



SHELACH - SEND FORTH

Numbers 13:1 to 15:41

Joshua 2:1-24

Hebrews 3:1 to 4:16

The Israelites are now two years into their sojourn and camped at Kadesh Barnea in the desert of Paran, about a three-day walk from Mount Sinai. Archeologists believe this is the present site of *Har Karkom* in the Negev desert, south of Ezuz.



Kadesh Barnea

Exploring The Land

Numbers 13:1-25

God/*Elohim* asked Moses to appoint one leader from each tribe to explore the land. It would be the first time in four hundred years the tribes would see the Promised Land. Among the twelve chosen was Caleb from the tribe of *Judah* and Hoshea from the tribe of *Ephraim*. Before leaving Moses changed Hoshea's name to *Yoshua* (Joshua). The Hebrew root of his name suggests *one who watches as a shepherd over his sheep to protect from the enemy. One who saves to deliver, preserve, defend, and rescue, as in a savior or salvation* (Strong's H3467). (Note: The letter j is not found in the Hebrew or Greek alphabets) (Numbers 13:6).

Moses directed the leaders that once they reached the land, they travel from the desert region of the Negev up to the hill country. He specifically requested they observe the inhabitants, the cities, and forests to see whether they were good, bad, strong or weak. The trip would take place during the grape harvest in the fall. Thus, Moses requested they return with *fruit* so the people could see the richness of the land awaiting them.

For forty days the men explored the land just as Moses instructed. While north of Hebron in the Valley of Eshcol (meaning *cluster*) they picked a cluster of grapes so large they used a pole to carry it home. The men also returned with pomegranates and figs.

The use of fruit such as grapes can also represent prophetic imagery, as the Land of Israel is synonymous with the Torah and the abundant life/fruit found in the Living Word/*Yeshua*. Tradition teaches that pomegranates have approximately 613 seeds representing the six hundred and thirteen commandments found in the Torah. Figs are thought to describe those who were outside scattered among the nations now returning. The fruitful land in Numbers 13, characterizes those who have the Messiah in their heart, walk in His redemptive plan (the order of Melchizedek), and have the infilling of the Spirit of the Holy One (Elijah/*Yeshua* - the Davidic Covenant) – the *goal* of salvation for believers.

🌿 **John 15:5-8** “I [*Yeshua*] am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”

Report On The Exploration Numbers 13:26 - 14:9

When the twelve prominent leaders returned, they proudly displayed the abundant riches found within the Land (Torah). However, the encouraging signs were threatened when ten of the leaders reported seeing the land as, “*a land that devours its inhabitants.*” These so-called leaders planted doubt among those who had been in captivity for so long, those who had looked forward to God’s/*Elohim* redemptive qualities for a new life and a new beginning in a land they had longed to see. Their report put God/*Elohim* under trial and in serious question as to His promises to them. Truth gives life, but a lie devours. Their disapproval triggered fear among the people that would ultimately consume them.

Today, some Christian and Messianic movements preach that the *end days* are full of doom, gloom, and despair. These false prophets plant fear among believers by giving a bad report contrary to God’s/*Elohim* Word. They teach that destruction is coming to His Bride; while *Yeshua* tells us He is preparing a Bride. Yes, there will be a wedding, and yes, there will be a war. If believers do not separate from unclean and unholy ways and sanctify themselves, they too will be consumed and swept away as in the days of Noah (Isaiah 66:17).

🌿 **Ezekiel 20:33-38** “As I live [*we serve the living God!*],” says the Lord/*Adonai* GOD/*Elohim*, “surely with a mighty hand, with an outstretched arm, and with fury poured out, I will rule over you. I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you are scattered, with a mighty hand, with an outstretched arm, and with fury poured out. And I will bring you into the

wilderness of the peoples, and there I will plead My case with you face to face. Just as I pleaded My case with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will plead My case with you,” says the Lord/*Adonai* GOD/*Elohim*. “I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant [*Leviticus 27:32*]; I will purge the rebels from among you, and those who transgress against Me; I will bring them out of the country where they dwell, but they [*the rebels*] shall not enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the LORD/*Yahweh*.”

🏰 **Jeremiah 31:31-33** “Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD/*Yahweh*, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah - not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day *that* I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD/*Yahweh*. But this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD/*Yahweh*: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God/*Elohim*, and they shall be My people.”

Those who are dutiful to trust and act upon God’s/*Elohim* instructions are a protected people, even in times of trouble. Those who walk in His ways will be carried *over* the waters of tribulation and not caught *in* the waters of tribulation (Ezekiel 44: 23-24).

🏰 **Psalm 23:4-6** “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You *are* with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD/*Yahweh* Forever.”

🏰 **Psalm 27:1-3** “The LORD/*Yahweh* is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD/*Yahweh* is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked came against me to eat up my flesh, my enemies and foes, they stumbled and fell. Though an army may encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war should rise against me, in this [*the strength of Yahweh’s word*] I will be confident [*put my faith in*].”

Contamination

If Israel were to be a conquering army, Moses would naturally want to know the strengths and weaknesses of the enemy, as this information would help formulate the battle plan. We are told there is good fruit and there is bad fruit. The sizeable fruits from the land revealed the truth. The land was good! Unfortunately, the ten leaders contaminated the fruit.

The bounty before their eyes spoke volumes about the ample provision of the land while on the other hand, the leaders expressed a vision that contradicted God’s/*Elohim* promises. Their feedback rejected God’s/*Elohim* truth. When leaders do not believe in

God's/*Elohim* covenantal promises, they cannot impart it to others, as a lack of sanctification cannot reveal the truth. The leader's adverse reaction broke the bond of Covenant that prevented God's/*Elohim* future blessings in their lives, and their decry threatened Israel's confidence. Lies are the work of Satan. When the leaders responded to fear, the whole camp became infected as the people hastily listened to the *stranger's voice* that soon became their reality. Without a thought, the people tossed aside God's/*Elohim* sure signs and wonders, His daily miracles, His presence in their midst, and His promises (John 10:5).

