Abib Report
Friday March 16, 2007

There was cold and wet weather in Jerusalem and the Northern Negev today. Last night there were very heavy downpours. Today we checked many of our traditional locations in the Western Judean Hills and the Northern Negev. Not one location contained any barley remotely close to being aviv. All these fields were either in a state of aviv or within two weeks of it last year at this same time in March.

Much of the wild Hordeum Spontaneum and domestic Hordeum Vulgare were in the head emergence stage(s) through the flowering stage(s). We did find some locations which were in the milk stage (7 on Zadoks Chart) with some heads in early dough development. Even roadside barley was not aviv in 95% of all our stops.

With some of the following pictures, you will see examples of what we found. The one picture shows a head and some kernels taken from a roadside south of Sederot. The kernels are full and are in the soft dough stage. It is a variety of two-row barley which has a red pigment to some of the kernel shells. We have found this strain to be the earliest over the years. With this said, it and several other stocks growing along the roadside were the most mature. All of the wild oats were still green as well. The Northern Negev is the greenest I have ever seen in the six years of inspecting it.

Last year at this time, over 70% of the wheat fields in the Northern Negev had already been harvested at this same time in March. This year we did not see one field even close. We still need to inspect the area between Hebron and Be'er Sheva later in trip. We may do that on Sunday, but we are leaning toward inspecting the Jordon Valley up to Beit She'an. Our next report will be Sunday evening the 18th.

Tim VanHalteren, Paul Wilson, Richard Andrews, Zach & Angie Boettner, and Brian & Linda Convery

Picture 1 Barley in flowering stage, florets visable
Picture 2 Field of wild barley with non-domestic weeds in background
Picture 3 Participants in field of wild barley
Picture 4 One of more advanced kernels found barely leaving milk stage
Picture 5 Kernel filling out
Picture 6 Most advanced roadside barley, soft dough stage
Picture 7 Tare and barley found growing together
Picture 8 Most advanced field of wheat. Some awns turning color but kernel in very soft dough stage

Abib Report
Sunday, March 18, 2007 - Day 2 of the Aviv inspections

We covered a lot of ground today and inspected a lot of barley. We traveled Route 90 from the Dead Sea turn off north to Beit She'an. There was little or no barley activity up to Fatsa'el Junction. A short distance north of there we started to run into roadside barley as usual. The further north you travel, the more roadside barley you see. We inspected five areas before reaching Mekhola Junction. At each of these stops we took pictures as we checked the barley. All of these locations are to one degree or another very rocky. Throughout this section of Route 90, roadside barley was starting to display some of the characteristics of maturing. This was very different from our inspections on Friday where even roadside barley was very young. As you know, we do not accept barley grown in such locations and conditions as representative candidates for aviv declaration.

There are several locations in this stretch of road that come close to the border fence road with Jordan. These small areas are a little flatter because the borrow (ground removed) from that road construction, was bulldozed up and spread out. In these areas the soils are cluttered with stone and old blacktop. Quite a bit of barley grows on them each year. This year is no exception and neither is the inconsistency of growth. You can stand in one spot and be within hand's reach of heads of barley just emerging from the boot, others emerged with florets visible, others with plumes starting to turn color in the initial stages of soft dough, and then even have some dead plants as well. We have made this point often in the past and it is for this reason that we will not accept these locations as qualified harvestable fields. In fact, they are not fields but isolated patches. The reason we inspect them is because their condition helps us to understand what has transpired in the region as to rain and temperature.

From here we moved north and checked very fertile fields with wild barley growing. In each instance, the barley growing in the fertile ground was healthy and young. The barley growing by the roadside was at least two weeks more advanced than that in the field as pictures will show. These locations were at Rekhov, Ein ha-Natsiv, Sde Eliyahu, and some no-name stops. There was some 6-row barley at the Eden Experimental Agricultural Center, which was more advanced than anything we had seen, but it is a strain they have modified and manipulated and is not acceptable for use.

We headed south once again on Route 90. While doing so, we passed other aviv inspectors looking at one of the locations I mentioned earlier.

We drove back to the Negev area and spent time inspecting fields between Be'er Sheva and Eshkot and Gilat Junction. There are literally hundreds if not thousands of acres of domestic 2-row barley planted there. All of it is either about to come out of the boot or in the flowering stage with heads emerged. The wild barley is actually more advanced than the domestic in this area.

