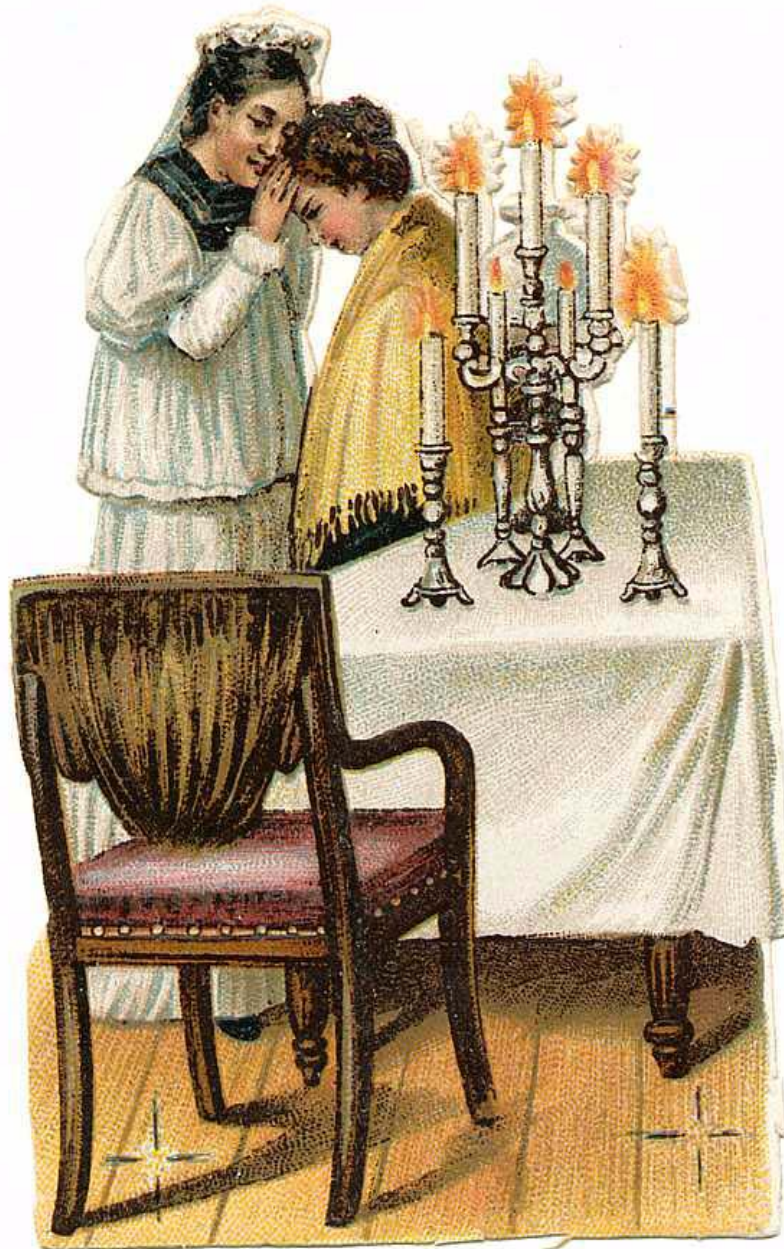


Wearing Fringes

Are they for believers today?



by Larry & June Acheson

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Larry and June Acheson



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I. May We Pick and Choose the Laws We Obey?

One thing we hopefully remember from the history of the nation of Israel is that Yahweh did not back off when it came to letting His people know what He expected of them. Because we know that Yahweh never changes (Malachi 3:6), we likewise know that He has the same expectations for His people today. You either obey Him or you disobey Him: It's your choice. Yahweh, through His servant Moses, made it crystal clear that when you obey Him, blessings come. When you *disobey*, curses come. A good chapter to read to get the gist of this truth is the 28th chapter of Deuteronomy, a portion of which is displayed below:

Deuteronomy 28:1-6

And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of Yahweh thy Almighty, to observe and to do all His commandments which I command thee this day, that Yahweh thy Almighty will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:

And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of Yahweh thy Almighty.

Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field.

Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep.

Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store.

Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out.

To many, the commandment to wear fringes is one of the "least" of the commandments, and is therefore not all that important to *them*.

