

## The Tassel; More than just a string



**Num 15:37** *And Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,*

**Num 15:38** *Speak to the sons of Israel and you shall say to them that they shall make themselves fringes on the corners of their garments, for their generations. And they shall put a thread of blue with the fringe of each corner.*

**Num 15:39** *And I shall be to you for a fringe, that you may look on it and remember all the commandments of Yahweh, and do them; and that you do not go about after your own heart and your own eyes after which you fornicate;*

**Num 15: 40** *that you may remember and do all My commandments, and be holy to your Elohim.*

First, we should understand that this command which Elohim gave to the Israelites was intended to be directed only to the males, in consideration of their greater spiritual responsibilities (see Numbers 30 and Ephesians 5:22-33). If you look at the gender of the verb, the pronoun and adjective in Numbers 15:38 you will see that all the words are in fact in the masculine gender, which in the Hebrew language shows unequivocally that the command is only meant to the males. Let us see why.

There is no Scriptural record of the tassels ever being worn by women nor to the best of our knowledge is there any reliable historical record of the tassel ever being worn except by males.

It was not that the women were exempt from obedience, but since the tassel was the very sign of authority, it stands to reason, that the woman would be under the covering of her husbands tassel.

There is another aspect of wearing “the tassel” that is very important. In Numbers 15:39 it states in the original Hebrew “*And He shall be to you for a fringe*”, or in Hebrew “*Hayah L’chem*”. The word *Hayah* is a form of the verb to be and is used when Yahweh says ‘*I Am that I Am*’ or “*Eeshah Asher*”.

In the Hebrew mindset, it is actually saying that He will be their tassel, denoting back to the last article which was the blue string in the tassel, denoting the lineage of Messiah which the blue thread represented.

Therefore, since this scripture clearly denotes lineage, which in scripture is always clearly shown through the male, it would also denote that only men would wear the tassel and not the women, who again are under the covering and authority of their husbands or Fathers.

**Num 30:1** *And Moses spoke to the heads of the tribes of the sons of Israel, saying, This is the thing which Yahweh has commanded:*

**Num 30:2** *When a man vows a vow to Yahweh, or has sworn an oath to bind his soul with a bond, he shall not break his word; he shall do all that has gone out of his mouth.*

**Num 30:3** *And when a woman vows a vow to Yahweh, and has bound a bond in the house of her father in her youth,*

**Num 30:4** *and her father has heard her vow, and her bond with which she has bound her soul, and her father has remained silent as to her, then all her vows shall stand; and every bond with which she has bound her soul shall stand.*

**Num 30:5** *But if her father has prohibited her in the day he heard, none of her vows and her bond with which she has bound her soul shall stand. And Yahweh will forgive her because her father prohibited her.*

**Num 30:6** *And if she belongs to a husband, and her vows are on her, or a rash utterance on her lips with which she has bound her soul,*

**Num 30:7** *and her husband has heard, and in the day he heard he has remained silent as to her, then her vows shall stand, and her bond with which she has bound her soul shall stand.*

**Num 30:8** *And if in the day her husband hears, he prohibits her, then he has broken her vow which is on her, and the rash utterance of her lips with which she has bound her soul. And Yahweh will forgive her.*

**Num 30:9** *And as to the vow of a widow, or her that is divorced, all that she has bound on her soul shall be established on her.*

**Num 30:10** *And if she has vowed in the house of her husband, or bound a bond on her soul with an oath,*

**Num 30:11** *and her husband has heard, and has remained silent as to her, and he has not prohibited her, then all her vows shall be established, and every bond with which she has bound her soul shall stand.*

**Num 30:12** *And if her husband has certainly broken them in the day he heard, none of the utterance of her lips concerning her vows, or concerning the bond of her soul, shall stand; her husband has broken them. And Yahweh will forgive her.*

**Num 30:13** *Every vow and every oath, any bond to humble a soul, her husband shall establish it, or her husband shall break it.*

**Num 30:14** *And if her husband is altogether silent at her from day to day, then he has established all her vows or all her bonds which are on her; he has established them; for he remained silent as to her in the day he heard.*

**Num 30:15** *And if he at all breaks them after he hears, then he has borne her iniquity.*

**Num 30:16** *These are the statutes which Yahweh has commanded Moses between a man and his wife, between a father and his daughter in her youth in the house of her father.*

When you look at scripture, it is very clear that a women, whether young or old should always have headship, if it be her father before marriage, or her husband after marriage. We also see from Paul's writings (1 Tim 5) where the elderhood in the congregation would be headship for women who are either widows or for whatever reason do not have any headship in the home. It is not scriptural for a young lady to leave her fathers covering before marriage and go live on her own and work on her own. This has only led to confusion, a falling away from the truth, unhappiness in marriage and a divorce rate of close to 60%.