There is one field located just west of Route 25 on Route 241, which is an enigma of sorts. It has 2-row barley, 6-row barley, and wheat all growing in it. The 2-row barley will not be ready for harvest by April 8th, however the 6-row will. We have never had that problem before and we will think about it for a while.

We spent time this evening with a fellow barley inspector who lives in of all places, Omer. He has been inspecting barley in Israel since 1983-4. He has given us directions to several locations, which had heads filling with starches two weeks ago. We will be visiting these fields tomorrow as well as several others south of there which have proven to be early producers in the past.

There are 21 days left for the barley to reach a state of aviv. We are judging each location inspected with this in mind. This year we actually have a little more time, for qualified barley maturing from inspection time to Wavesheaf day because it falls on the tail end of the Days of Unleavened Bread.

We will also be inspecting some coastal areas, which we were told were advanced from another source. We will report on our findings Monday night. We are making ever effort as we usually do to cover as much ground as possible to find qualified locations for mature barley. Tuesday we plan on being in the north inspecting. Once again we ask for your prayers in this endeavor.

Picture 1

Pictures 1 - 4: Typical soil conditions found in flat areas between roads in the Upper Jordan Valley

Picture 2

Picture 3

Picture 4

Picture 5

Pictures 5 – 7: Samples taken from areas along Route 90 in the Jordan Valley. Notice color changes but yet seeds are in early dough stage. These are taken from locations with tremendously erratic growth stages as described earlier.

Picture 6

Picture 7

Picture 8

Pictures 8-9: Young healthy barley in fertile locations in the Upper Jordan Valley

Picture 9

Picture 10: Typical domestic 2-row barley found throughout areas north of Be’er Sheva.

Abib Report
Monday, March 19, 2007 - Day 3 of the Aviv inspections

Greetings from Israel! Once again we had a very busy and productive day. The sun was shining and the temperature was finally rising. Thursday night we had snow falling in Jerusalem. Prior to that and for much of Friday and Saturday we had torrential downpours of rain. The mud is still very thick in many fields even today.

We spent almost all of the day in the Western Negev. We inspected many fields of wild, domestic, and second-generation domestic (seeded itself) barley. At one point, we were standing in a field of 2-row and 6-row qualified barley, which stretched out for a hundred acres or more. Just several miles down the road, we experienced the same event over again but in a little less than 50 acres. There were actually several more fields in the same area, which looked identical, but we did not stop to inspect them. Much of the barley in these fields was very advanced. Some of the heads had kernels which were difficult to split with a fingernail as can be witnessed in the pictures that follow. The other good thing about these qualified fields is that they are relatively close to Jerusalem, being east of Ashkelon. Of course, the soils there are very fertile.

We also spent time south of Sderot inspecting some of our traditionally early fields of wild barley. Several of them were at a state of maturity where they would certainly be aviv prior to Wavesheaf day without any human assistance. By that I mean the minimum requirement of Lev. 2:14 for roasting grain for a firstfruit offering. It was at one of these locations we had inspected earlier in the day that we honked to another group of inspectors.

The Western Negev has proven once again to be the barley breadbasket. Every location we inspected contained very good soil. As I have mentioned before, we spend long hours on the road inspecting. We do not attempt to jump the gun on the assessment of the new year. We should always hear a matter out before we answer. In this instance, we spent at least three days listening and looking at what God has to say to us. With this third report, I am sure that you will all be setting your dates and plans for an April Passover as you should for this is acceptable, qualified barley which can certainly be used for the Wavesheaf before God for His acceptance.

That brings up a point that I should probably take the time to answer now in light of recent events. Some have asked why we will not accept barley which other inspectors find acceptable to declare aviv. This is a fair question and here is the Biblical answer (by Biblical I mean the entire Bible, not just part of it). To those of us who understand that God has a great plan in place, the Passover and the Wavesheaf are the focus of that plan. The Wavesheaf depicts the unleavened, resurrected body of Jesus the Christ. The timing of the Wavesheaf is the key to the start of the new year and the annual reenactment of that plan through God's Holy Days. It is an offering representative of Christ and thus is tamin (complete, perfect, without blemish). Is a lame, blind, or otherwise defective lamb acceptable as the Passover sacrifice? You know that answer to that. It would be an abomination to God. Those of us who believe that Jesus is the Christ understand that this lamb represents Him. It was to be perfect, complete, and without blemish. Why would the Father accept anything less for the resurrected Christ? He wouldn't. Lev. 23:11 tells us it is to be waved and accepted on our behalf. I hope we understand how deeply significant that is. That Wavesheaf must come from very fertile soil, watered and cared for by God just as is depicted with Jesus Christ being nurtured and cared for by the Father. He is a perfect offering in death and in life. It is absolutely disgusting to me to think that a sickly looking Wavesheaf from sickly looking ground can be put forth as being representative of our Savior.

