

Shelach

“Send”

Numbers 13 - 15

Shelach

וידבר יהוה אל-משה לאמר:
שלח-לך אנשים ויתרו את-ארץ כנען
אשר-אני נתן לבני ישראל
איש אחד איש אחד למטה אבתיו
תשלחו כל נשיא בהם

- Va-Ye-Da-Ber Ye-Ho-Va El-Mo-She Le-Mor:
 - **She-Lakh**-Le-Kha A-Na-Shim Ve-Ya-Tu-Ru Et-E-Rets Ke-Na-An
 - A-Sher-A-Ni No-Ten Liv-Nei Yis-Ra-El
 - Ish E-Khad Ish E-Khad Le-Ma-Te A-Vo-Tav
 - Tish-La-Khu Kol Na-Si Va-Hem
-
- **1** And יהוה spoke to Mosheh, saying,
 - **2** “Send men to spy out the land of Kena’an, which I am giving to the children of Yisra’el. Send one man from each tribe of their fathers, every one a leader among them.”

Outline

- (13) Spies sent into Canaan
- Spies return with a bad report
- (14) The people turn away
- YHVH is enraged, Moses intercedes
- Generation is cursed to die in the desert
- The people try to take the land anyway

Outline

- (15) Grain, oil and wine with offerings
- If congregation sins by mistake
- If individual sins by mistake
- If individual sins by defiance
- Man breaking the Sabbath
- Tassels

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Numbers 15:38-41

- 37 And יהוה spoke to Mosheh, saying,
- 38 “Speak to the children of Yisra’ěl, and you shall say to them to make **tzitziyot** on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and to put a blue cord in the **tzitzit** of the corners.

Numbers 15:38-41

- 39 “And it shall be to you for a **tzitzit**, and you shall see it, and shall remember all the commands of יהוה and shall do them, and not search after your own heart and your own eyes after which you went whoring,
- 40 so that you remember, and shall do all My commands, and be set-apart to your Elohim.
- 41 “I am יהוה your Elohim, who brought you out of the land of Mitsrayim, to be your Elohim. I am יהוה your Elohim.”

Tzitzit

l. fringe, tassel, lock

- One other place in scripture: Ezekiel 8:3
- And He stretched out the form of a hand, and took me by a **lock** of my hair. And the Spirit lifted me up between the earth and the heavens, and brought me in visions of Elohim to Yerushalayim...
- But...Deuteronomy 22:12!

Deuteronomy 22:12

- 12 “Make **tassels** on the four corners of the garment with which you cover yourself.

“Gedil”

I. twisted threads, tassels, festoons

A. tassels (on clothes)

Festoon:

a **chain** or garland of flowers, leaves, or ribbons, hung in a curve as a decoration.

QUESTIONS

- What IS a tzitzit?
- On WHAT four “corners?”
- WHEN are they to be worn?
 - A command? For WHO?
 - Why TASSELS?

WHAT is a tzitzit?





Various “Countings”

- Ashkenazi:
 - 7, 8, 11, 13 windings = 39
 - or 13×3 windings = 39
 - Gematria total of “The Lord is One”
- Rashi:
 - Gematria total of “Tzitzit” = 600
 - 4 strands, doubled over = 8 threads
 - 5 knots, separated by windings
 - $600 + 8 + 5 = 613$ total commandments
- Sephardic: 10, 5, 6, 5
 - Gematria total of “Y H V H”



WHAT is a tzitzit?

- A **tassel**, or “lock” of threads
- Twisted, tied, or chained together
- With **a blue cord** in it
- You “MAKE” it
- On the four corners of a garment
- Shall SEE it, and remember all the commands of YHVH

Blue = “Techelet”



On WHAT Four Corners?

- “Talit” (prayer shawl)
- “Talit Katan” (undergarment)



- Shirt
- Vest
- Etc...



Corner: “Kanaph”

i. wing, extremity, edge, winged, border, corner, shirt

A. wing

B. extremity

i. skirt, corner (of garment)

- 108X in the scriptures, for birds’ and cherubim’s wings
- Deut. 22:30 (edge of a garment) “his father’s skirt”
- Deut. 32:11 (YHVH) “like an eagle that hovers over its young...spread his wings” (protection)
- Ruth 2:12 “the God of Israel under whose wings you have come to seek refuge”
- Ruth 3:9 And he said, “Who are you?” And she answered, “I am Ruth, your female servant. Now you shall spread your covering over your female servant – for you are a redeemer.”