📖 **Luke 11:34** “The lamp of the body is the eye. Therefore, when your eye is good, your whole body also is full of light. But when *your eye* is bad, your body also is full of darkness.”

📖 **John 10:4-5** “And when he [*Yeshua*] brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”

The slanderous heresy continued, and by evening the whole camp was infected causing the people to turn against Moses and Aaron. With talk of appointing another leader and return to the land that gave them misery and death, Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before the whole community and interceded on their behalf.

📖 **Numbers 14:18-23** “The LORD/*Yahweh* is longsuffering and abundant in mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He by no means clears *the guilty*, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth *generation*. Pardon the iniquity of this people, I pray, according to the greatness of Your mercy, just as You have forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now.” Then the LORD/*Yahweh* said: “I have pardoned, according to your word; but truly, as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD/*Yahweh* - because all these men who have seen My glory and the signs which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have put Me to the test now these ten times, and have not heeded My voice, they certainly shall not see the land of which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who rejected Me see it.”

Joining in deep anguish over their fellow tribal leader's critical appraisal of Moses and Aaron were Joshua and Caleb. They tried to reason with the people by extolling God's/*Elohim* great promises and the goodness of the Land but to no avail. Through the uproar, the assembly talked of stoning them. At the height of it all, God/*Elohim* appeared before the Tabernacle.

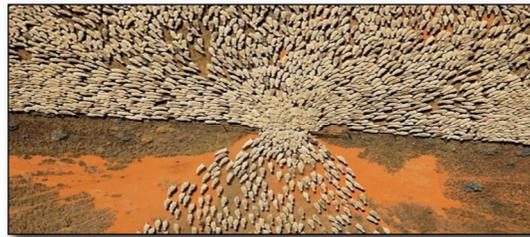
Could This Be Us?

In the past, how many were told the Old Testament/*Tanakh* was no longer relevant for today and that it was a dead work as “*we are no longer under the law*”? Like the Israelites at Kadesh Barnea, if we reject His Word, it is not God/*Elohim* who brings

desolation, but ourselves. If we are not for Him, we are against Him. For out of our mouth we either bless or curse (Matthew 12:30).

🌿 **Joshua 24:22-24** “So Joshua said to the people, ‘You *are* witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD/*Yahweh* for yourselves, to serve Him.’ And they said, ‘*We are* witnesses!’ ‘Now therefore,’ *he said*, ‘put away the foreign gods which *are* among you, and incline your heart to the LORD/*Yahweh* God/*Elohim* of Israel.’ And the people said to Joshua, ‘The LORD/*Yahweh* our God/*Elohim* we will serve, and His voice we will obey!’”

The people could not *see* that the law/*Torah* they cursed was designed to bring them life. God/*Elohim* allows a test to build courage and faith in the hearts of men. Courage is not imparted, it must be learned. Overcoming worldly ways that lead to destruction will enable God’s/*Elohim* truth to strengthen and empower believers to walk out their salvation (eternity). Sadly few find its path.



"Brenda Station" by photographer Scott Bridle www.scottbridle.com.au

- 🌿 **Matthew 7:14** “Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”
- 🌿 **1 Peter 2:8** “They [*the Israelites at Mount Sinai*] stumble because they disobey the message - which is also what they were destined for.”
- 🌿 **2 Thessalonians 2:9 - 17** “The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those [*believers*] who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved [*the uncircumcised fruit of their sinful nature was still evident in their lives versus the fruit of sanctification that comes by true repentance/salvation*]. And for this reason God/*Elohim* will send them [*believers who are lawless – not walking in Torah principles*] strong delusion that they [*lawless believers*] should believe the lie that they [*lawless believers*] all may be condemned who did not believe the truth [*the gospel given at Mount Sinai*] but had pleasure in unrighteousness [*lawlessness/unrighteous behavior, character and attitude*]. But we are bound to give thanks to God/*Elohim* always for you, brethren [*those who walk in Torah principles witnessed by the fruit of their testimony*] beloved by, because God/*Elohim* from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification [*to walk in a righteous holy lifestyle*] by the Spirit and belief in the truth [*Torah – obedience to His teaching and instruction*], to which He called you by our gospel [*Yeshua’s commandments*]

spoken at Mount Sinai], for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ/*Yeshua Ha Mashiach*. Therefore, brethren, stand fast and **hold** the traditions [*Torah: God's/Elohim teaching and instruction*] which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle. Now may our Lord Jesus Christ/*Yeshua Ha Mashiach* Himself, and our God/*Elohim* and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.”

Joshua And Caleb

God's/*Elohim* Word states that two witnesses are required to establish truth upon the earth. Joshua (an Ephraimite) and Caleb (the tribe of Judah) were the witnesses on behalf of the whole House of Israel. United together with unfaltering hearts they upheld God's/*Elohim* Word - His plan for *ALL* of Israel and future generations - ours included.

The Cost of Grumbling...

📖 **Numbers 14:2-3** “If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness! Why has the LORD/*Yahweh* brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?”

The consequence of undermining God/*Elohim* came the very next day, for the very words they spoke, came upon them. Due to their present state of mind, God/*Elohim* declared that the tribes would journey no further, nor would they enter the Promised Land. He stated this for their protection. If they continued in that attitude, the inhabitants of the land would consume them. Therefore, God/*Elohim* declared they were to remain in the desert until that generation passed, suffering the equivalent of one year for every day the spies explored the land, for a total of forty years.

📖 **Numbers 14:29-34** “The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in this wilderness, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, from twenty years old and above. Except for *Caleb* the son of Jephunneh and *Joshua* the son of Nun, you shall by no means enter the land which I swore I would make you dwell in. But your little ones, whom you said would be victims, I will bring in, and they shall know the land which you have despised. But *as for* you, your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness. And your sons shall be shepherds in the wilderness forty years, and bear the brunt of your infidelity, until your carcasses are consumed in the wilderness. According to the number of the days in which you spied out the land, forty days, for each day you shall bear your guilt one year, *namely* forty years, and you shall know My rejection.”