God is true and accurate to His word. Deut. 11:10-12 tells us, "For the land which you go to possess is not like the land of Egypt from which you have come, where you sowed your seed and watered it by foot, as a vegetable garden; but the land which you cross over to possess is a land of hills and valleys, which drinks water from the rain of heaven, a land for which the Lord your God cares; the eyes of the Lord your God are always on it, from the beginning of the year to the very end of the year." I and the other inspectors believe that deeply, so we patiently wait on God to reveal His will to us during the inspection trips. With that said, we aggressively scour the countryside seeking out qualified, acceptable barley for a Wafesheaf offering of such importance. We know it when we see it and we will not be part of any inferior offering. To do so would not be representative of our loyalty to Christ. Just think; we are of His body! The scriptures tell us that this first or early spiritual harvest is indicative of what He expects for His body. Many are called but few are chosen! I hope that we who are called of God take this to heart and do not take this endeavor lightly. It is a vital function to the plan of salvation.

Scripture offers us many warnings with one being, "For many will come in My name, saying I am the Christ and will deceive many." Many are making merchandise of our Savior. Do we have a strong enough personal relationship with Christ where we will not be deceived by others in regard to Him? Accepting a sickly, inferior, substitute for what is to be a perfect offering should not be part of what we do. Please listen to a few simple warnings of the apostle John. "If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which He has testified of his Son. He who believes the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made him a liar because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of his Son. And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal

life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life." And
"I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and that no lie is of the truth. Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ. He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either. He who acknowledges the Son has the Father also." Once again, we ask that we all be kept in your prayers. We will be inspecting fields in the North tomorrow with brethren who are living here in Israel. We will be adding other fields to our inventory for future inspection references. Thank you for being patient with us in such an important undertaking.

Brian Convery

Picture 1

Pictures 1 - 3: Random pictures of some of the fields we inspected today

Picture 2

Picture 3

Picture 4

Pictures 4-7: Barley in stage 8 from soft dough to physiological maturity

Picture 5

Picture 6

Picture 7

Picture 8: Good fertile soil

Abib Report
Tuesday, March 20, 2007 - Day 4 of the Aviv inspections

Greetings once again from Israel! We spent a lot of time in the North of the country today and were able to spend time with other brethren who live there. Every location we checked in the Galilee contained young barley, which has always been the case in the past. We made only one stop along the coast when heading back to Jerusalem. Here we found some barley, which may be aviv in two weeks time with assistance. Here are some thoughts on this year's inspections. The barley which we have inspected in the Western Negev is not only qualified but will easily constitute large harvestable fields (300-400 acres). This is very important. The two main areas that contain this barley are easily 25 miles apart. This is a reassurance of the timing of the harvest. Every barley location we inspected would be harvest-ready during the 49-day (7-week) count to Pentecost if in fact it were to fall on the first Sunday (April 8th) during the Days of Unleavened Bread. That means that every location inspected would have 68 days left of growth from today. The time from germination until being dry enough to harvest is approximately 89 days for barley in a northern climate on average (with the temperatures in Israel, this time can be less). That is, harvesting by today's standards. By that I mean using combines for it cannot have more than 12% moisture content to do so. When harvesting with a sickle, moisture content can be much higher. All of these facts are detailed in our various studies and articles on the website.

There are many more areas in which we could inspect if we had more manpower. That, however, is not the case so we concentrated on key areas. It takes us just under three days to visit each of these areas. These are 12 to 14-hour days and then we put together the reports to send out. We could not do this without your prayers. I could cite example after example of where God intervenes throughout the day. On Sunday night, we prayed that God would show us His intent for the new year again. Those prayers were answered in a very forthright way on Monday. The quality of the barley and size of the fields were both impressive.

