

ONE NEW MAN

Shema Tzitzit

NUM 15:38 "Speak to the children of Israel: Tell them to mak*e tassels on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and to put a blue thread in the tassels of the corners. 39 "And you shall have the tassel, that you may look upon it and remember all the commandments of the LORD 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 holy for your God. 41 "I [am] the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: I [am] the LORD your God."
Deuteronomy 22:12 You shall make tassels on the four corners of the garment with which you cover yourself.

As for the purpose of the tzitzis, scripture tells us that they're to remind us of the commandments. If you take the numerical value of the word tzitzis in the Hebrew alphabet, each letter also represents a number, that is, the combined value of the letters in the word, is six hundred. The fringes traditionally include five separate knots, and eight strings coming off the end of each corner - $600 + 5 + 8 = 613$, which happens to be the number of commandments in the Torah.

The knot at the very top that holds all the strings together represents God holding His word together. The five sets of double knots represent the five books of the Torah. The gaps between the windings represents that from generation to generation He has not changed (**Malachi 3:6, Hebrews 13:8**.) The Tzitzit has four sets of windings (7+8+11 and 13), which is the numerical value in the Hebrew alphabets for "The Lord is One." We are also reminded that we are healed by His stripes (39 stripes on His back) **Isaiah 53:5**. Also at the beginning of each set of windings are two white windings which represent the **Shema, to hear and obey**. The blue thread also reminds us of the color of the sea, which, in turn reminds us of the blue heavens. When we recall the heavens, this invokes within us a greater sense of Godly awe (FEAR OF LORD).

Tzitzit Prayer

Blessed are you, LORD our God, King of the universe, who has sanctified us with his commandments and commanded us regarding the tzitzit.

Psalms 111:10 The fear of the LORD [is] the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do [His commandments.] His praise endures forever.