As for the leaders who explored the land, who had the responsibility of upholding God's/*Elohim* Word but spread the evil report, they were all struck down by God/*Elohim* and died of a plague.

God's/*Elohim* decision was a devastating blow for those twenty years and older. They were the survivors of the Egyptian captivity. Now their slanderous disposition allowed the gift of life to slip away and prevent thousands from moving forward.

Anarchy

Sadly, the disputes did not stop there. The next morning, after being barred from entering the land forty years, the people responded in chaos. Having been warned, the Israelites defiantly chose an attempt to conquer the Land on their own. Their presumption stirred the Amalekites and Canaanites to attack. Defeated by the enemy, the Israelites were driven back to Hormah.

God/*Elohim* warns His people the enemy will be on the doorstep if they rebel against His plan for their lives. If we vowed to live our life in Him and surrendered our life for His life by Covenant, like those at Mount Sinai, then we no longer have rule over our lives. Therefore, our life is His and not ours to direct. If we choose to disregard the vow and oppose His word/Covenant, it is our heart attitude that removes the protective covering of His word and lays a red carpet for the enemy to enter our house. If we repent and return in agreement to God's/*Elohim* truth and keep our vow, the door remains shut against the enemy's schemes. The decision is ours. Genesis 4:6-7 clearly states what will happen if we oppose God/*Elohim* and allow a disposition of anger or bitterness to control our lives. He says if we do not choose what is right, sin is crouching at our door desiring to have us, but it is *our* job to master it (Isaiah 63:8-10).

✠ **Genesis 4:6-7** “So the LORD/*Yahweh* said to Cain, ‘Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.’”

The Grain Offering *With The Oil and Wine Offering*

After that blatant display of rebellion and with the smell of death still lingering in the camp, God/*Elohim* in His mercy continued to share His protocol for life in the land.

✠ **Numbers 15:2-5, 14-15** “Tell the people of Isra’el, ‘When you have come into the land where you are going to live, which I am giving to you, and want to make an offering by fire to *ADONAI*- a burnt offering or sacrifice to fulfill a special vow, or to be a voluntary offering, or at your designated times [*Shabbat, Feast Days or New Moon festivals*], to make a fragrant aroma for *ADONAI*- then, whether it comes from the herd or from the flock, [*is a ram or bull*] the person bringing the offering is to present *ADONAI* with a *grain offering* consisting of two quarts of fine flour mixed with *one quart of olive oil*, and *one quart of wine* for the drink offering. If a foreigner stays with you - or whoever may be with you, through all your generations - and he wants to bring an offering made by fire as a fragrant aroma for *ADONAI*, he is to do the same as you. For this community there will be the same law [*one law*] for you as for the foreigner living with you;

this is a permanent regulation through all your generations; the foreigner is to be treated the same way before *ADONAI* as yourselves.” (CJB)

The grain/meal offering (also called the elevation, fire or bread offering) is always to be accompanied by the salt, the oil, and the wine offering. Having the elements together is an *eternal* commandment given us from the beginning. It is for all generations – ours included - and representative of the Messiah’s attributes designed to provide the Children of Israel hope.

Yeshua is the Living Bread, the meal/*mincha* offering, the Torah/Word made flesh. The *grain* speaks of our continued fellowship with Him and His atoning sacrifice that restores fellowship between man and God/*Elohim*. The salt is the Salt Covenant that represents the restoration of the firstborn and their return to the priestly functions of the Tabernacle. The *oil* represents His Holy Spirit/*Ruach*. When we walk in His heavenly decree on the earth, the witness of the Spirit of the Holy One pours out the anointing. The *wine* offering is symbolic of Yeshua’s atoning sacrifice that not only covers and provides atonement for sin but also restores full redemption.



🕯 **John 6:51** “I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread [*truth*], he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.”

🕯 **Luke 22:19-20** “And He took bread [*grain offering*], gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me’. Likewise He also took the cup [*drink offering*] after supper, saying, ‘This cup [*drink offering*] is the [*re*]new[*ed*] [*blood*] covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.’”

The combining of the grain offering, the salt, the oil, and the wine, with the fire offering, are all prophetic foreshadowing of Yeshua our Kinsmen-Redeemer. The elements are to be evident in all firstborn offerings throughout the year on God’s/*Elohim* Sabbaths and Feast Days as a reminder of Yeshua, the hope of all Israel. When the Israelites, *those who conquer the land*, serve these elements together, they are walking in one accord in Messiah in agreement with the firstborn requirements for their *right of return and redemption* to the land. That command is an *active eternal* commandment for every *generation* – ours included (Jeremiah 17:12-15; Romans 11:26; Psalm 111).

🕯 **1 Corinthians 11:25-26** “In the same manner *He* also *took* the cup after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me. For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes” (Jeremiah 31:31-34; Isaiah 49:6).

Those who follow Yeshua are His firstfruits offering. As often as *believers* meet in His Presence (not just once a year at Passover), they are to break bread in *remembrance* of Him. Yeshua is our *memorial* portion (ten percent) and we - His first fruits – are the ninety percent, called *holy* (Leviticus chapters 2 & 23; Numbers 15:3; Ezekiel Chapters 40-45).

One Law - Establishes Identity

- 🦁 **Numbers 15:15-16** “One ordinance [*law*] shall be for you of the assembly and for the stranger who dwells with you, an ordinance forever throughout your generations; as you are, so shall the stranger be before the LORD/*Yahweh*. One law and one custom shall be for you and for the stranger who dwells with you.”

Scripture teaches there is *one Law* – Torah, for all Israel *and* those who sojourn with Israel including believers in Yeshua. This commandment is an eternal law still active today. Around the world, there is mounting social pressure by those who have come from other countries to mandate their religious laws upon their new host country. Many have suggested a tolerance be made to allow *their* religion and *their* laws be adopted in places such as schools and governments, while the God/*Elohim* of the Bible and His Word be strictly forbidden. It suggests that those who believe in the God of the Bible practice a religion of intolerance. That rational subtlety erodes the very Biblical foundation our country is built upon. God/*Elohim* gave the *one law* commandment to warn His people not to form treaties or covenants with any foreign legislation, policies or religious systems. Scripture cautions us that if God’s/*Elohim* people compromise or attempt to conform and be socially correct in worldly matters, they will annul His Covenant. In doing so, the people and their nation will weaken and succumb. Breaking His Word is one of the main reasons many countries are fighting to keep their status today. God’s/*Elohim* Word does not change, nor should His people change His ways.