In order to truly make sense of the regulation of the tassel we need to see the cultural picture behind putting tassels on the corners of the garment.

In ancient times garments were woven and decorated to show the person's identity and status in society. The hem and tassels of the outer robe were particularly important, with the hem being symbolic of the owner's identity and authority.

The hem of a Jew's garment was not, as in modern clothes, a simple fold in the garment, sewn down to prevent the edge from fraying. It was a decorative feature, which made a statement about the status and importance of the wearer.

**Zec 8:22** *And many peoples and strong nations shall come to seek Yahweh of Hosts in Jerusalem, and to seek the favor of the face of Yahweh.*

**Zec 8:23** *So says Yahweh of Hosts: In those days ten men out of all languages of the nations shall take hold, and will seize the skirt (tassel) of a man, a Jew, saying, Let us go with you, for we have heard that Elohim is with you.*

Again, this scripture is indicating the importance and superiority of the Jewish nation in that day by the status symbol of the tassel on their garment. In texts found in Mesopotamia, references indicate that the removal of the fringe of a man's garment was the equivalent of removing part of his personality. In ancient legal contracts written in clay, instead of a signature, the corner of the hem would be pressed into the clay to leave an impression.

Thus, the tassel or fringe of a garment indicated the rank or personality of the wearer. We have to remember that Yahshua rebuked the Pharisees for enlarging their fringes, not for wearing them (Matt. 23:5) the inference being that they were thereby trying to magnify their position of importance.

When we look at the story of King Saul in scripture, the cutting of the hem is a prophetic picture of Yahweh removing him from his reign as king (1Sam 15:27, 1Sam 24:4). When David spared Saul's life, he took away evidence that he had him in his power:

**1Sa 24:4** *And David's men said to him, Behold, the day of which Yahweh said to you, Behold, I will deliver your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it is good in your eyes. But David rose up and quietly cut off the skirt (tassel) of Saul's robe.*

Why did David cut off Saul's tassel, and why did his conscience convict him afterward for having done it? The act of cutting off the tassel of Saul's robe was of great importance, which Saul was quick to recognize. When Saul was shouting at David the next day he said:

**1 Sam 24:10** *"Now, behold, I know that you shall surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hand".*

David had robbed Saul of his status symbol; the tassel of his robe was what identified him as king.

The presence of the blue thread in the tassel was a reminder of the blue royal robes of the priests. It was as if each Israelite male wore a little piece of the high priest's blue robe at all times to remind them that like the priests, they were set apart for serving Yahweh.

According to the Jewish scholar Jacob Milgrom,

*"The tzitzit is the epitome of the democratic thrust within Judaism, which equalizes not by leveling but by elevating: all of Israel is enjoined to become a nation of priests. In antiquity, the tzitzit (and the hem) was the insignia of authority, high breeding and nobility. By adding the blue woolen cord to the tzitzit, the Torah combined nobility with priesthood: Israel is not to rule man but to serve Elohim. Furthermore, tzitzit is not restricted to Israel's leaders, be they kings, rabbis or scholars."*

Let us look at some Scriptures that clearly, so the authority (covering) that the tassel (tzitzit) had for a husband or father over his family. For example, in the account of Ruth and Boaz, it was obviously significant what Ruth said to Boaz when he discovered her at his feet in the morning,

**Rth 3:9** *And he said, Who are you? And she said, I am your handmaid Ruth, and you shall spread your skirt (tassel) over your handmaid, for you are a kinsman redeemer.*

The skirt of Boaz would have been doubtless been edged, with the fringe and tassels that indicated his status. The fact that she also reminds him that he is her KINSMAN-REDEEMER, (type of Messiah) is also telling about his status to her. This request by Ruth was for his protection and his care to take her under his covering, as symbolized by his tassel on his garment - his status symbol.