Do not all of us want to experience the blessings listed above? I want to be blessed, and I'm sure you feel the same way. I could have continued with several other verses from this particular passage in Deuteronomy 28, but hopefully you get the idea! There are blessings in store for those who obey! Their key word here is the word *obey*. The blessings are bestowed upon those who *obey*! It says in verse one: "IF thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of Yahweh thy Almighty, to OBSERVE and to DO *all* His commandments..." He tells us we have to DO what He says ... we have to OBEY Him and do (perform) ALL of His commandments! Furthermore, just in case someone might happen to take the notion that he can "pick and choose" which of Yahweh's commandments to obey and which of His commandments *not* to obey, Yahweh concludes in verse 14, "And thou shalt not go aside from any of the words which I command thee this day, to the right hand, or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them."

We should want the “berakah” — the blessings. And how do we obtain blessings? By obeying Yahweh!

Clearly, Yahweh intends for His people to obey Him implicitly, not wavering between deciding whether or not to keep certain of His commandments! If we choose to go *against* anything He tells us to do, then we simultaneously choose to *disobey* Him. It is when we choose to disobey Him that blessings stop and the curses begin. Let’s continue reading in Deuteronomy 28, but let’s skip over to verse 15:

Deuteronomy 28:15-20

But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of Yahweh thy Almighty, to observe to do all His commandments and His statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:

Cursed shalt thou be in the city, and cursed shalt thou be in the field.

Cursed shall be thy basket and thy store.

Cursed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy land, the increase of thy cattle, and the flocks of thy sheep.

Cursed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and cursed shalt thou be when thou goest out.

Yahweh shall send upon thee cursing, vexation, and rebuke, in all that thou settest thine hand unto for to do, until thou be destroyed, and until thou perish quickly; because of the wickedness of thy doings, whereby thou hast forsaken Me.

The word translated “blessing” in Deuteronomy 28 is word #1293 in *Strong’s Hebrew and Chaldee Dictionary*, and is pronounced “berakah.” It literally means “benediction or prosperity,” which indeed is the same as a blessing. Interestingly, the word for blessing in Hebrew comes from word #1288 [barak], which means to *kneel*. How appropriate it is when we pray to Yahweh that we *bless Yahweh*, and that we bless Him while we pray on our *knees*. ***We should always “berakah” Yahweh!*** Again, to “berakah” Yahweh means to “bless” Yahweh! And if we honor Him by obeying His every word, He will in turn “berakah” US!

The word translated “curse” in Deuteronomy 28 is the Hebrew word “qelalah.” This word is word #7045 in *Strong’s Hebrew and Chaldee Dictionary*, and means “vilification.” What is a “vilification,” anyway? Well, a vilification is an English word that means to “make cheap, to degrade.” Certainly when our lives are *degraded*, when everything we own is *degraded* and made cheap, this is *not* a blessing. This is *not* a good thing, it is a *bad* thing. It is a curse! Do we want “berakah” in our lives or do we want “qelalah”? We should want the “berakah” — the blessings. And how do we obtain blessings? By obeying Yahweh!

The question of obedience, therefore, is not the issue; rather, it is a question of, “Where do we draw the line between what Yahweh wanted the Israelites to do and what He expects of His people today?”

I could write a treatise enjoining all of us to obey Yahweh, and I would probably get no disagreement, at least not in the presence of most Sabbathkeepers. In fact, I have heard many sermons from **Sunday** preachers with similar messages — that if we are to expect to be *blessed* by Yahweh, we must *obey* Yahweh. The message of obedience is a thread that is woven throughout *all* who believe in a Creator, whether we worship on Saturday or on Sunday. If we were to take a poll of all churchgoers, asking them if we should obey or disobey whatever the Creator says, I believe the vast majority would agree that we should *obey* the Creator.