- 🦁 **2 Corinthians 6:14-18** “Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ/*Messiah* with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God/*Elohim* with idols? For you are the temple of the living God/*Elohim*. As God/*Elohim* has said: ‘*I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God/*Elohim*, and they shall be My people.*’ Therefore come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord/*Yahweh*. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD/*Yahweh* Almighty/*Adonai-Tzva’ot*.”
- 🦁 **Malachi 3:6** “For I *am* the LORD/*Yahweh*, I do not change; therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.”

🌿 **Deuteronomy 12:32** “Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.”

🌿 **Revelation 22:18-19** “For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book [*My law*]: If anyone adds to these things, God/*Elohim* will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God/*Elohim* shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book.”

Once a *people who are not a people* turn and walk in God’s/*Elohim* ways, they are no longer called an *alien, stranger, or Gentile* to His Covenants but are referred to as a *native-born* grafted into the *Tree of Life* and called the same as the natural born - *Israel*.

🌿 **Ruth 1:16-17** “But Ruth said: ‘Entreat me not to leave you, or to turn back from following after you; for wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God/*Elohim*, my God / *Elohim*. Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. The LORD/*Yahweh* do so to me, and more also, if anything but death parts you and me.’”

🌿 **Romans 10:12** “For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord [*law*] over all is rich to all who call upon Him.”

One Law - *Who is a Gentile?*

Answer: In Yeshua, *no one*. If a believer walks in the ways of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, their identity is called *Israel*. There is no other name under heaven by which we are called. When people forget God’s/*Elohim* Word through Moses, they lose their identity. That is why many in the Church do not know what their name is. If they understand they are part of *Israel* through Yeshua, they would love and support *Israel*. If God’s/*Elohim* people know their Hebrew roots, they would adhere to *Israel*’s laws and forsake all other pagan heresies. Either a believer holds Constantine, as the Father of their faith or their Father is Abraham. As a believer in Yeshua, His people cannot have both as their father.

🌿 **Romans 4:11-12** “And he [*Abraham*] received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which *he had while still uncircumcised, that he might be the father of all those who believe [in Yeshua]*, though they are uncircumcised, that righteousness might be imputed to them also, and the father of circumcision [Jews] to those who not only *are* of the circumcision, but who also walk in the steps of the faith [*in Yeshua*] which our father Abraham had while still uncircumcised.”

🌿 **John 8:56** [*Yeshua said,*] “Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw *it* and was glad.”

Many well-meaning *rabbinic* trained Jewish believers have been taught to consider it a privilege that a non-Jew (or what they call a *Gentile*) wants to study Torah with them. To even suggest this, they are saying anyone not “Jewish” in their eyes is considered an “outsiders” regardless of the fact they may be living a solid Torah-based lifestyle. Then they say that unless the returnee *converts to Judaism*, they will remain a guest in their company. To keep the *Gentile* at a distance and label them as an *outsider*, then say he or she must *convert to Judaism* is heresy. Nowhere in Scripture does it say a believer must convert to *Judaism*. That is like saying that all believers must convert to Catholicism. We don’t need more denominations/more laws! Scripture tells us that when a brother or sister turns from their past to follow God’s/*Elohim* ways, including His Sabbath and Feast Days, etc., with a circumcised heart, he or she is reconciled and redeemed *as a native born*. To be perceived as anything less than an equal among his or her brothers is called heresy in Yeshua’s eyes. That is precisely what Paul and Peter were arguing over.

✠ **Galatians 2:11-16** “Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I [*Paul*] withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles [*people coming in from the Nations*]; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision [*Jews*]. And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy. But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel [*that was given to both the circumcised and the uncircumcised*], I said to Peter before *them* all, ‘If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles [*Nations*] and not as the Jews, why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews? We *who are* Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles [*Nations*], knowing that a man is not justified [*saved*] by the works of the law [*circumcision, Sabbath and food laws*] but by faith in Jesus Christ/*Yeshua HaMashiach*, even we have believed in Christ Jesus/*Yeshua HaMashiach*, that we might be justified by faith in Christ/Messiah and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified [*saved*].

If people maintain that a brother or sister has no part in the Commonwealth of Israel, they are mistaken. Scripture clearly states the *twelve* tribes are returning. They are not uniting into *one* tribe (Judah) but uniting *in Yeshua*. This ingathering in Scripture is called *the restoration of the whole House of David*. Repeat: *Nowhere in the entirety of Scripture does it say a returnee must convert to Judaism*.

Also, some believers in rabbinic Judaism believe that if a *Gentile* joins him or herself to Israel and God’s/*Elohim* Covenants, they are to follow the *Noahide* laws. Again, this is a manmade rabbinic ruling that is *not* Scriptural. Their rabbinic Noahide laws prohibit those from entering the Marriage Covenant under the *Abrahamic, Mosaic, and Davidic Covenants* and from joining the Commonwealth of Israel. The commandment in Numbers 15:15-16, regarding impartiality for those returning, is from the *Mosaic* Covenant. The *Mosaic* Covenant was given to the twelve tribes of Israel. It contains the teaching and instruction for the *Abrahamic* Covenant, which states that the stranger living among the twelve tribes of Israel, one who embraces the *Abrahamic* Covenant and walks in

God's/Elohim ways in every respect, is to be treated as *an equal, a native-born - a full Israelite. Therefore, fully permitted to enter the Abrahamic, Mosaic, and Davidic Covenants* according to their protocols.