With this report, we close out another inspecting trip. This has been number six for me personally. It is our intent to only provide the basic facts from our inspections to the body of Christ. It is up to us each individually to decide what we each do with it. Whatever your heart leads you to do, we hope you do it with a clear conscious and with all your might.

For those who are interested, the new moon was clearly visible over Jerusalem tonight at 5:58 p.m.

God willing, we will be back next year to carry out this function. That will put us in Israel during the week of March 2nd, for the new moon should be visible after sunset on March 8th. May God bless us all in our journey to salvation.

Here are some key scriptures which help us in our decision-making process as to the start of the harvest:

**Mark 4:28-29**
**"**For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

**Exodus 22:29**
"You shall not delay *to offer* the first of your ripe produce and your juices. The firstborn of your sons you shall give to Me."

**Deuteronomy 16:9**
"You shall count seven weeks for yourself; begin to count the seven weeks from *the time* you begin *to put* the sickle to the grain."

March 24, 2007 Some parting thoughts and things on this years Aviv inspections.

We hope you are all in good health and being kept safe in the love of the Father and the Son. Linda and I had a difficult time getting started on this years Israel trip. We were supposed to arrive in Israel on Thursday morning around 8:30 am which would have allowed us time to get settled in and take a quick view of local barley growth. This didn't happen. We sat on the runway in Rochester NY for two hours waiting for our plane to be cleared for take-off. Apparently there was too much traffic in the air near the Newark NJ airport. After finally leaving and landing there, we hurried through the airport to our gate only to watch our plane to Israel back out and take off. Thus we started a 9-hour wait for the next departure. Oh what fun! This however is not the worst start to an inspection trip. Once I had to wait 22 hours for another plane because of snow delay's in Rochester. Arriving in Israel at a time you are going to be caught up in Jerusalem rush hour traffic is not in my top 100 list of things to do.

Our hosts at House 57, Dan and Illana Tamir were as usual a real plus on the trip. Two cars were rented for the trip with Linda, Paul, and myself using one, and Angie, Zach, Rick, and Tim using the other. We logged in over 1000 miles of driving according to our odometer. That's a lot of driving, the entire time stopping and starting and getting in and out for inspections, etc.

It seems each year we learn a little more as we go through new twists and turns. One twist being thrown into the mix is the situation in the Central Jordan Valley. Fields that would qualify to grow acceptable barley are being plowed up and planted with eggplant, tomatoes, cucumbers, and peppers, as well as new orchards and vineyards. What's left is being covered in green houses of one type or another. As most of you know this region was rich in grain production in ancient Israel times. Not only in quantity but an early producer as well. If one leaves these fertile fields you hit lots of very poor soil full of rocks and boulders, which is unacceptable for our use, as we have discussed often. We may have to make an effort to rent a piece of ground there and seed it and let it grow on its own year after year. I will look into it but it will require the presence of someone in Israel to assist in it. To lose this valuable early crop area for our inspections would complicate our searches as it did this year.

It is also very important that we get other individuals trained who are committed to the aviv/lunar calendar whom can return year after year. That being said it is not for everyone. It is not a vacation but a lot of work. This is a difficult series of days traveling all over Israel in all types of weather, etc. Many days we are out the door at 7 am and not in bed until well after midnight when reports are finished and sent out.

Another concern is that we need to know if there are any special circumstances affecting Aviv observing groups or individuals that would affect how we conduct our inspections as to timing or anything else. As it turned out this year there were a lot of brethren looking to finality of the reports on Monday evening because they keep a local new moon visibility belief. The New Moon was not going to be visible in Jerusalem until Tuesday evening after sunset. Had we have known, we would have come to Israel earlier to accommodate their beliefs. Next year the New Moon will be after Sabbath in Israel on the the 8th of March if I remember correctly. We will conduct our inspections so they are finalized by Thursday night just in case it is visible earlier (Friday after sunset) in other parts of the world. It is our desire to serve the body and to do so we need communication from it and we will make every possible effort to accommodate.

Some of you folks sent us some pictures of Jacob Meyers dealing with his inspections this year and asked some questions about them. From the pictures we received it is evident he is holding heads of domestic barley in one picture. In another, from what we can see, he is standing in a field of both barley and wheat. The bluish hue on some plants clearly differentiates them from barley and is associated with early wheat development in some strains as well as some weeds. This could mean the field was self-seeded or that one or the other is growing from last year's fallen seed and the other planted. It is very difficult to tell from the photo we have and not being present in the field. What is very clear however, is the stage of growth of the barley in the picture will allow it to be aviv well before the Wavesheaf Day if the dates on the pictures are correct at March 9th.

