

## Abib Report: March 10, 2005

We woke up this morning with another rainy start to the day. The temperature in Jerusalem was quite cold and remained that way during the day. Our hosts and others informed us that it was snowing in the northern parts of the country. We once again checked sites on the eastern and western slopes of the Judean Hills as well as the length of Road 35 from Hebron to Kiryat Gat, up Road 40, to Road 3, to Road 44, to Road 38, and back to Jerusalem.

We started our search and inspections on the eastern slopes per the request of many of you. Our first stop was Alon Junction just as we had done the very first day. We could not use the barley growing there for many reasons which we have discussed in previous reports. The barley closest to the road was quite advanced as it always is in this location due to the rocky soil and the road and thus the greenhouse effect. The advanced barley was mixed with immature barley all along the roadside and down the road's slopes.



We have checked this area each year and have only used it as an indicator of barley which has experienced abnormal conditions for growth. It is not to be used to declare the start of the barley harvest in Israel. The first time we inspected this area four years ago, fields all over the Negev and the Jordan Valley were at the state of aviv. This particular location had already dropped its seeds and its stalks were dried out and broken down. If we would have used this location that year to declare aviv, we could have easily done so at the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> month. Just think of that scenario and apply it to this year.



Side of road, Alon Junction