🌿 **Numbers 15:15-16, 29** “One ordinance *shall be* for you of the assembly and for the stranger who dwells *with you*, an ordinance forever throughout your generations; as you are, so shall the stranger be before the LORD/Yahweh. One law and one custom shall be for you and for the stranger who dwells with you. You shall have one law for him who sins unintentionally, *for him who is native-born among the children of Israel and for the stranger who dwells among them.*”

In the Numbers 15 passages, those who sojourn with Israel and honor God's/Elohim Covenant ways are not second-class citizens, outsiders or Gentiles but *fully Hebrew*. They have not *replaced* Israel, but are returning. They are received by Yeshua *as part of Israel* and accorded *full inheritance* along with every other tribe (Ezekiel 47:22-23; Galatians 3:29; Revelation 21:12-13).

If believers elevate only one tribe and believe that all in Yeshua must come into that one tribe to enter into His Torah lifestyle, then whom are they supporting? Are they upholding man's theology and outlawing Yeshua's Scriptural order? Even after living in Egypt over four hundred years Scripture records that *all* twelve tribes of Israel were fully intact. All paraded out under their individual and identifiable banners, unified and in one accord. Not one tribe was missing nor had any assimilated into another tribe.

🌿 **Galatians 3:7-9, 29** “Therefore know that *only* those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. And the Scripture [Yeshua], foreseeing that God/Elohim would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, ‘In you all the nations shall be blessed.’ So then those who *are* of faith are blessed with believing Abraham. And if you *are* Christ's/Messiah's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

Today countless people say it is impossible to believe that all twelve tribes exist today. From their viewpoint, that may be, but God's/Elohim truth stands. He proclaimed *all* twelve tribes would again return, each under their own banner.

🌿 **Revelation 21:10-13** “And he carried me [John] away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God/Elohim, having the glory of God/Elohim. Her light *was* like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are *the names* of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west.”

The point is *there is one law*. Not a separate law for A, B, or C people. Peter made this mistake in thinking that *Gentiles* were not part of the Commonwealth of Israel.

- ✠ **Acts 10:28** “But God/*Elohim* has shown me [*Peter*] that I should not call any man [*ie: Cornelius a former Gentile, now a believer in Yeshua*] common or unclean.”
- ✠ **Acts 10:34-35** “Then Peter opened *his* mouth and said: ‘In truth I perceive that God/*Elohim* shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.’ ”
- ✠ **Amos 9:11** “On that day I will raise up the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down, and repair its damages; I will raise up its ruins, and rebuild it as in the days of old”

Yeshua, the Holy One of Israel, has established, defended, endorsed, espoused, and died for those *in Him*. His blood makes it possible for those once alienated and strangers to His Covenants to *return* and walk in His ways along with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. In doing so, they also claim heritage among those in the Commonwealth of Israel. The tribes returning to Torah are all joint heirs according to the promise (Abrahamic Covenant).

- ✠ **Jeremiah 31:9** “They [*Israelites who walked outside Torah, and mixed in with the Nations for a season*] shall come with weeping, and with supplications I will lead them. I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters, in a straight way in which they shall not stumble; for *I am a Father to Israel, and Ephraim is My firstborn*” (Jeremiah 33:31-34).
- ✠ **Ezekiel 47:22-23** “It shall be that you will divide it [*the Land promised to Israel*] by lot as an inheritance for yourselves, and for the strangers who dwell among you and who bear children among you. They shall be to you as native-born among the children of Israel; they shall have an inheritance with you among the tribes of Israel. And it shall be that in whatever tribe the stranger dwells, there you shall give him his inheritance, says the Lord our God/*Elohim*.”

One Law - A Hebrew

The Covenant God/*Elohim* made with Noah is universal to *all mankind*. However, it is in the following unconditional Abrahamic Covenant where God/*Elohim* vowed salvation to a specific people group called *the Israelites*. The term *Gentile* refers to one who is *pagan, confused, and without God* - one who does not believe in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The Abrahamic Covenant signifies salvation through repentance and faith in the God/*Elohim* of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob/*Israel*, which is the Covenant Yeshua *died to revive in us*. We who are in the Abrahamic Covenant are no longer strangers or aliens to His Covenant but are wholly *part of Israel* (Strong’s G1484, H1471).

Scripture reveals that when God/*Elohim* made the Covenant with Abraham, Abraham was uncircumcised. The Hebraic definition of the word *Hebrew* means *one who has crossed over*. Abraham became a *Hebrew* when He crossed over, from spiritual death to life in the Covenant with God/*Elohim*. *Abram* did not become a *Jew*.

Today, we all become *Hebrews* when we, through Yeshua, repent and *cross over* from death (separation from God/*Elohim*) to life (redemption). Not until *thirteen years* had passed, did Abraham receive the *sign* of that Covenant, which is *circumcision*. Therefore, Abraham is the father of the uncircumcised, **AND** he is the father of the *circumcised*.

- ✿ **Romans 4:9-12** “Does this blessedness then come upon the circumcised only, or upon the uncircumcised also? For we say that faith was accounted to Abraham for righteousness. How then was it accounted? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? Not while circumcised, but while *uncircumcised*. And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while still uncircumcised, that he might be the father of all those who believe, though they are uncircumcised, that righteousness might be imputed to them also, and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also walk in the steps of the faith which our father Abraham had while still uncircumcised.”

We are learning that if an alien or stranger (to the Covenant) sojourns with the God/*Elohim* of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, they have crossed over and become a Hebrew like Abraham, hereafter to be known and treated as a native-born, no longer an alien, stranger or Gentile. The Jerusalem Council built upon this truth and made a point of protecting those returning from the nations by publishing a letter to the Diaspora. The Council’s letter stated there was no commandment that one needed physical circumcision to receive salvation. They then went on to list the four foundational requirements (Ezekiel 47:22-23; Acts 10:34-36; Acts 15:1-29).

- ✿ **Acts 15:8-9** [*Peter spoke*] “So God/*Elohim*, who knows the heart, acknowledged them [*those coming from the nations*] by giving them the Holy Spirit/*Ruach HaKodesh*, just as *He did* to us, and made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.”
- ✿ **Acts 15:20-21** [*James, head of the Jerusalem Council said,*] “we write to them [*those coming from the nations*] to abstain from things polluted by idols, *from* sexual immorality, *from* things strangled, and *from* blood. For Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath.”

