

TZITZIT what are those strings anyway - Part A



Introduction: It is my hope today to bring us to a better understanding as to why firstly the Yahudim (the Jews) will wear this garment known as a Tallit with these strings called Tzitzit when they pray or when visitors to Israel see them wearing them at the wailing wall. Is there more significance to them & why do we see people today wearing them when they are not even Jewish like what we see among Netzarim?

The Spiritual Truth that has Alluded Us:

To fully grasp the abundant significance of the Tallit with its tassels we need to go to the beginning since many of us might conclude that the Tallit holds no significance before Mosheh commanded Tzitziot [tassels] to be attached to garments to be worn. Many consider it to be purely a Jewish tradition and holding no significance to us today. If then it is more than that, since the wearing of Tzitzit is commanded in the Torah then the question should arise, as to what it represents and was it foreshadowed before from the beginning. For us to understand a deeper truth we need to gain some insight from the sages and gain more understanding as to its symbolic overtones.

Our first overtone comes from the fact that scripture records in:

Bereshiyth (Genesis) 2:25 And Adam & Chavah were both naked, the man and his wife, yet they were not ashamed.

Though this verse suggests natural nakedness an explanation from the sages suggest that Adam & Chavah were clothed in supernatural clothing as stated in the following being an explanation of the Be'er Besadeh to give us some insight:



Netzarim - Antoecie
NAZARENES OF AUSTRALIA

Be'er Sadeh,
Bereishiyt Ibid

At first Adam & Chavah were clothed in a covering under the cloud of YHWH's glory, but once they ate from the tree of knowledge the Etz Ha Da'at YHWH removed these special garments. (Be'er Sadeh, Bereishis)

At 1st Adam & Chavah were clothed in a covering under the cloud of YHWH's glory, but once they ate from the tree of knowledge the Etz Ha Da'at YHWH removed these special garments. (Be'er Sadeh, Bereishis)

What we gain from the selected portion of the commentary is that we can derive that when YHWH created Adam in his image he was without sin and clothed with the magnificent Glory of YHWH Elohim.