Obedience is, after all, a New Testament teaching *as well as* an Old Testament teaching. Are you familiar with Acts 5:32? You may recall that in Acts chapter 5 the high priest and his followers had Peter and the other apostles arrested and thrown into prison. During the night, though, the angel of Yahweh released them from prison, and told them to go to the Temple to teach the people. Again, they were brought before the high priest, who said something like, “Didn’t we tell you not to teach in that name?” *What was the Apostle Peter’s response to that question?*

He defiantly stated, in Acts 5:29, “We ought to obey **Yahweh** rather than *men!*”

Then notice what he said in verse 32: “And we are *witnesses* of these things! And *is also* the Holy Spirit, which Yahweh hath given to them that **OBEY HIM!**”

So the importance of obedience to our Creator is NOT confined to “Old Testament” believers! It is incumbent upon “New Testament believers” to obey *also!* Hence, the debate that rages between Sabbathkeepers and non-Sabbathkeepers isn’t whether or not we should *obey* the Creator, but rather it is, “Exactly *which rules* does the Creator want us to obey?” Non-Sabbathkeepers believe that obedience to the fourth commandment is no longer binding upon believers. They teach that the fourth commandment was “done away with” when Yeshua died on the tree. Sabbathkeepers, on the other hand, believe that the commandment to remember the Sabbath day remained “status quo,” continuing on through New Testament times, well beyond the death and resurrection of Yeshua the Messiah. They do *not* believe it was “done away with.” The question of obedience, therefore, is not the issue; rather, it is a question of “where do we draw the line between what Yahweh wanted the Israelites to do and what He expects of His people today?” In other words, “What rules applied back then, but are no longer necessary?”

In this “topsy-turvy” world we live in, many people are in fact doing things exactly the *opposite* from what we are told to do in Scripture. For example, we are plainly told in Scripture that it is *okay* to **mention** the name of our Creator, the name “Yahweh” (Is. 26:13), yet we are commonly *taught* by man that it is **WRONG** to do so. On the other hand, we are plainly told in Scripture that it is *wrong* to call upon the names of heathen deities (Ex. 23:13), yet when we call upon our Creator by the name or title of “God,” that is *exactly* what we do. And man teaches us that it is okay to refer to the Almighty with this term. In other words, it is *okay* to do what Scripture tells us *not* to do, but it is wrong to do what Scripture plainly tells us we *should* do.

Does *this* make any sense? Again, we seem to be living in a “**TOPSY-TURVY WORLD.**” *How can we “break the cycle” of not doing what Yahweh says to do and doing what He says not to do?* We can only break that cycle by repenting of our sins, turning to Yahweh for forgiveness, asking for His mercy, and then determining to do our best to not go against His commands any more.

II. Has the Commandment to Wear Tassels Been “Done Away With”?

Up to this point we have lightly covered a few key areas that illustrate that just because we can all agree that obedience is important *doesn’t mean* that we will agree on what we should obey! Sunday-keepers don’t fathom the necessity of obeying the fourth commandment in these days. Some Sabbath-keepers cannot grasp the need to observe the feasts of Yahweh. Many Sabbathkeepers are content to refer to the Creator by a name universally recognized as being false, and consider those who refer to Him by the name He gave to Himself as being *overly zealous*, if not *completely bonkers!*

One commandment that is often ignored and even taught as being a “sin” to obey is the one pertaining to the wearing of tassels on our garments.

We read earlier that Yahweh expects us to obey *all* of His commandments, yet we have likewise established that man tends to “draw the line” as to which ones he feels “apply to believers in today’s age.” One commandment that is often ignored and even taught as being a “sin” to obey is the one pertaining to the wearing of tassels on our garments. Let’s read about this command as given in the torah. It is found in Numbers 15, and is displayed below:

Numbers 15:37-41

And Yahweh spake unto Moses, saying,

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 Yahweh, and do them; and that ye seek not after your own heart and your own eyes, after which ye use to go a-whoring.

That ye may remember, and do all My commandments, and be SET APART unto your Almighty.

I am Yahweh your Almighty, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be your Almighty: I am Yahweh your Almighty.

The command to make and wear fringes is clearly stated. The children of Israel are required by Yahweh to wear fringes in the corners of their garments. This commandment is even *repeated* in Deuteronomy 22:

Deuteronomy 22:12

Thou shalt make thee fringes upon the four quarters of thy vesture, wherewith thou coverest thyself.

This mandate is ignored by the vast majority of people with whom I have associated over the years, including Sabbathkeepers and Sacred Name folk. Yet these same people normally stand by the claim that **none** of Yahweh’s laws have been “done away with,” which must of necessity include **THIS** law.