Honoring The Land

- ✿ **Numbers 15:17-21** “Again the LORD/*Yahweh* spoke to Moses, saying, ‘Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘When you come into the land to which I bring you, then it will be, when you eat of the bread of the land, that you shall offer up a heave offering to the LORD/*Yahweh*. You shall offer up a cake of the first of your ground meal *as* a heave offering; as a heave offering of the threshing floor, so shall you offer it up. Of the first of your ground meal you shall give to the LORD/*Yahweh* a heave offering throughout your generations.’”

- ✿ **Romans 11:16** “If the part of the dough offered as firstfruits is *holy*, then the whole batch is *holy*; if the root is *holy*, so are the branches.”

Sabbath-Breaker Numbers 15:32-36

The seventh day, the Sabbath is a day made specifically for man. A day appointed for God's/*Elohim* people to rest from their regular workweek. Why is this important? The Sabbath is a *Covenant* and a day of *impartation*. God/*Elohim* wants His people to be blessed (Genesis 2:2-3).

- ✿ **Genesis 2:3** “And on the seventh day God/*Elohim* ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God/*Elohim* blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God/*Elohim* had created and made.”
- ✿ **Mark 2:27-28** “And He [*Yeshua*] said to them, ‘The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath.’”
- ✿ **Exodus 31:16** “Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations *as* a perpetual covenant.”

In Creation, God/*Elohim* spoke ‘life’ into six days and declared them all *good*. However, *the Sabbath* is the Day He *blessed* and *sanctified*. Those seeking blessing and sanctification in their life are learning to enter into the Sabbath day for the impartation found under its Covenant anointing. Therefore, if God's/*Elohim* people are learning His truth found in the roots of their faith, we invite you to enter the Sabbath. Be prepared to receive abundant blessings! In contrast, if after knowing the leading of the Sabbath but still choosing to continue doing your own pleasure on His Day, that decision will have an impact. It not only annuls the Sabbath Covenant thereby profaning His Holy Name but also breaks Covenant with Him on *His Day*. The Sabbath is a considerable invitation not to take lightly. All creation realigns on this day, why not man?

- ✿ **Jeremiah 17:21-27** “Thus says the LORD/*Yahweh*: ‘Take heed to yourselves, and bear no burden on the Sabbath day, nor bring *it* in by the gates of Jerusalem; nor carry a burden out of your houses on the Sabbath day, nor do any work, but hallow the Sabbath day, as I commanded your fathers. But they did not obey nor incline their ear, but made their neck stiff, that they might not hear nor receive instruction. And it shall be, if you heed Me carefully,’ says the LORD/*Yahweh*, ‘to bring no burden through the gates of this city on the Sabbath day, but hallow the Sabbath day, to do no work in it, then shall enter the gates of this city kings and princes sitting on the throne of David, riding in chariots and on horses, they and their princes, accompanied by the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and this city shall remain forever. And they shall come from the cities of Judah and from the places around Jerusalem, from the land of Benjamin and from the

lowland, from the mountains and from the South, bringing burnt offerings and sacrifices, grain offerings and incense [*oil*], bringing sacrifices of praise to the house of the LORD/*Yahweh*. But if you will not heed Me to hallow the Sabbath day, such as not carrying a burden when entering the gates of Jerusalem on the Sabbath day, then I will kindle a fire in its gates, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem, and it shall not be quenched.”

📖 **Ezekiel 20:12-24** “Moreover *I also gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between them and Me*, that they might know that I am the LORD/*Yahweh* who sanctifies them. Yet the house of Israel rebelled against Me in the wilderness; they did not walk in My statutes; they despised My judgments, which, ‘if a man does, he shall live by them;’ *and they greatly defiled My Sabbaths*. Then I said I would pour out My fury on them in the wilderness, to consume them. But I acted for My name’s sake, that it should not be profaned before the Gentiles, in whose sight I had brought them out. So I also raised My hand in an oath to them in the wilderness, that I would not bring them into the land which I had given them, ‘flowing with milk and honey,’ the glory of all lands, because they despised My judgments and did not walk in My statutes, *but profaned My Sabbaths*; for their heart went after their idols. Nevertheless My eye spared them from destruction. I did not make an end of them in the wilderness.”

“But I said to their children in the wilderness, ‘Do not walk in the statutes of your fathers, nor observe their judgments, nor defile yourselves with their idols. I am the LORD/*Yahweh* your God/*Elohim*: Walk in My statutes, keep My judgments, and do them; *hallow My Sabbaths, and they will be a sign between Me and you*, that you may know that I am the LORD/*Yahweh* your God/*Elohim*.’ Notwithstanding, the children rebelled against Me; they did not walk in My statutes, and were not careful to observe My judgments, ‘which, if a man does, he shall live by them;’ but they profaned My Sabbaths. Then I said I would pour out My fury on them and fulfill My anger against them in the wilderness. Nevertheless I withdrew My hand and acted for My name’s sake, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the Gentiles [*Nations*], in whose sight I had brought them out. Also I raised My hand in an oath to those in the wilderness, that I would scatter them among the Gentiles [*Nations*] and disperse them throughout the countries, because they had not executed My judgments, but had despised My statutes, profaned My Sabbaths, and their eyes were fixed on their fathers’ idols. Therefore I also gave them up to statutes that were not good, and judgments by which they could not live; and I pronounced them unclean because of their ritual gifts, in that they caused all their firstborn to pass through the fire, that I might make them desolate and that they might know that I am the LORD/*Yahweh*.”

In the story of the man found gathering wood on the Sabbath (Numbers 15:32-36), it was not only about gathering wood but also about the intent within the heart. In Exodus 35:3, we are told not to kindle a fire on the Sabbath. If the man had gathered ignorantly or was repentant, then judgment would not have come. However, the degree of ruling signified a deeper underlying issue. This man’s direct rebellion to the commandment brought about

his own demise. He would have known the word, thus also the consequences for continuing to gather.