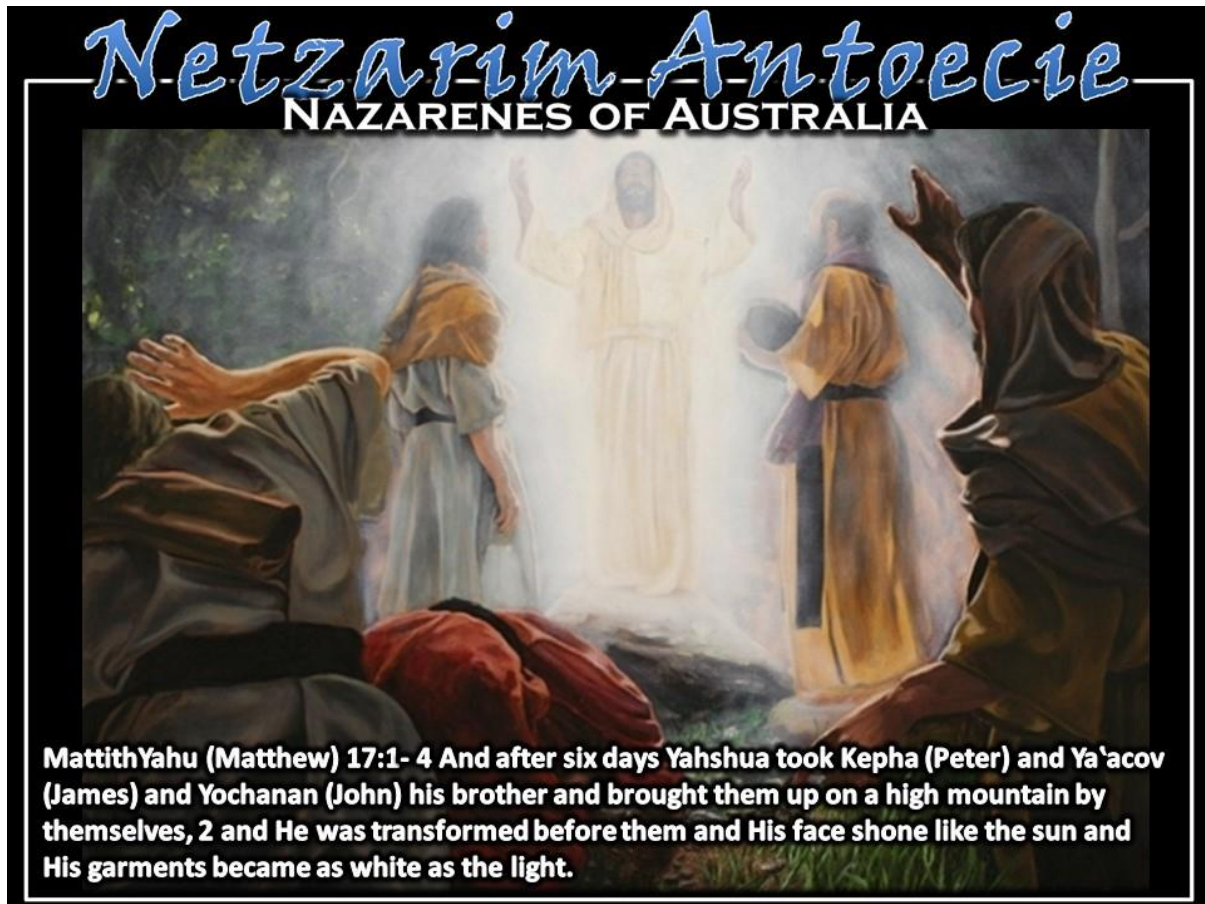


However, upon loosing this magnificent Glory Adam & Chavah out of shame covered themselves with leaves.



To help give us an understanding and a glimpse of what this glory could have looked like we

need only to turn to an account of Yahshua found in known as the Mont of transfiguration in:

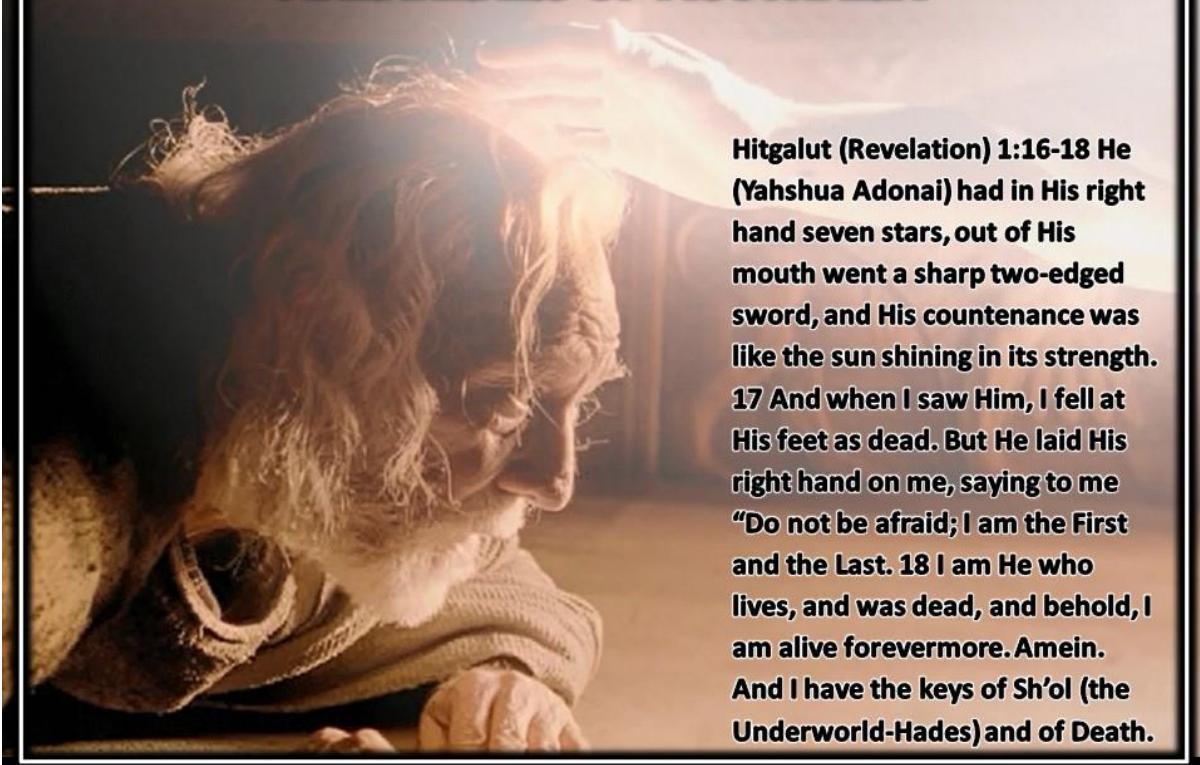


MatithYahu (Matthew) 17:1-2 Now after six days Yahshua took Kepha (Peter), Ya'acov (James), and Yahuchanan (John) his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; 2 and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.

After this great encounter we get to experience what the presence and glory of YHWH looks like and again this glory cloud is pictured by Yahuchanan (John) in the following to demonstrate how glorious it is and how as a sinner it brought him great fear and reverence in:

Netzarim Antoecie

NAZARENES OF AUSTRALIA

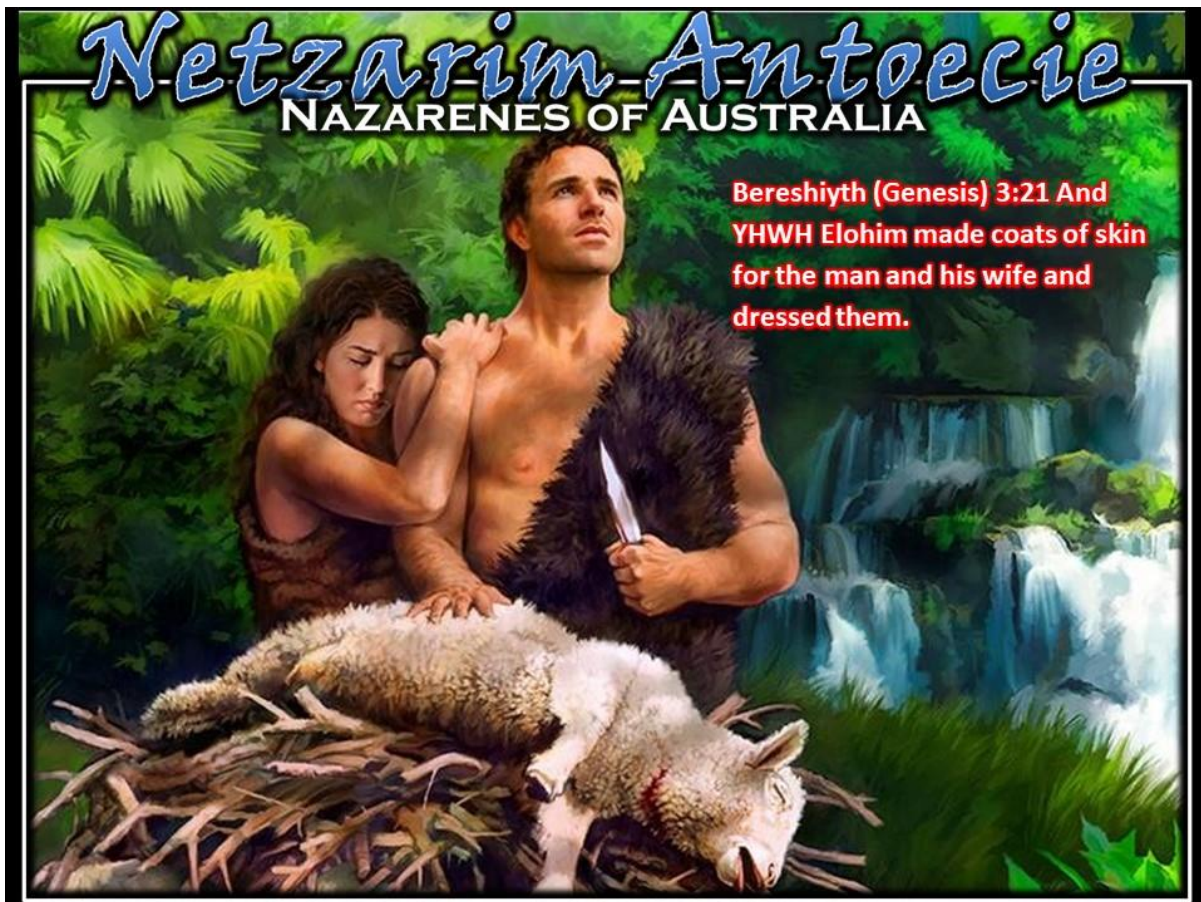


Hitgalut (Revelation) 1:16-18 He (Yahshua Adonai) had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. 17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. 18 I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amein. And I have the keys of Sh’ol (the Underworld-Hades) and of Death.

Hitgalut (Revelation) 1:16-18 He (Yahshua Adonai) had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. 17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. 18 I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amein. And I have the keys of Sh’ol (the Underworld-Hades) and of Death.

According to 11th Century Sage Rashi, Adam & Chavah were covered under the cloud of his glory being dignified beautiful garments giving them utmost sanctity but upon their eating of the tree of knowledge breaking their only Mitzvot (Commandment) these garments of glory were removed, and they then saw their nakedness, primarily not a nakedness of sight but of understanding which then also required new garments.

So significant is this section to our understanding that the next step that is taken is by YHWH himself as we read in the following:



Bereshiyth (Genesis) 3:21 And YHWH Elohim made coats of skin for the man and his wife and dressed them.

What we see, is that it was YHWH who killed the first animals as a sacrifice for sin that he could cover the nakedness or defilement of mankind with the skin of an animal. I hope we can begin to see the great message of redemption in this tale. We know that sacrifices were ordained for sin from early times which then pointed towards the superior sacrifice of Yahshua for the sins of the World.

How then is the Tallit with its Tzitzit represented in this section of Scripture. The Tallit & Tzitzit is representative of the righteousness of YHWH and his most Kadosh (Holy) Commands therefore the Glory cloud that covered Adam & Chavah was in fact representative of the righteousness and Holiness of the presence of YHWH. The skin covering then reminded them that YHWH had covered their sin.

Every time a Jew dons a Tallit it is therefore a reminder of how that Glory cloud was lost and how by obeying his Kadosh (Holy) commandments there is a hope of restoration.

For us the same truth should be evident in that we too are sinners who have lost the Kadosh (Holy) presence, but the Tallit reminds us that through Yahshua our perfect Righteous covering we have the hope of having that glory, meaning the promise of the full restoration of YHWH's presence in that day when he returns. The Tallit is our reminder firstly of the

promise, but also of his exceedingly great Holiness seen through observance of his Righteous Commandments.

These garments we call the Tallit speaks of Holiness as we read in the following:



Hitgalut (Revelation) 3:18 I (Yahshua) counsel you to buy from Me (your Adonai) gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.

Again, we read from Yahuchanan (John) in:

Hitgalut (Revelation) 16:15 "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame."

Garments therefore always speak of righteousness and purity before YHWH so from this mainly spiritual application of the Tallit I have tried to cause us to see just how the concept of the Tallit though being merely a material cloth has overtones right from the very beginning of Scripture and has extreme significance through pointing to the redemption of mankind that would come through Yahshua who is our Righteous covering that we might live through him as children of the Righteous Elohim.

The Prophetic Significance of the TzitZit:

The Prophet ZacharYAH (Zechariah) says this:



Netzarin Antoecie
NAZARENES OF AUSTRALIA

ZacharYah (Zechariah) 8:23
Thus says YHWH (the LORD) of hosts: 'In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the Tzit Tzit of the Tallit (H3671) of a man of Yahudah (Judah), saying, "Let us go with you, for we have heard *that* Elohim *is* with you."