Not only should obeying this command remind us to obey Yahweh’s commandments, but we need to remember that this command *itself*, and *by itself* IS one of those commandments! The question we need to be asking ourselves is, “*What are we going to do about it?*”

King David was inspired to write, “*Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and Thy law is truth!*” (Psalms 119:142). If we therefore choose to eliminate the law pertaining to the fringes, we have opted to simultaneously eliminate a portion of Yahweh’s truth from our lives. We shouldn’t have to be reminded to obey Yahweh’s commandments, but just in case nothing else reminds us to obey, OBEYING THIS COMMANDMENT should do it. Not only should obeying this command remind us to obey Yahweh’s commandments, but we need to remember that this command *itself*, and *by itself* IS one of those commandments! The question we need to be asking ourselves is, “*What are we going to do about it?*”

If this is one of those commandments that hasn’t been “done away,” then the responsibility falls upon us to obey it.

King David was also inspired to write the following: “*Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of [Yahweh], and on His law he meditates day and night.*” When we meditate on Yahweh’s law, do we separate from that law one or more portions as not being “for us today”? No, we make no separations. Yahweh’s law is as all-encompassing and sufficient in its entirety today as it was during the days of King David. Yahweh does not intend for us to decide which portions apply today and which ones do not. They ALL apply! Once, while discussing the law pertaining to the tassels with a man, he commented, “I don’t need to wear the tassels because I don’t need anything to remind me to **keep** His commandments! I meditate on His law day and night!”

My response was, “Then do you meditate on **THIS** law (the fringes)? You see, the law pertaining to the fringes is *one* of those laws you’re supposed to meditate on! Are you going to obey it or not?” Yahweh does not add stipulations that we only need to wear fringes if we should “happen” to catch ourselves forgetting His law! He tells us to wear them so we can be certain to obey Him as a *preventative measure*. Yahweh doesn’t want us to wait and put on fringes “after the fact” of disobedience has occurred. His intention is that we put them on to help ensure that a “*zero amount of disobedience*” occurs!

If this is one of those commandments that hasn’t been “done away,” then the responsibility falls upon us to obey it. I am aware that some groups teach that this is a commandment that pertains only to the men. However, if we re-examine Numbers 15:38, we don’t read anything about the “*men* of Israel,” but rather the “*children* of Israel,” which is a reference to both *males and females*. Yahweh directs *all of His people*, both men and women, to wear fringes.

III. Did Yeshua Wear Fringes on His Garments?

The word translated “fringe” in Numbers 15 is word #6734 in *Strong’s* [צִיצִית], and is pronounced “Tsee-Tseeth.” It is a tassel, and in its original sense means a floral or wing-like projection.

The word translated “fringe” in Deuteronomy 22 is word #1434 in *Strong’s* [גְּדִל], and is used in the sense of *twisting*. The Hebrew word is pronounced “ghed-eel,” and it literally means “thread, i.e., a tassel or festoon.”

Even the book of Matthew provides evidence that Yeshua obeyed this commandment.

Some have questioned as to whether or not Yeshua wore the fringes. Well, remember the story of the woman who was healed by touching the hem of His garment? This story can be found in Matthew 9:20-22:

Matthew 9:20-22

And behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind Him and touched the hem of His garment:

For she said within herself, If I may but touch His garment, I shall be whole.

But Yeshua turned Him about, and when He saw her, He said, ‘Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole.’ And the woman was made whole from that hour.

Could it be possible that this word HEM might refer to Yeshua's wearing the fringes, the "tsee-tseeth"? Interestingly, in the Hebrew Matthew that was critiqued by Spanish author and physician Shem-Tob ben-Isaac ben-Shaprut in the 14th century (known as the *Shem-Tob Version*¹), the same word that is rendered "hem" in the Greek texts is rendered "tsee-tseeth" (תצ"צ), the very same Hebrew word that is used in Numbers 15. So yes, even from the book of Matthew we find evidence that Yeshua obeyed this commandment.

Aren't we supposed to follow the example of Yeshua? Did He obey this command? The answer is "yes."

I remember a discussion we had with a certain minister several years ago concerning whether or not we should observe the feast days of the "Old Testament." He was clearly opposed to observing them, and portrayed them as being a part of the temple services, which are no longer carried out. Hence, as he explained it, the destruction of the temple spelled the end of the necessity to observe the feasts.

