

The TzitTzit “Fringes” of the Tallit

Eliza Bezuidenhout



Be ready for the End-time Plan and will be willing to teach people about the Bible through the Spirit of Yeshua. Every object-lesson is a step to understanding the full plan of God for our lives.

We have been robbed of much depth of understanding its roots due to persecutions over centuries against true believers and Jews alike. **Numbers 15:37-41** - *Make tzitziyot (tassels) on the corners of your garments "to remember all the commandments of the Lord, to be holy before the Lord"*

The Torah mystically reveals the character of the King Messiah, and the nature of the universe. As we begin to examine the patterns in this Tapestry, we begin to see amazing connections throughout the interwoven threads that bind all things together. However, we often fail to see the exquisite threadwork of light before our eyes, the fragrance under our nose, and the resonating Song of Redemption in our ears. We must brush away the confines of our own culture, the barriers of language, prejudice and preconceptions, in order to see the radiant beauty of design in the Torah.

As we all know that Yeshua was a Torah observant Jew. Perhaps we should pause at this point to remind ourselves that our Messiah, Himself, was a Jewish rabbi. As tradition and law all Jews wore a tallit with tzit tzit as a reminder to do the Commandments of YHWH. Whenever a Jewish person's "outer garment" is mentioned in the Bible, which is exactly what is referred to a "tallit". Many English Bibles designate it as a mantle.

Deuteronomy 22:12

"You shall make tassels on the four corners of your garment with which you cover yourself."

Number 15:37-40

The LORD said to Moses, "Speak to the people of Israel, and tell them to make tassels on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and to put a cord of blue on the tassel of each corner. And it shall be a tassel for you to look at and remember all the commandments of the LORD, to do them, not to follow after your own heart and your own eyes, which you are inclined to whore after. So you shall remember and do all my commandments, and be holy to your God."

Paul coming from rabbinical background was very intelligent and studied the Torah. He was not making a living from camping-tents, but as a tallit (*spiritual* tent) maker understood the meaning of each thread of the garment which needed study and accuracy.

The tallit is a garment used in prayer symbolizing (prophetically) embraced in the Spirit of God. It means to be physically, spiritually, emotionally covered by Hashem (God Adonai). It presents a covering and prayer closet to experience the glory of the Lord when you are alone with Him. It is then put over the head to be free from worldly influences and concentrate on Him.

My Refuge and My Fortress

Psalm 91:1

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

Psalm 91:4

He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

In Matthew 9:20-22, we find a story of a sick woman receiving healing simply by touching Jesus' clothes: *"Just then a woman, who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years, came up behind Him and touched the hem of His garment; for she said to herself, 'If I only touch His cloak, I will be healed.'* Jesus (Yeshua) turned and saw her. *'Take heart, daughter,' He said, 'your faith has healed you.'* And the woman was healed from that moment." In the Mark account of the same story, it continues:

"At once Yeshua realized that power had gone out from Him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, 'Who touched My clothes?' 'You see the people crowding against You,' His disciples answered, 'and yet You can ask, Who touched Me?'" (Mark. 5:30-31).

What is so significant about the hem of Yeshua garment? The significance of the hem of Yeshua's garment has much more meaning of what you could imagine. The word translated, hem, is actually referring to the fringes, or tassels (called *tzitziyot*, in Hebrew), required to be on the four corners of all clothing of Jewish men, in accordance with God's instruction:

"The Lord said to Moses, 'Speak to the Israelites and say to them: Throughout the generations to come, you are to make tassels on the corners of one's garments, with a blue cord on each tassel. You will have these tassels to look at and so will remember all the commands of the Lord, that you may obey them and not prostitute yourselves by going after the lusts of your own hearts and eyes. Then you will remember to obey all My commands, and will be consecrated to your God. I am the Lord your God.'" (Num. 15:37-41)

The prophet Malachi spoke of the Messiah of Israel and said of Him, *"But for you who revere My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in His wings" (Mal. 4:2).* The Hebrew word for "wings" used in this passage is *kanaf*, which is a word that specifically means the fringe-like feathers or edges of a bird's wing, not the whole wing. All of us have seen an eagle or hawk circling in the summer sky and have seen these fringe-like feathers. This word, therefore, had two meanings and could be translated wings, or fringes.