Looking at the Hebrew root word for *fire* can add depth of understanding. To light a fire, one has to collect sticks, rub them together to create friction and dust. The heat from this action can cause a small cinder that then can be built upon to ignite the wood. Also, seen in this word *fire* is if the person has a contentious spirit rising up on the Sabbath, which causes friction in the house. That friction and flame/fire is concerning to God/*Elohim*. Therein lies the problem of gathering sticks on the Sabbath. God/*Elohim* warns His people not to give cause for friction in His House on His Day. Therefore, the one gathering sticks had not taken into account *the Branch* – Yeshua. Yeshua wants us to honor Him by keeping His Day Holy unto Him. Yeshua’s Covenant is still applicable today; therefore, believers must make every effort not to profane His name and safeguard His Sabbath as *holy* (Isaiah 58:13-14).

🌿 **Hebrews 4:4-12** “For He has spoken in a certain place of *the seventh day* in this way: “And God/*Elohim* rested on the seventh day from all His works;” and again in this place: “They [*Israel*] shall not enter My rest [*My Sabbath*].” Since therefore it remains that some must enter it, and those to whom it was first preached did not enter because of disobedience, again He designates a certain day, saying in David, “Today,” after such a long time, as it has been said: “Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.” For if Joshua had given them rest [*Sabbath*], then He would not afterward have spoken of another day. There remains therefore a rest [*Sabbath*] for the people of God/*Elohim* [*all believers*]. For he [*the believer*] who has entered His rest [*His Sabbath*] has himself also ceased from his works as God/*Elohim* did from His. Let us [*believers*] therefore be diligent to enter that rest [*the Sabbath*], lest anyone [*believer*] fall according to the same example of disobedience. For the word of God/*Elohim* is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

Tzitziot On Your Garments

🌿 **Numbers 15:38-41** “Speak to the *children of Israel*: “Tell them to make tassels [or *tzitziot* in Hebrew] on the corners of their garments throughout their generations [Note: *this is an eternal ordinance – meaning it is also for today*], and to put a blue thread in the tassels of the corners. And you shall have the tassel, that you may look upon it and remember all the commandments of the LORD/*Yahweh* and do them, and that you may not follow the harlotry to which your own heart and your own eyes are inclined, and that you may remember and do all My commandments, and be holy for your God/*Elohim*. I am the LORD/*Yahweh* your God/*Elohim*, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be your God/*Elohim*: I am the LORD/*Yahweh* your God/*Elohim*.” (Note: *Children of Israel* are both male and female.)

Earlier God/*Elohim* familiarized us with the grain, the salt, the oil, and the wine offering, representing *Yeshua in us*. Now He is introducing something to put on. Again, this speaks of putting on Yeshua.

🌿 **Colossians 1:27** “To them God/*Elohim* willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles/*Nations*: which is Christ/*Messiah* in you, the hope of glory.”

🌿 **Galatians 3:27** “For as many of you as were baptized [*mikvah*] into Christ/*Messiah* have put on Christ/*Messiah*.”

Ritual Application of God’s/*Elohim* Instructions

The tassel (or *tzitzit* in Hebrew) represents the 613 commandments and is an earthly response (or ritual application) to a heavenly directive - the outward application of *Yeshua in us*. The *tzitzit* is one of the many eternal instructions from the Torah that we (male/female) are called to do willingly; not for the purpose of salvation, but as an act of obedience and as a reminder to emulate His walk.

To obey the commandment regarding the *tzitziot* (plural for *tzitzit*), we are to have a blue thread intertwined within. This blue represents His Glory and is called the *shamash* or servant representing the Messiah. For a season, man replaced the blue-dyed cord with a white cord as a sign of mourning after the House of Israel and the House of Judah were expelled from the Land. For generations, that was the standard among the people of the land, in that they wore their *tzitziot* entirely white. That practice is *a tradition of man* not found in the Torah.



The blue dye is obtained from a shell that lives in the Mediterranean Sea off the northern coast of Israel. Thought lost for many years; the Jewish people believe that when they see the blue color restored in the *tzitzit*, those wearing the blue cord are the people who will help them usher in the Messiah in the Messianic era. The Orthodox prays, looking for people calling themselves *Israel*, who are of the ten lost tribes. Only recently has the dye been rediscovered.

The Blue Thread of the Tzitzit - The History of Tekhelet

- Part One: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8aAJgB4xAlw&feature=related>
- Part Two: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kYoiEOpvB_w&NR=1
- Part Three: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NyKgow6WUFs&NR=1>



Is The Shade of Blue Important?

The blue dye from these shells is like a fine wine. The conditions of the soil and weather during the grape's development dictate the vintage of the wine. A poor season will lead to a low sugar content which lowers the quality of the resulting wine, while a much warmer season produces a higher content of sugar and a better quality or vintage of wine. Likewise, the snail responds to the surrounding conditions during the year. The shade of blue or *hue* changes with the location of the snail, the temperature of the water, the level of ultraviolet light, and the seasons.

With the blue or *tekhelet*, people can be more fixated on the traditions of man and stay within the guidelines of *all white* regardless of the instructions given in Scripture. Now with the deeper understanding found in Scripture and the vintage as relates to the color variation in the blue dye, we pray God's/*Elohim* people will be more open to wrapping the blue thread with their *tzitzit* and enjoying the fullness that Yeshua has for them.

Colored Katan

Beged Ivri, the leading expert on recreating Temple period clothing, makes a broad range of garments in Israel. The traditional garment for *tzitzit* is called a *katan*. These garments come in an array of linen or wool qualities with varying colors from white with stripes to multi-colored solids depending on the tribe or traditional significance. Originally, the *tzitzit* were made in the same color as the *katan*. For instance, a burgundy *katan* had burgundy *tzitzit* wrapped in the blue thread. During the exile of the Jews to Babylon, they chose to wear the all white *tzitzit* with a white *katan*. Today many Israelites are returning to their roots and discovering their heritage in the Messiah. With the reviving of the snail, they are now able to enjoy wearing the blue thread as upholding of their Messiah, who has restored and redeemed all things.