At one point in our discussion I mentioned that the "bottom line" for all believers is that we follow the example of the Messiah. The man nodded his head in agreement and said, "You are right." Suddenly it popped into my mind to ask the minister if Yeshua observed the feasts.

"Yes," he said. Then he changed the subject.

I think we can ask each other the same question with regard to wearing the tassels, or the "tsee-tseeth." Aren't we supposed to follow the example of Yeshua? Did He obey this command?

The answer is "yes."

Did Yeshua come to destroy the law? I think many of us have *memorized* Matthew 5:17-19 by now, so we know He TAUGHT that we aren't even supposed to THINK He had come to destroy the law, of which the commandment concerning the fringes is a part.

I hope we can all see the truth about this matter concerning the fringes — that they are commanded to be worn by Yahweh. To many, it is one of the "least" of the commandments, and is therefore not all that important to *them*. For those who adhere to this mentality, I suggest they re-read Matthew 5:19, shown below:

Matthew 5:19

Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Something tells me that Yeshua did not treat this command as one of the "least" commandments. Something tells me He obeyed it, and He is my Example, not those who inform me that all who wear tassels are "in bondage to Mt. Sinai."

Let's follow Yeshua's example of obedience!

The example set by Yeshua was that of obedience to the Father. Yeshua plainly told us that He did not come to destroy the law, adding that until heaven and earth pass away, not a jot or a tittle will by any means pass from the law till all be fulfilled” (Matt. 5:17-18). Has “all been fulfilled”? No, not yet. Therefore, obviously, the law pertaining to the wearing of tassels is still in effect. The Apostle John would encourage us to follow Yeshua's example in wearing the fringes:

I John 2:3-6

And hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.
 He that saith, 'I know Him,' and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him!
 But whoso keepeth His word, in him verily is the love of Yahweh perfected: hereby know we that we are in Him.
 He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked.

Yeshua should be our example. Our goal, our very aim, should be to imitate the lifestyle He lived, follow the example He set, and recognize that He is the only way to the Father. **Let's follow Yeshua's example of obedience!**

IV. Did the Apostle Paul wear fringes on his clothing?

Although we are not directly informed in the “New Testament” as to whether or not the Apostle Paul wore fringes on his clothing, we can be certain that he did.

Crucial to our case is the fact that if Paul had not worn fringes on his garments, then he lied in Acts 25:8.

In Acts 25:8, towards the very end of his ministry, Paul made his defense to Festus. Paul declared, “*I have in no way committed an offense against the law of the Jews, or against the temple, or against the emperor.*” The key phrase in this often overlooked passage includes his testimony that he had not committed an offense against the law of the Jews, which is in reality the law of Yahweh. Had Paul ever broken the Sabbath, then He lied in Acts 25:8. Had he ever eaten pork or other unclean animals, then he lied in Acts 25:8. And crucial to our case is the fact that if Paul had **not** worn fringes on his garments, then he lied in Acts 25:8. Because we trust that the Apostle Paul faithfully performed the mission assigned to him by Yeshua, we are strongly inclined to believe that, indeed, he wore fringes on his garments in accordance with the commandment found in Numbers 15. Furthermore, in those days the fringes were worn in such a fashion as to be easily visible. Had he chosen to not wear them, we can be certain the Jews would have confronted him, demanding an explanation as to why he had chosen to forego obeying that commandment, and there would most certainly be a record of such a confrontation. Instead there is **silence** regarding any such controversy. This silence is telling evidence that nothing in the manner of this law ever changed, and that everything remained “status quo.”

V. Answers to Objections²

1. *Aren't New Covenant believers already imbued with Yahweh's Spirit, meaning that the will to obey His laws and be holy are already present in the New Covenant spiritually-minded believer's heart?*

Our response: What does being “imbued with Yahweh’s Spirit” mean, anyway? Does it mean immunity from temptation, and even immunity from succumbing to that temptation, i.e., SINNING? Obviously not, for even the Apostle Paul, who wrote under the inspiration of Yahweh, ashamedly admitted, *“I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but SIN within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but SIN that dwells within me”* (Romans 7:15-20).

Do the Apostle Paul’s words sound like the words of a man who didn’t need reminders to obey Yahweh’s law? ***Absolutely not!***

THE ONLY TIME WE WOULD NOT NEED A REMINDER TO OBEY YAHWEH'S COMMANDMENTS IS WHEN THERE IS NO LONGER ANY NEED TO OBEY THEM.