ZacharYAH 8:23 Thus says YHWH (the LORD) of hosts: 'In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the Tzit Tzit of the Tallit (H3671) of a man of Yahudah (Jewish man), saying, "Let us go with you, for we have heard *that* Elohim *is* with you."

Netzarim-Antoecie

NAZARENES OF AUSTRALIA

The Blue Letter Bible

Lexicon :: Strong's H3671 - *kanaph* Aa

כַּנָּף

| Transliteration | Pronunciation |
|-----------------|--|
| <i>kanaph</i> | kä·näf' (Key) 🔊 |

KJV Translation Count — Total: 108x

The KJV translates Strong's H3671 in the following manner: wing (74x), skirt (14x), borders (2x), corners (2x), ends (2x), feathered (2x), sort (2x), winged (2x), *miscellaneous* (8x).

Outline of Biblical Usage [?]

- i.* wing, extremity, edge, winged, border, corner, shirt
 - A.* wing
 - B.* extremity
 - i.* skirt, corner (of garment)

From the Strong's number we get this meaning:

H3671

כַּנָּף

ka^ˆna^ˆph

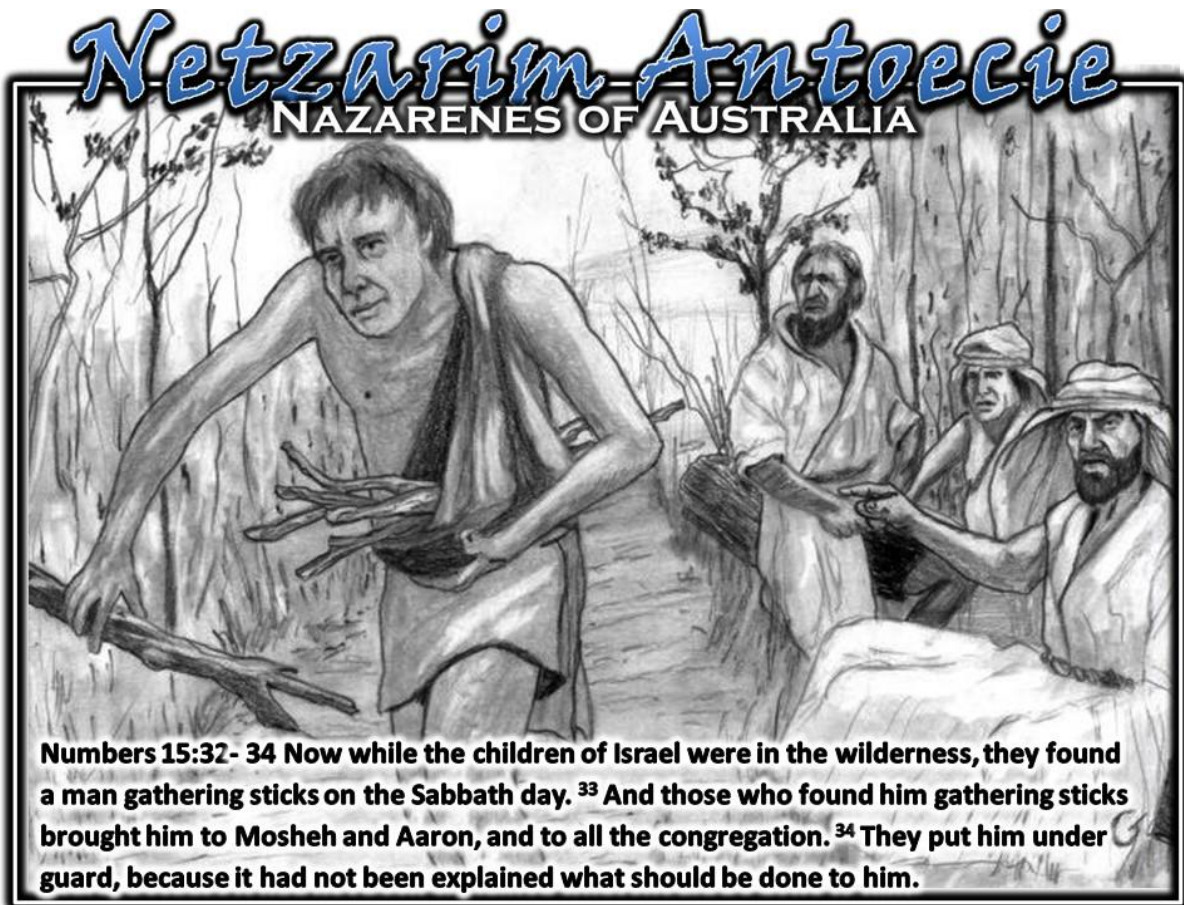
kaw-nawf

An edge or extremity; a wing, border or corner of a garment.

The History of the Tzitzit:

The History of this garment goes back 3,400 years all the way back to Saudi Arabia or what was called the land of Midian. It was there at Mt Sinai that YHWH instructed the people that he desired them to be a Nation of Kings & Priests. He promised that if they would obey him he would give them the land from the Nile in Mitsrayim (Egypt) to the Euphrates in Modern day Iraq (Babylon). When we talk about YHWH wanting to bless Yisrael think on this. The description of the Land that had been promised them currently encompasses 90% of the world's oil reserves therefore if Israel had kept all YHWH's commands all this land would be theirs, but they did not and now only occupy one tenth of that land which is by promise their inheritance.

As we read in the Scriptures the official story of the Tallit begins at the time of Yisrael's temporary sojourn at Mt Sinai and its story begins with a strange episode regarding the observance of Shabbat:



Numbers 15:32- 34 Now while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man gathering sticks on the Sabbath day. ³³ And those who found him gathering sticks brought him to Mosheh and Aaron, and to all the congregation. ³⁴ They put him under guard, because it had not been explained what should be done to him.