It is interesting to note that a similar custom still prevails at an orthodox Jewish wedding, when the bridegroom covers his bride with his tallit, his prayer shawl, with its tassels at each corner, signifying that he is taking her under his covering and personal care. They are now one and she is under the protective covering of his tassel and not wearing a separate one of her own.

Only quite recently has light been shed upon the subject by an unexpected archaeological discovery; in the Bar Kochba caves by the Dead Sea, tassels have been found which were sufficiently well preserved to reveal that they were composed of linen threads with a cord of blue wool. It was only on men's garment and was actually part of the garment itself. Women were not to wear a man's garment according to scripture.

One of the signs of the Messiah in ancient times was the blue thread in the tassel. So prevalent was the knowledge of this, that after Rabbi Akiva named Bar- Kochba as another false Messiah, Hadrian the Roman Emperor forced the Jews to remove the blue thread from their tassels because of all the false Messiahs that had risen up in his day.

With this in mind, it is quite interesting to look what happens in Revelation 7, when Yahshua returns;

***Rev 7:14 And I said to him, Sir, you know. And he said to me, These are those coming out of the great tribulation; and they washed their robes and whitened them in the blood of the Lamb.***

***Rev 7:15 Because of this they are before the throne of Yahweh, and serve Him day and night in His sanctuary. And He sitting on the throne will spread His skirt (tassel) over them.***

This is the same terminology being used in the book of Ruth. By spreading a skirt over someone, it is a physical sign of your covering or protection over them. The tassel, as the most outer part of the garment is the sign of that covering, which means the protection and care that you will give your covenant partner. Far from being a point of restriction by being under one's covering, it is the very opposite; it brings you under their protection and care and status symbol of that individual.

It is not restricting a wife not to wear a tassel, but she is under the tassel (covering) of her husband or father. The single set of tassels worn by the man and not the woman is showing the oneness that marriage is supposed to bring and the wife's loyalty and submission to her husband as her protectorate and provider.

***Eph 5:22 Wives, subject yourselves to your own husbands, as to the Master,***

***Eph 5:23 because a husband is head of the wife, as also Messiah is Head of the Congregation, and He is the Savior of the body.***

***Eph 5:24 But even as the Congregation is subject to Messiah, so also the wives to their own husbands in everything.***

***Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Messiah also loved the Congregation and gave Himself up on its behalf.***

***Eph 5:26 that He might sanctify it, cleansing it by the washing of the water in the Word,***

***Eph 5:27 that He might present it to Himself as the glorious Congregation, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such things, but that it be holy and without blemish.***

***Eph 5:28 So, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies, (he loving his wife loves himself),***

***Eph 5:29 for then no one hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, even as also the Master of the Congregation.***

***Eph 5:30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones.***

***Eph 5:31 "For this, a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall be one flesh." Gen. 2:24***

***Eph 5:32 The mystery is great, but I speak as to Messiah and as to the Congregation.***

***Eph 5:33 However, you also, everyone, let each one love his wife as himself, and the wife, that she give reference to the husband.***

Submission is voluntary and always two sided, and as the wife is to submit to her husband as to Yahshua, the husband is to love his wife, as Yahshua loves the congregation. It is simply a matter of judicial order.

The husband has been put in the role model as Yahshua and the priest of his family. This is another reason why only the males would wear the tassel, due to the authority position in the family that it represents.

One of the main differences of a Kingdom compared to a Democracy is that in a kingdom the king is supreme and sovereign over all. Moreover, he is also responsible for the well-being of each and every person that is a member of that Kingdom; this is the status structure and symbolism that ancient Israel understood about the tassel in their day. That is why people simply wanted to touch Yahshua's tassel, as they understood that the tassel represented His authority as true High priest of Melchizedec and King Messiah to be the sovereign and protectorate over their lives.

**Mat 9:20** *And behold, a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years came near behind Him, and touched the fringe (tassel) of His robe.*

**Mat 9:21** *For she said within herself, If only I shall touch His robe, I will be cured.*

Why should she stoop down to touch the tassel, why not simply his arm or his head?