2. *“In order to understand what YAHWEH had in mind with the fringes, we need to first understand what HE had in mind with the circumcision of the flesh, a token of HIS covenant.”*

We respond: Not so. Nowhere in Yahweh’s word are we offered this explanation of the fringes in relation to anything other than them being a reminder to obey Yahweh’s commandments. The only time we would not need a reminder to obey Yahweh’s commandments is when there is no longer any need to obey them. The issue of circumcision is totally unrelated to the issue of fringes. In fact, any attempt to tie in such laws as the ones pertaining to circumcision and animal sacrifice could be construed as an attempt to divert our attention from the actual issue at hand.

The Apostle Paul continued fighting against his carnal mind even after having received Yahweh's Spirit.

3. *“The reason for the fringes with a border cord of blue was so that the carnally minded children of Israel would remember and do all the commandments of YAHWEH, and to be holy to HIM.”*

We reply: The obvious implication here is that there is a difference between true believers of today and the “carnally minded children of Israel” of “Old Testament” times. Yet, once again, let us allow the Apostle Paul to demonstrate that, even beyond the Messiah’s death and resurrection, true believers continue to fight against their “carnal mind”: “For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am **carnal**, sold under sin” (Romans 7:14). The Apostle Paul, whom we classify as a “true believer” and servant of Yahweh, was **CARNALLY MINDED**, as were his ancestors, the children of Israel. He continued fighting against this carnal mind even after having received Yahweh’s Spirit. One way to assist our battle against the “carnal mind” is the use of fringes as prescribed and mandated by Yahweh. Prayer is also recommended!

If anything, wearing the fringes and observing how, even with those reminders we still disobey from time to time ... this fact alone is all the more evidence of how much we truly *do* need the blood of Yeshua to cover our sins.

4. *“Fringes or tassels are made by the hands of man. Animal sacrifices are made by the hand of man. Fleshly circumcision is made by the hands of man. If you are wearing tassels, have circumcised the flesh, are performing animal sacrifices (including the Passover sacrifice) then you have engendered yourself in bondage to Mount Sinai which is Hagar. You have taken upon yourself the promise that you can perform and fulfill the demands of the covenant. You have fallen from grace because you are saying, in essence, that you do not need the Messiah. You have been deceived by the deceiver. Repent and turn to embrace the Messiah. Place your faith in Him for He is the fulfillment of Yahweh’s promise in the New Covenant.”*

We answer: First of all, it does not seem likely that Yahweh **would put a certain law in effect, only to eventually make obedience to that law a sin worthy of repentance, and indicative that the person** wearing the fringes has “fallen from grace.” Nor do we comprehend how wearing fringes can be construed as our believing that we do not need the Messiah. It is obvious from history that wearing the fringes only serves as a reminder — it doesn’t mean the wearer won’t “slip up”! If anything, wearing the fringes and observing how, even with those reminders we still disobey from time to time ... this fact alone is all the more evidence of how much we truly *do* need the blood of Yeshua to cover our sins.

If we must do away with the wearing of fringes simply because it is a commandment of Yahweh that requires the use of hands, then we must do away with every commandment of Yahweh requiring the use of hands.

Secondly, we must once again address the futility of attempting to tie in circumcision and animal sacrificing as relating to the wearing of tassels. Neither Yahweh nor any of His servants addressed any type of relationship between these three commands, so why should we take it upon ourselves to do so?

Thirdly, the obvious point about tassels being made by the hands of man is to infer that in the New Covenant we don’t need to DO anything at all, for the Messiah “did it all” for us. While we are not trying to imply that any deed we perform will contribute towards our salvation, nevertheless the Apostle James underscores the fact that “just believing” is not enough. He wrote: *“What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, ‘Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled;’ notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.”*

Indeed, if we must do away with the wearing of fringes simply because it is a commandment of Yahweh that requires the use of hands, then we must do away with *every* commandment of Yahweh requiring the use of hands. Perhaps the most significant commandment involving the use of hands is the fourth commandment. According to Exodus 20:9, *“Six days you shall labor and do all your work.”* We are commanded to work six days of the week. Performing work requires use of the hands. If we employ the logic of those who teach against wearing tassels (since they are made with hands), then we must also

cease from working six days during the week, or else we “engender ourselves in bondage to Mount Sinai.”