Hebrew scholars suggest that he was not just casually by mistake collecting sticks but in absolute rebellion to YHWH and his command. They say he did it with arms raised in defiance. The result was that YHWH instructed Mosheh to have the people stone him. YHWH was so moved by this scene that we see him giving instructions to make tassels on the Men's garments which became known as Tzitzit and later became the Tallit garment that all Yahudi (Jews) wore as did Yahshua.

Netzarin Antoecie

NAZARENES OF AUSTRALIA



Numbers 15:37-41 Again YHWH spoke to Mosheh (Moses), saying, ³⁸ “Speak to the children of Yisrael: Tell them to make tassels (Tzitzit) on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and to put a blue thread in the tassels on the corners. ³⁹ And you shall have the tassel, that you may look upon it and remember all the commandments of the YHWH and do them, and that you *may* not follow the harlotry to which your own heart and your own eyes are inclined, ⁴⁰ and that you may remember and do all My commandments, and be set-apart (holy) for your Elohim. ⁴¹ I *am* YHWH your Elohim, who brought you out of the land of Mitsrayim (Egypt), to be your Elohim: I *am* YHWH your Elohim.”


Numbers 15:37-41 Again YHWH spoke to Mosheh (Moses), saying, ³⁸ “Speak to the children of Yisrael: Tell them to make tassels (Tzitzit) on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and to put a blue thread in the tassels on the corners. ³⁹ And you shall have the tassel, that you may look upon it and remember all the commandments of the YHWH and do them, and that you *may* not follow the harlotry to which your own heart and your own eyes are inclined, ⁴⁰ and that you may remember and do all My commandments and be set-apart (holy) for your Elohim. ⁴¹ I *am* YHWH your Elohim, who brought you out of the land of Mitsrayim (Egypt), to be your Elohim: I *am* YHWH your Elohim.”

As part of the Covenant YHWH instructed his people to put a blue thread on the wings of the Tallit. This was for them to look upon in order to keep his commandments. This was to represent the blue of the Sapphire pavement of the throne room in Heaven. Therefore, this reminds us that even though we do not see him we are always in his presence.

