

**AN EXEGETICAL ANALYSIS ON THE USE OF *TSITSIT* (תִּצִּיט) IN PRAYER**

**IN NUMBERS 15:37-41**

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### ABSTRACT

This study used exegetical method to analyze the use of *tsitsit* (תצ"צ) in prayer in Numbers 15:37-41, its origin, function, and meaning. Books, dictionaries, encyclopedias, and other on-line materials were used as relevant references. Results of the study revealed that the commandment of wearing the *tsitsit* was given by God through Moses while the Israelites were still in the wilderness, after they had gone out from Egypt and before they entered the Promised Land. This commandment was ordained for all generations. A blue thread or cord was specified to be placed on the borders or corners of their garments. The *tsitsit* (tassels or fringes) serves as a visual reminder to obey the commandments of the Lord. The color *tekhelet* (blue) was expensive because it came from a rare sea snail that must be harvested by hand and many snails were needed to produce a single drop of dye. In the course of time, garment fashion has changed and the Israelites developed a particular garment called *tallit* (prayer shawl) on which the *tsitsit* could be attached. *Tallit* is primarily used in their daily prayers, worship, and other religious ceremonies, and they wear a small *tallit* for their ordinary daily living. This garment never parts from the wearers until death that it is worn even during burial. Up to this day, Israelites wear the *tsitsit* attached to the *tallit*.