Yeshua's “Fringe” (Kanaph)

- Matthew 14:36 ...and begged Him to let them only touch the fringe of His cloak. And as many as touched it were completely healed.
- Matt. 9:20 And see, a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years came from behind and touched the fringe of His outer garment.
- Luke 8:44 ...came from behind and touched the fringe of His cloak. And immediately her flow of blood stopped.
- Mark 6:56 And wherever He went, into villages, or cities, or the country, they were laying the sick in the market-places, and begged Him to let them touch if only the fringe of His garment.

WHEN are they to be worn?

- Only in the synagogue?
- Only on Shabbat?
- The scriptures don't really say... or *DO* they?
 - Yeshua seemed to have them on all the time.
 - King Saul had them on all the time
 - (1 Samuel 15, 1 Samuel 25)
 - Zechariah 8:23 “Thus says YHVH of hosts, ‘In those days ten men from all the nations will grasp the **garment** (**kanaph**) of a Jew, saying, “Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.”
- “Let us GO with you?” Seems outdoors.

A Command?

- Numbers 15: “And it shall be to you for a **tzitzit**, and you shall see it, and shall remember all the commands of יהוה and shall do them...so that you remember, and shall do all My commands, and be set-apart to your Elohim. **“I am יהוה your Elohim, who brought you out of the land of Mitsrayim, to be your Elohim. I am יהוה your Elohim.”**”
- Certainly a command. And actually linked with the **FIRST COMMANDMENT!**

For WHO?

- Numbers 15 - 38 “Speak to the children of Yisra’ěl, and you shall say to them to make **tzitziyot** on the corners of their garments throughout their generations...”
- “children” = “ben”
 - “Sons, descendants, children...”
 - So not really clear on *women*, specifically...

WHY Tassels?

- (Num. 15) ...you shall see it, and shall remember all the commands of יהוה and shall do them, and not search after your *own* heart (mind) and your *own* eyes (desires) after which you went whoring,
- 40 **so that** you remember, and shall do all My commands, and **be set-apart** to your Elohim.
 - (Doesn't seem like just in synagogue, or just on Shabbats, does it?)

WHY *Tassels*?

- In ancient cultures (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon) a fringed hem with tassels was a “symbolic extension of the owner’s **rank** and **authority**.”
- A unique hem or tassel was used to press into clay as a **signature**.
- Requests accompanied by grasping the fringes could not be refused.
- Tassels were worn only by those in **authority**, **royalty** or **nobility**.

Royal Authority

- 1 Samuel 15
- 27 And as Shemu'ěl turned around to go away, Sha'ul seized the **edge** of his robe, and it tore.
- 28 And Shemu'ěl said to him, “יְהוָה has torn **the reign** of Yisra'ěl from you today, and has given it to a neighbour of yours, better than you.

Royal Authority

- 1 Samuel 24...
- 4 Then David arose and cut off the **edge** of Saul's robe secretly.
- 11 Indeed, see the **edge** of your robe in my hand! ...I cut off the **edge** of your robe...
- (Saul) "Now, behold, I *know* that you will *surely* be **king**, and that **the kingdom** of Israel will be established in your hand.

WHY *Tassels*?

- Why **4**? We can't see the ones in the back!
 - Obviously, for *OTHERS* to see as well.
 - Especially if other nations saw these as a symbol of **royal authority**!
 - Also, could represent authority over all the **four corners** of the earth!
- Why **BLUE**?
 - Very expensive, rare, only for **royalty/nobility**.
 - But only **1 cord** required, so all could afford it.

One more thing.

- Israelites were not allowed to mix, weave, or tie wool and linen together.
 - Leviticus 19:19 - And do not put a garment woven of two sorts of thread upon you.
 - Deuteronomy 22:11 - “Do not put on a garment of different kinds, of wool and linen together.
- Linen was usually white, and it could not hold the dyes of the time very well.
- WOOL was used for dying with colors.
- Fringes and tassels were usually made of the same material as the garment (mostly linen), but the cord of blue had to be dyed WOOL...

One more thing.

- Would YHVH actually *command* us to combine LINEN and WOOL together?
- **The High Priest** was commanded to wear both **white linen** and **blue wool** together!



A Royal Priesthood

- By commanding us to wear a cord of blue wool tied or twisted together with white linen, we are each representatives of the **royal priesthood** of YHVH!
- Not just ROYAL authority but PRIESTLY.
- We are a **KINGDOM of PRIESTS!**

A Kingdom of Priests

- We are to be **set-apart** to Him,
- we are to **teach** the difference between the set-apart and the profane,
- we are to **keep a higher standard** of living than the people of the world around us,
- we are to **intercede** for others,
- We are to **disciple** others in the Word,
- and we are to **rule** the four corners of the earth in His **authority**.

That's Why.

- That's why we wear **tzitziyot**, with a **blue cord**, throughout our generations, keeping His commands, and as a visible sign of our **royal authority** and of our **priesthood**, in the Name of YHVH here on earth.



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