The Process of Producing the Blue Tassel:

Netzarin - Antoecie
NAZARENES OF AUSTRALIA

The Production of Blue Tekelet



Tekelet (Hebrew: תכלת, means "turquoise" or "blue;" & is a blue dye from a shellfish called Chilazon mentioned 50 times in the Tanakh. It was used in the clothing of the High Priest, the tapestries in the Tabernacle, and the tassels (Hebrew: ציצית, *Tzitzit*, pl. tzitziot) affixed to the corners of one's four-cornered garments or to the four corners of one's *Tallit* (prayer shawl) then and now.

In Philippi Shaul met a Woman by the river on Shabbat. She was a seller of Purple or Tekelet. Her name was Lidia & her household were subsequently given a Mikveh (Immersion) & you can be sure Shaul was given a generous amount of "Tekelet" the blue dye for his Tallit making.

Tekelet (Hebrew: תכלת, means "turquoise or "blue & is a blue dye from a shellfish called Chilazon mentioned 50 times in the Tanakh. It was used in the clothing of the High Priest, the tapestries in the Tabernacle, and the tassels (Hebrew: ציצית, *tzitzit*, pl. tzitziot) affixed to the corners of one's four-cornered garments or to the four corners of one's tallit (prayer shawl) then and now.

A very small amount of very expensive die is extracted from this sea snail. When the shell is crushed in the sunlight the Ultraviolet light causes the dye to turn a beautiful blue. If the dye is extracted at night it produces a deep purple. At the end of the second Temple Rome kept this dye for itself to be used by them for their Purple garments. The Yahudim (Jews) however had to purchase it on the black market to fulfil the command from YHWH.

Rabbi Shaul (Paul) who was trained by the famous teacher Gamaliel travelled through Asia Minor teaching in the Synagogues. In the English version of the book of Acts we read:

Acts 18:3 So, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tentmakers.

This was an impossible trade for a transient dweller & were not used by city dwellers but rather by Bedouin shepherds. Tents were made of heavy goat hair woven on huge wooden looms by their wives. They would labour for months & these had to be moved on the backs

of their camels. Shaul did not make this type of tent but the confusion lies in the understanding of the Greek word which is “Skene” the common translation for the Hebrew word Sukkah meaning a temporary dwelling or for a Tabernacle for worship. To this very day the Tallit is used as a personal Tabernacle for Worship just as it was in the days of Shaul when he travelled between the Synagogues of the Yahudim (Jews).

Shaul (Paul) being a teacher in the order of a Pharisee was therefore not making tents but rather beautiful Prayer Shawls with Tzitzits on the corners. These would have been easy to transport & would have been desirable to the Yahudim & those coming to the faith in Yahshua who were now beginning to follow Torah and believing in Yahshua as the promised Messiah.

In Philippi Shaul met a Woman by the river on Shabbat. She was a seller of Purple or **Tekelet**. Her name was Lidia & her household were subsequently given a Mikveh (Immersion) & you can be sure Shaul was given a generous amount of “Tekelet” the blue dye for his Tallit making.

Conclusion:

The significance of this first teaching is that we hopefully gain a deeper spiritual context of the Tallit and begin to see just how unique and special is the understanding of the Tzitzit as connected to the Tallit. Most importantly these have the connection of reminding us that Mankind in general through Adam lost a most precious connection with YHWH the most Kadosh (Holy) and glorious Elohim who desires fellowship with man but cannot dwell where sin exists. It has always been in his heart to rescue us from the state of exclusion from his divine presence, so he first gave us his Most Kadosh (Holy) Torah which Mankind failed to perfectly observe and further in his compassion He sent forth his only brought forth son our beloved Master & Saviour Yahshua the Messiah. Through him we gain the cloak of righteousness with the hope of obtaining the cloud of Glory at His appearing. The Tallit with its Tzitzit is a reminder that Righteousness is the path through which we come under the cloud of Glory and that comes firstly through faith in Yahshua and with the empowerment of the RUACH Ha Kodesh, a life lived in the flesh seeking His Righteousness until that great day as we read in:

Netzarin Antoecie
NAZARENES OF AUSTRALIA

THE GREAT DAY

1 Corinthians 15:52 In a moment, in a twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound and the dead will be raised incorruptible and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.