Has the Feast of Trumpets been “done away with”? Many believe so. While we are not of the same persuasion, nevertheless if it is true that any commandment involving the use of hands is now “done away with” or otherwise set aside, then the Feast of Trumpets would have to be included on that list. According to Leviticus 23:24, this festival is to be “a holy convocation commemorated with trumpet blasts.” The only way a trumpet can be blown is by picking it up with one’s hands, then holding it in those hands while blowing it.

For the Feast of Tabernacles, it was ordained by Yahweh that it be celebrated by gathering boughs of goodly trees (Lev. 23:40). This, again, can only be accomplished by the use of hands, and any “New Covenant believers” found to be gathering boughs of goodly trees during the Feast of Tabernacles would have to be considered as being “in bondage to Mt. Sinai.”

Thus we see how contradictory it is to teach or even imply that commands involving the use of hands separate the “Old Covenant” from the “New Covenant.”

Even in the “New Covenant” period, the use of hands is commanded. Aside from the well-known commands to feed and clothe the needy, the believers were commanded to “Repent and be baptized” (Acts 2:38). In order for them to fulfill that command, someone had to make use of his hands in order to immerse each individual in water. We might add to this the fact that, after baptism, there is to be a “laying on of hands” ceremony. Thus we see how contradictory it is to teach or even imply that commands involving the use of hands separate the “Old Covenant” from the “New Covenant.”

5. *“Under the New Covenant, we don’t need fringes on our garments to remind us to obey Yahweh’s commandments because, in accordance with Jeremiah 31 and Hebrews 8, He has put His law in our inward parts, and has written it in our hearts. He is our mighty one, and we are His people. And we shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know Yahweh’: for we shall all know Him, from the least of us unto the greatest of us, saith Yahweh: for He will forgive our iniquity, and He will remember our sin no more.”*

Our response: First of all, if the “New Covenant” that we are supposedly under right now is *truly* in effect, and if it is indeed true that under this New Covenant “they shall teach no more every man his neighbor,” then we can only wonder in amazement as to why the individual making this point saw fit to send us his tract to “prove his point” that we are in bondage to Sinai if we wear fringes. Unless we are mistaken, this tract was sent as a part of a **teaching ministry**, and was designed to “teach us” that it is wrong to wear fringes on our garments. If this “New Covenant” is *truly* in effect, then no one should be teaching others about Yahweh, for we should all be of the same mind.

If Yahweh’s laws are indeed written on our hearts, then the “heart-writing” isn’t doing very much good.

Secondly, if indeed Yahweh’s laws are written on the hearts of all believers today, then there must be *very, very few* true believers left, for some of the most “Yahweh-like” people we know wear fringes, and

we are aware of some other believers who, while holding leadership positions, were found to be committing some very grievous sins. If Yahweh's laws are indeed written on our hearts, then the "heart-writing" isn't doing very much good.

Any faults with the "Old Covenant" were not related to the laws which governed it, for Yahweh's laws are *perfect* (Psalms 19:7, James 1:25)!

Thirdly, another vital part of the passage found in Hebrews 8 involves the fact that there was something "faulty" with the first covenant, i.e., the "Old Covenant" (Heb. 8:7). We might ask, "What was wrong with it?" Did Yahweh throw in some laws that He shouldn't have included? Obviously, we know that anything faulty with the first covenant could not have had anything to do with any of Yahweh's laws. It was the people He entrusted those laws to, and the people who had agreed to observe them. It is because man is not able to keep Yahweh's laws that we need Yeshua, but that's getting off the subject. Suffice it to say that any problems with the "Old Covenant" were not related to the laws which governed it, for His laws are *perfect* (Psalms 19:7, James 1:25)! Let's not tamper with any of Yahweh's perfect laws!

Bibliography

¹ Information taken from the *Hebrew Gospel of Matthew*, by George Howard, professor of religion at the University of Georgia, Mercer University Press, 1995, p. xi.

² The questions/comments addressed in this section are either paraphrased or directly quoted from a tract entitled "Should we Wear Fringes on the Border of our Garments?", sent with the March-April, 2000 issue of *YEA NEWSLETTER*, published by Yahweh's Evangelical Assembly, Atlanta, TX.