

UNDERSTANDING YOUR HEIRLOOM PRAYER SHAWL

Recent *This Is Your Day!* telecasts spotlighted both Old and New Testament examples of the *tallit*, or prayer shawl. In Jewish culture, a threadbare heirloom prayer shawl is treated with great respect, as a mantle of holiness, acquired from years of use.

In Numbers, the tallit, a unique piece of Jewish clothing, is described:

Speak unto the children of Israel, and bid them that they make them fringes in the borders of their garments throughout their generations, and that they put upon the fringe of the borders a ribband of blue: And it shall be unto you for a fringe, that ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of the LORD. (Numbers 15:38-39)

Matthew 9:20-22 speaks specifically about how the woman with the issue of blood, desperate for her miracle, came to Jesus and desired to touch the hem of our wonderful Lord's garments. This passage referred to the tallit, with its unusual hem made with fringes, referred to as *tzitzit*. The Torah gave the commandment to wear these fringes on the corners of a four-cornered tallit, especially during prayer.

There is a complex procedure filled with religious and numerological significance for constructing the *tzitzit*. In ancient Jewish tradition, the white threads symbolize righteousness and the blue threads symbolize the heavenly origin of the commandments. The number and arrangement of threads and knots symbolize the 613 precepts of the Law and the windings equal the numerical value of the Hebrew words for "the Lord is one."

Traditionally, blessings were sewn into the garment and were uttered before donning the prayer shawl. The wearer literally wrapped himself in the Word of God. This prayer shawl, created especially for our partners, includes Scriptures of healing and righteousness through our Lord Jesus Christ.

It was no accident that the woman with the issue of blood and so many others sought to touch the hem of Jesus Christ's garment. Their faith was built on an understanding of the significance of the tallit, its four corners and fringes, and their need for the Savior.

You and your family will cherish this beautiful heirloom—an expression of your heritage of prayer and faith. And it will be a great comfort and teaching tool as you "*remember all the commandments of the LORD*" as you literally wrap yourself in God's Word and blessings as you pray.

To order additional prayer shawls, write, call, or go to our Web site.

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