That brings up another point. I will no longer in the future send out any early pictures or personal thoughts on the timing of the harvest. One of the brethren in Israel sent me pictures of crops growing there and in my haste to get something out I sent out a picture of wheat. I didn't realize this until I was looking at it in Israel. My life was very busy before I left and my apologies to all. I have a feeling some of you (Alan, Bruce, etc) may have

noticed it but didn't let me know thinking not to offend. By all means let me know, that is not an offense for we are all still being worked with.

As we related to all in our day 4 report we spent lots of time in the north that day. What we didn't relay in the report was the weather conditions across most of central and northern Israel that entire day. We had cloud cover, and haze everywhere we traveled as well as going in and out of light rain. We got back to Givat HaMivtar, the suburb in Jerusalem where we stay, around 5:15 pm. At 5:30 pm the clouds faded away, and the skies cleared allowing Zach, Tim, Paul, and Linda to see their first New Moon and start of the new year in the Promised land. That was very exciting. The following day was a tourist type of a day for us, having completed the inspections. The weather was spectacular with bright sunny skies and temperatures reaching the high 70's in Jerusalem. I got a little sunburn as others may have also. We spent the day walking around the Mount of Olives and the Old City taking in sites, and of course doing some haggling with the local merchants. Angie, Zach, and Rick made it down for a float in the Dead Sea later that afternoon. Tim and Paul had already left early in the day for home. At six we left for the airport, which had suffered a strike that day. We were blessed not being affected by it, for it had affected thousands of people coming in and going out by plane.

This year was a difficult year in many respects. We are accustomed to seeing clear evidence of the start of a new year or the addition of a 13$^{th}$ month. It is usually seen up front early and is cut and dry. This year we had to be more patient than normal and wait on God for the answer to it. We had to employ and stress all the commands in our observations and inspections. Let me explain.

Some suggest or believe that the barley harvest must start all over Israel at the same time. They are under the impression that the wavesheaf day with its firstfruit offering starts (and to some ends) the harvest over all the land in every region. That is simply not the case in scripture or in agricultural reality. We must remember we are talking about barley and not wheat for there is a big difference between the two as to planting times, planting techniques, growth, and harvests.

The barley harvest in ancient Israel was the early harvest due to these differences and as determined by God. The early harvest was allotted 7 weeks or 49 days to complete. There is no set determined time for the wheat harvest in scripture other than it generally followed the barley harvest which is not the case today for it has been so genetically altered and manipulated. As well its firstfruit offering was not a wave sheaf, but 2 loves of leavened bread on Pentecost. It is no coincidence that there are 7 climactic zones in Israel in general. The main body of the early harvest can be reaped in the middle weeks, or the first few weeks, or in the last few weeks. Some years it may be balanced out over all seven weeks fairly evenly. What should be clearly understood by scripture regardless of when the bulk of the harvest occurs in those 7 weeks is that we are given command and example as to what constitutes its start and state.

In Exodus 22:29 Israel is commanded not to delay to offer the first of their ripe produce. Mark 4:29 tells us that when the grain ripens we are to immediately but the sickle to it. When we have firstfruits of grain available from a harvestable field we are not to put off harvesting that particular field. If the rest of the fields will not be ready for 4 or 5 or even 6 weeks is irrelevant to the instructions given to us by God for a firstfruit offering to Him. There are many reasons why the barley harvest, the early harvest, is given 7 weeks to be completed. One is found in the 7 churches of Revelation. They have a definite starting point and ending point just as the barley harvest does. What isn't evident is how many qualify to be with Christ from each time frame. This is a simple illustration, which helps us understand the early harvest. How much is harvested during each week is up to Gods maturing process timeframes not ours. What is important is we know the start and the finish of it.