Surely, it was because the tassel had special significance as the emblem of Yahshua's status and authority. This woman was not the only one who saw the authority that lies within a man's tassel but look at how the crowds who came to see Yahshua did the same.

**Mat 14:35** *And recognizing Him, the men of that place sent to all that neighborhood, and brought to Him all those badly ill.*

**Mat 14:36** *And they begged Him that they might touch the fringe (tassel) of His robe. And as many as touched were cured.*

Thus, in Yahshua's day it was common knowledge that the tassel of a man's garment had a special significance. It was also common knowledge that the blue thread showed a sign of priestly authority. No one in ancient times would have ever assumed it would belong to a woman who was under the covering of her husband or father.

Since the Garden of Eden Yahweh has clearly set in His judicial order that **"the man is over the women as Messiah is over the congregation"** (Eph 5:22), and that **"the desire of the woman will be toward her husband"** Gen 3:16.

**Gen 3:16** *He said to the woman, I will greatly increase your sorrow and your conception; you shall bear sons in sorrow, and your desire shall be toward your husband; and he shall rule over you.*

I believe that this is the crux of the matter, that in the Babylonian western culture today, it is simply foreign, and in most people's minds degrading, to think in this ancient biblical mindset. Yahweh did not think of it as a yoke of burden, but rather a means of protection for the weaker vessel.

**1Pe 3:1** *Likewise, wives, submitting yourselves to your own husbands, that even if any disobey the Word, through the behavior of the wives, without a word they will be won,*

**1Pe 3:2** *observing your pure behavior in fear.*

**1Pe 3:3** *Of whom let it not be the outward act of braiding of hairs, and of putting gold around, or of clothing, garments of adornment,*

**1Pe 3:4** *but the hidden person of the heart, in the incorruptible adornment of the meek and quiet spirit, which is of great value before Elohim.*

**1Pe 3:5** *For so once indeed the holy women who were hoping on Elohim adorned themselves, submitting themselves to their own husbands,*

**1Pe 3:6** *as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him master; whose children you became, doing good, and fearing no terror.*

**1Pe 3:7** *Likewise, husbands, dwelling together according to knowledge, as with a weaker vessel, the female, bestowing honor, as truly being co-heirs of the grace of life, not cutting off your prayers.*

**1Pe 3:8** *And, finally, be all of one mind, sympathetic, loving the brothers, tenderhearted, friendly,*



*Headship in a marriage or family is not to restrict but to protect. The Torah is not a restrictive book to true covenant believers, but rather a book, which protects us from going against the will of our Heavenly Father. I know this is a very foreign idea in the Western world today, and for almost a whole generation the western mindset has went from the fathers headship in the family, to the women's rights movement and a usurping of that headship, to now where there is actually no headship at all.*

As a society, the US has lost its morals and conservatism to liberal ideas and a Laodicean culture of each doing what is right in their own eyes (Jud 21:25).

It was never Yahweh's intent to have one tribe (Levi) be mediators for the other 11 tribes but Yahweh was going to make a Kingdom of priests, And the Levites became the temporary mediator of all 12 tribes.

***Exo 19:6 And you shall become a kingdom of priests for Me, a holy nation. These are the words which you shall speak to the sons of Israel.***

But now in the New Covenant we are a Kingdom of priests and each reigning male in his particular family must once again take the role of headship over his given family.

As true covenant believers, we should be striving to go back to the ancient paths, and the core of that ancient path is the family structure. We need to raise the bar and totally come out of the culture of Babylon and return to the culture that Yahweh set up in the Garden of Eden. We need to think with a Kingdom mindset and not in a democratic one.

***Jer 6:16a So says Yahweh, Stand by the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; and you shall find rest for your souls.***

The tassel has so much more meaning than maybe originally thought. The men in the Congregation of YHWH should wear their tassels as a sign of identity of who we are, as Ephraimites in Diaspora. Interesting enough, the blue thread in the tassel, which signifies the royalty of Messiah is not worn by most religious Jews today. It shows as Yahshua was obedient in all things, that as followers of Him, we will try to be obedient to Yahweh's Torah. It truly is a sign of Yahweh and Yahshua being upon us and our obedience to His Torah and the headship that He has over us, and that He has given us, to have in our families.