Joseph's Katan

When Joseph was young, his Father gave him a *katan* made of many colors (Genesis 27:3). Joseph's life was a type and shadow of the Messiah and prophetic of the return of all twelve tribes to the Land. I wonder if Joseph's *tallit/katan* had twelve colors woven throughout representing the twelve tribes and if his *tzitzit* displayed twelve colored threads marking the Messiah and the restoration of the twelve tribes? (Strong's H3801).

Making The Tzitzit

There are numerous variations of colors and patterns for making the *tallit katan* and *tzitzit*. Below is a traditional model. There is also no set standard or commandment for tying the knots. The High Priest's *ephod* can give us ideas for the *tzitzit* as it has four rows with three gemstones in each row corresponding to the twelve tribes. Using these tribal colors for the *tzitzit* threads (represent the twelve tribes) wrapped in blue then tied on the four corners of the garment, will also tell of Yeshua and the ingathering from the north, south, east, and west of all Israel. Some have decorated their *tzitzit* with jewels and colorful beads. Others combine all twelve colored threads with a blue cord for each

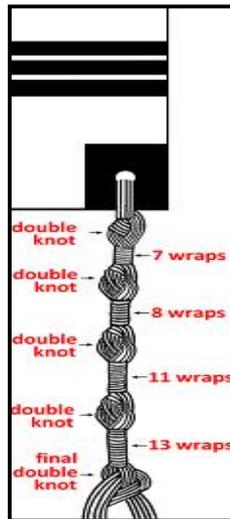
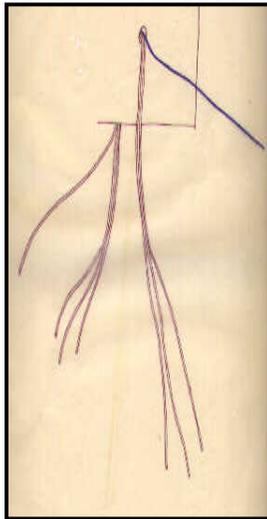
tzitzit. Either way, have fun making your tallit katan, prophetic of the twelve tribes returning from the four corners of the earth.

The Word Became “Flesh and Bone”

As the tzitziot tell a prophetic story and just as Joseph proudly wore his katan, he also left instructions for his bones to be carried home to the Land. In Hebrew understanding, the words “bone,” “word,” and “letters” are all synonymous. We are told the spoken Word or Scripture became *Flesh* and lived among us (John 1:1,14). In other words, *the Word became “flesh and bone.”* These words are all represented in the four tzitziot. To wear tzitziot is a prophetic calling, likened to the *wave offering*, signaling the ingathering of all twelve tribes (dry bones) from the four corners of the earth back to the Living Torah – *Yeshua HaMashiach* and to the Land of His appointed hour (Genesis 50:25; Ezekiel 37).

✠ **2 Corinthians 3:2-3** “You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone. You make it clear that you are a letter from the Messiah placed in our care, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God/*Elohim*, not on stone tablets but on human hearts.” (CJB)

How To Tie Tzitzit



Traditional Instructions

Loop three colored threads of your choice the same length through the desired garment.
Add one longer blue thread to the group (this will be your wrapping thread).
Now tie a knot with the thread as shown in the diagram.
Separate one blue thread and wrap it around all threads 7x. Tie a second knot.
Wrap the blue thread 8x. Tie a third knot.
Wrap the blue thread 11x, knot again and do a final 13x wrap with the blue thread and tie the last knot.
When finishing the tzitzit, leave the colored threads 4-5 inches long and cut the ends equal length.
Leave the blue thread an inch longer and also cut the ends clean.

Rahab And The Spies Haftarah: Joshua 2:1-24

🔥 **Joshua 2:1** “Now Joshua the son of Nun sent out two men from Acacia Grove to spy secretly, saying, ‘Go, view the land, especially Jericho.’ So they went, and came to the house of a harlot named Rahab, and lodged there.”

The story of Rahab is prophetic. According to Hebrew tradition, the spies were Caleb and Phineas. Rahab noted these holy men were in danger and hid them on her rooftop under stalks of drying flax. Flax is the raw product of *linen*. Linen is used in the making of priestly garments and represents the *ingathering or harvest*. For her kindness, Rahab asked that she and her family be spared. The men confirmed then escaped via the *cord* through her *window*.

Many strands make a *cord*. When woven together they form a strong rope. This picture is symbolic of the Whole House of Israel in Covenantal promise with Yeshua the Messiah. Together they unite in the Father’s hand, similar to a three-stranded cord (Ecclesiastes 4:12; Ezekiel 37:15-28).

🔥 **Joshua 2:15** “Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house *was* on the city wall; she dwelt on the wall.”

The word *window* in the above Scripture is the Hebrew word *challon* meaning *window* (if taken as a piercing or hollow in a wall) that is from the root word *chala*, meaning *to wound (fatally), bore through, and pierce*. It is the same root word as the *challah* for the meal or bread/*minchah* offering that we learned earlier. All are references to Yeshua (Strong’s H2474).

Upon leaving the men advised Rahab to bind *a scarlet thread* to mark the *challon*, the *pierced* window of her home. The scarlet thread represents purification and is used in the water purification ceremony in Numbers 19:6. It symbolized the purification and restoration of Rahab’s lineage. The Hebrew root for *thread* or *cord* can also represent a means for marking off a measurement. In this case, it represents the mark of Torah, as we are to bind God’s/*Elohim* teaching and instruction on our heart and mind, which means to the very depth of our soul (Strong’s H2339).

From this passage of Scripture, we find that Rahab, who was born an alien to the Covenant, embraced the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and crossed over, becoming a *Hebrew*, the sign of redemption. She was no longer an alien or stranger to the promises of God/*Elohim* but became fully part of the Commonwealth of Israel. For her bravery, courage, and kindness she is remembered and honored in the Messiah’s lineage (Matthew 1:5; Hebrews 11:31; James 2:25).

Shabbat Shalom

Julie Parker

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