself. Begin to count **seven** weeks from the time **you begin** to put the **sickle to the grain**.”
- **Deu 16:10** “And you shall perform the **Festival of Weeks** to YHWH your Elohim...

Since the **seven (7)** weeks count of **Lev 23:15** and **Deu 16:9** end at **Shavuot**, the **Festival of Weeks** [**Deu 16:10**], both counts must begin at the **Lev 23:11** wave offering on the **1st day of the week that occurs during the 7 days of Unleavened**. That being the case; then, putting the sickle to the grain before the day of the **Lev 23:11** wave offering would not be according to the scriptures.

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It was critical that one watched for the first sign of barley in the **AVIV** stage of growth and did not miss it because, when barley begins to ripen [**Aviv**], it only takes a few weeks for the ripe grain to begin to cast its seed to the ground. To wait an extra month would mean that a lot of the barley crop would be lost; would not be harvestable.

What could **not** be done was, you could **neither** eat [Lev 23:14] of the harvest before the wave offering of Lev 23:11 **nor** could you begin the harvest before that day.

Question 7 - Since the Festival of Passover and the Festival of Unleavened are appointed times YHWH wants us to meet with him, how does the above satisfy

- **Gen 1:14** And Elohim said, “Let lights come to be in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for **signs** [H226 – supernatural, miracles] and **appointed times**, and for days and years?”

Answer = The heat of the winter sun controls the growth of barley. Monitoring the growth of barley is a response to the heavenly light we call the sun.

Question 8 - Don't the stars announce the seasons?

Answer = During your lifetime the star constellations appear at the same time of our calendar year; year after year. It is easy to assume the stars announce the season of plant growth; in fact, they do just that for us today. But the Egyptian Passover of 3500 years ago and the constellations of 3500 years ago appeared **1.6 months** earlier than they do for us today due to the phenomenon called the ‘Precession of the Equinoxes’. The stars are for **signs** [H226]. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Axial_precession

Question 9 - What about the equinox?

Answer = The equinox occurs when the earth, in its orbit around the sun, finds the zenith of the sun over its equator. It is a time when the day-light and night darkness are close to equal. There is a Gregorian spring [vernal] equinox [Mar 20] and a Gregorian autumn equinox [Sep 21]. Neither of these equinoxes are identified in the scriptures so, to try to incorporate them into YHWH's calendar is a ‘stretch’, an assumption. Thanks to Pope Gregory we use the Mar 20 date of the vernal equinox to announce a change from winter to **spring**. In the scriptures there is no such season called **spring**; there is only **winter** and **summer**. The scriptures indicate that the harvest, heat, and summer are all coincidental.

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- **Gen 8:22** as long as the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease.”

Question 10 - When does summer begin?

Answer = the day barley is harvested, [**Deu 16:9**] the day you put the sickle to the grain, the day of the first-fruits wave offering of **Lev 23:11**.

You might say; “What a drag”. We cannot plan ahead with narrow certainty. We cannot tell the boss when we exactly want our vacation; we have to wait to learn Israel’s barley growth and just what day the crescent moon of Israel will reveal itself. Probably, that is why the Quartodeciman Controversy and Easter became such an issue back in the 2nd and 4th century, apart from anti-Semitism. How could one know the goings-on in Israel back then?

A Jewish calendar [Hillel II - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hillel_II] was devised to establish festival dates for the Jews of the diaspora. Today we have instant communication with Israel. We can know the condition of Israel’s barley as well as the their 1st twilight crescent moon. We can follow the scriptures now, better than ever. We can observe the festivals of YHWH at the times originally commanded, as Y’shua did.

- **1Jn 2:6** The one who says he stays in Him ought himself also to walk, even as He walked.

I was asked:

Who and where is determined when the barley is ready? How many witnesses are there and what authority do these people have?

I answered

First, I will answer the ‘**where**’ for barley. **Israel** is the chosen location to assess the barley’s maturity and harvest it.

- **Lev 23:10** “Speak to the children of Yisra’el, and you shall say to them, ‘When you come into **the land which I give you**, and shall reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the first-fruits of your harvest to the priest.’

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You might ask, why Israel? Why not Australia? Due to the tilt of the earth's axis the growing seasons are different at different latitudes. By using the barley of Israel as a standard of measurement, the whole world is invited to celebrate YHWH's festivals, His appointments, at the same time.

The fact that the 2 major festivals of YHWH, Unleavened & FOT, are near the equinoxes, makes the weather of those festivals similar worldwide, for latitudes north & south of the equator. That sure beats a wintery Christmas & Chinese New Year.

Second, the 'who', determines **when** the barley is ready. In the 1st century and earlier, the Jerusalem High priest or his aids would have probably decided, during the withdrawal of the 12th moon of the year [Isa 60:20] or a few days earlier, whether the barley was in the **AVIV** condition that would make harvestable grain available for the wave offering of Lev 23:11. If the barley was not mature enough, the following new crescent moon [following the withdrawal of the 13th moon of the year] would begin the 1st month of the new year.

Nineteen (19) lunar years contain seven lunar years of 13 months. [Metonic cycle - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metonic_cycle]. Was Moses aware of the Metonic cycle? I think he was [2 x 19=38]; see Deu 2:14. Experience with the growth of barley in Israel would have been a prerequisite of the calendar decision makers. What about today?

There are a few people that have made it their purpose to provide accurate growth information of Israel's barley for the past 15 years or more. They have farming experience and visit Israel every year to determine the maturity of barley at the end of the 12th lunar month. This website will answer many of your questions with photographs regarding their observations in Israel and barley's maturity.

<https://www.abibofgod.com/event>

I believe the study of, <https://www.uidaho.edu/extension/cereals/scseidaho/growstage/barley> and experience with the growth of barley in Israel by believers in Y'shua, provide the necessary authority you seek.

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This link provides additional information <http://www.eliyah.com/newyear2019.html>

Here is an excerpt:

“CREDENTIALS

Sometimes it is a matter of credentials. Perhaps the team saying "not Aviv" is more well-known and relied upon while the other 2 teams are not as well known.

This would behoove us to investigate the credentials before dismissing the "Pro Aviv" witnesses outright. Based on my own investigation of Solomon Meyer and Brian Convery, who have both stated that harvestable barley (Aviv) has been found in Israel [Mar 2019], both individuals are very well qualified to make that determination.

[Brian Convery](#) has been conducting Barley inspections in Israel for 15 years, and knows exactly what to look for. He (and his wife who was with him) are believers in Yahushua the Messiah and observe the Torah. He took pictures and found "very hard and very brittle" barley that would produce well over an omer. The field was located between Be'eri and Kisufim, along road 232 in western Israel.

[3 weeks later, one field was so dry and brittle it was literally snapping and falling off the stalks as they walked through the field.](#)

[Solomon Meyer](#) grew up as a Torah observant believer in Yahushua, and in a family that calculated the new year according to the barley since the 1970's. He himself was also a barley farmer for 15 years and knows what to look for to determine whether or not a field is harvestable. Solomon inspected the fields with his wife, took some pictures, [some video](#) and made a full report. He found several harvestable and parchable fields that would qualify, with one of the largest being near Lahav, Israel. It was a half-acre worth of wild barley in the **Aviv** stage.

YHWH be with you

WillseeYah