

days LATER than "the first Omer of barley" could theoretically be required when Nisan 1 is never earlier than the first day of spring (March 21/22).

6) So when we expect barley to be ripe for the wave offering around April 5-10, then we are still expecting barley to be ripe A FULL THREE WEEKS BEFORE the Director of the Field Crops Department stated barley is NORMALLY harvested in this age.

Now people have, through genetic modifications, produced varieties of barley that require a shorter growing season, so that these varieties can be used in colder climates, like the northern USA and southern Canada. And if such genetically manipulated varieties are grown in Israel today, then they could perhaps be ready for harvesting around April 5-10? But anything earlier than that must be viewed with skepticism, if Mr. Bar-Droma's views carry any weight.

So when the Jewish year starts on March 14, as it did in 2002, and when the Passover is on March 27, and when the wave offering would theoretically have been required on Sunday, March 31 (in 2002), THEN THAT IS A FULL MONTH BEFORE BARLEY IS NORMALLY REAPED IN ISRAEL TODAY!

I believe that under such circumstances the claim of having ripe barley available by March 31 is highly suspect of ulterior religious motives.

IF the barley harvest was to have any influence at all in determining the correct new moon for starting the year, then it surely has to be this:

The state of the barley harvest could PERHAPS cause the start of a year to be postponed to THE FOLLOWING NEW MOON (thereby giving the previous year a 13th month), but the state of the barley harvest could NEVER DETERMINE THAT AN EARLIER NEW MOON SHOULD BE USED TO START THE YEAR!

To use barley to try to start the year AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE is to misapply the intent of the instruction to bring a wave offering of the new barley.

If you would like to receive objective information about the barley harvests in Israel, why not write your own letter to the Field Crops Department of the Ministry of Agriculture of the State of Israel? The information they give you is far more likely to be free from religious bias, than, for example, the information various religious sects are likely to provide. But there is no reason why Mr. Bar-Droma's comments should not still be correct today, about 20 years after they were written.

Frank W. Nelte

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The information that I sent is in total agreement with the pioneers in this matter!