Some in the past have suggested the harvest can start prior to the wave sheaf offering and that the first sheaf can be saved for a wavesheaf offering a month later. We have just seen that goes against very clear scripture. The early harvest starts on the wavesheaf day which always falls on the day after the Sabbath, which is always a Sunday, or first day of the week, which falls during the days of UB. It is on this day that the 7 week count to Pentecost starts. It is representative of the body of Christ, His unleavened body. That is why Lev. 23:11 tells us this wavesheaf is, "to be accepted on your behalf". Christ certainly didn't need to be accepted by the Father for He was sin free. On the other hand we are not. It is the Father who calls us not Christ. The Father calls us to His Son and then His Son does the choosing. Once we have the acceptance of the Father the rest of the process is placed in His Sons hands. Christ then begins to build His body by picking and choosing the few from the many. Ephesians 5:24-27 tells us, "Husbands love your wives just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for

it, that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish."

That is just, one of the reasons, why the Wavesheaf, and for that matter the harvested barley, is to be healthy and strong and without blemish. We seek out qualified barley from qualified soil. No sickly substitutes accepted! Apparently this understanding is not one shared by all at the present time.

God certainly doesn't leave us hanging as to the timing of this particular harvest either, or the cutting of the wavesheaf. Deut 16:9 tells us, "You shall count seven weeks for yourself; begin to count the seven weeks from the time you begin the sickle to the grain." The context here is certainly during the days of Unleavened Bread. So yes, the body of Christ, the wife He is choosing and preparing for Himself from those called of the Father, is completed during the spiritual equivalent of the 7 weeks barley harvest.

It is clear to see what our focus is to be on during our inspections based on these simple commands. The harvest cannot start until there is a harvestable qualified field ready to cut. This certainly doesn't mean all the fields are ready does it, for they have seven weeks to be so. Scriptures clearly tell us we are not to delay this firstfruit offering or cutting of the ripened fields. Be mindful that a field may take several weeks to completely mature with one section doing so before the others. You certainly would not trample plants to get to others. We must have the patience of Christ. From this years inspections it is clear why in some fields the corners and edges are left for others to gather in. Some of the pictures can clearly show the edges and corners weeks younger than the rest of the field. Very interesting observation which we had never noticed before.

Also scripture clearly tells us the harvest starts on the day the wavesheaf is cut. The harvest cannot start and then a wave sheaf of first fruits be offered sometime down the road. The ripening and harvesting of the rest of the fields will happen according to Gods will during the balance of the seven weeks.

This year we did observe many vineyards in the Northern and Western Negev leafing out. The same was noticed in the Central Jordan Valley as well. We also saw large flocks of storks moving north to Europe on their yearly migration. They are something to see as they rise on the thermals and form what looks like whirlwinds flying around and around.

I hope these thoughts and observations are easy to read and understand, for we are to be able to articulate the hope, which lies in us as 1 Peter 3:15 tells us.

Another personal thought I had this year was in regard to the red stripes on a strain of early barley. You can see some of them by observing the pictures we sent out this year and focus on day 3. When I see these full healthy heads and kernels of early barley with the red stripes I turn my thoughts to our Savior and the stripes He bore on our behalf. As we all know, as the Passover Lamb, He did not have to endure such a terrible beating for the lamb was only to shed blood. He was violently beaten and abused so that we could be healed just as His shed blood is for the forgiveness of sin. He suffered for us and we will suffer with Him if we are to be joint or co heirs with Him as Romans 8:16-17 tells us. We are His wife and He is our Husband. We are of His body. That is one of the simple reasons why I look to two-row barley rather than six-row. The two shall become one! This is a personal preference and just one of my reasons for using two-row as a mainstay. Six-row barley is certainly an ancient strain as historical record shows but I can be sentimental at times in my mind.

One thing I have learned this year is when barley is ready to be ground you don't need to help it be more ready. Yesterday prior to sunset I picked all the seeds off of some barley I had brought home. They were certainly hard and I could not break them with my fingernail. With that said, I thought I would stick them into the oven on a tray for a few minutes at 250 degrees to assist in some further drying. That won't happen again. Now I know what it is like to crack the kernels, for that is what I had to do to them before I could grind them into flour because they were so hard. Interesting lesson learned on trying to improve on what God has already finished. I plan on making a piece of unleavened bread for Passover with it.

Thank you for all you do to serve the body in so many different ways. It is important that we walk in truth especially that of justice, mercy, and faith, for it is by these that we have a selfless love for the Father, Son, and the brethren. My family hopes you have a wonderful Passover and UB season. Just think, we are one more closer to our Saviors return.

Brian

**Barley before grinding**

**Barley after grinding**

## Wild Flowers growing in North Central Jordan Valley