The woman with the bleeding sickness have had heard Yeshua was the Messiah. Perhaps she remembered this messianic promise from the scroll of Malachi and thought, if I am to be healed, then will it be found in His wings. Yeshua's *tzitziyot*? By faith, she reached out and touched the fringes, and was healed. She knew by Faith, He was the Messiah.

Yeshua arrived at the town of Genessaret, also on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. The men of the town recognized Yeshua and sent word out so that many people brought all their sick to Him and begged Him to let the sick just touch the fringe of His garment. The Bible simply reports, *"All who touched Him were healed" (Mark. 6:53-56).* These people were not healed simply by touching the fringes of Yeshua's garment in a crowd. They were healed when their faith touched the power of God and the One who could heal their infirmities. It was their point of contact to release their faith to receive a touch from the Lord.

The Tent ropes that were used in the Tabernacle touched the Tent stakes on the ground. The covering over the Tabernacle was of one piece and it had tent strings that WERE Tzit Tzit. Tallit means "Little Tent". When you wrap yourselves in your Tallit, you are in the Tabernacle of God.

Psalm 104:1-2

1 Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, you are very great! You are clothed with splendor and majesty 2 covering yourself with light as with a garment, stretching out the heavens like a tent.

Psalm 104:6 *You covered it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains.*

As one considers the function of the tallit, it is helpful to recall that as the nation of Israel traveled in the wilderness, they traveled in a precise formation according to the 12 tribes. When they camped, they also pitched their tents precisely. The width of the camping area extending north and south was no wider than the length of the Tabernacle which was located in the center. Similarly, the width of the camping area extending east and west was no wider than the width of the Tabernacle also located in the center. Thus, symbolically, each tribe was camped "within the borders of the Tabernacle".

At worship times, the people would all gather around the Tabernacle. Knowing the dimensions of the worship area of the Tabernacle, it is easy to see that only a small percentage would be able to actually enter into the place of worship at one time. Thus, the Creator made the provision of the tallit so that each person who was standing outside of the Tabernacle could cover themselves with their tallit, and thereby, literally fulfill his worship requirements as if he were standing inside the Tabernacle itself. That is precisely why the tallit is often called a "personal tabernacle". Today, since there is no Tabernacle such as they had in the wilderness, and there is no Temple in Jerusalem such as stood in the days of Solomon and the days of the Messiah, a worshiper can still enter into his own "personal tabernacle" and know the presence of the Father just as those who stood outside of the Tabernacle during the wilderness wanderings.

In the tallit is a lot of teaching. The teaching of the numbers called Gematria (Hebrew) it is the knowledge about numerical values.

Each word and number has numerical values. (Numerology)

Each tassel (Tzitzis) should have 39 windings (7+8+11+13) they are separated by double knots. 26 is the numerical value of YHWH. (Yahweh)

13 is the value of Echad and (1) unity. Therefore the windings of each Tzitzis equals the value of YHWH Echad (Jehovah God is One) and is called the "Shemah" in Hebrew on which the Jewish faith is built. Yeshua suffered the same number of stripes for our healing in Isaiah 53:5 repeated in the NT: 1 Peter 2:24.

They were also commanded to give to them a blue strand called the "shamash" or servant.

Shamash is also the center or middle candle of the menorah (a symbol for Yeshua, the Servant of God, the Mediator, who stands between the Father and us).

Each Tzitzis has 7 white strands (number of perfection) surrounded by the blue servant (colour of royalty) It now adds up to 8 the number of new beginnings. As you add 600 (is the value of the Tzitzis) and the 5 knots and 8 strands you have 613. This is the number of mitzvahs (commandments and Blessings of the Tenach (Old Testament) this represents the Word of God. In biblical times believers wore this all the time as a symbol to be surrounded by the Word of God and by the Presence of God.

Instructions on Tying Tzitzits Containing YHWH's Name:

1. Take three white cords about 4 feet long and one blue cord about 5 feet long - feed through corner/wing hole bringing equal measures on both sides,
 2. Tie a double knot about 6 inches out, then take one blue cord and make 10 wraps around all the other cords. This symbolizes the first letter in His Name. [10 = Yod (**Y**), **Isaiah 53:5**
 3. Tie another double knot, take blue cord and make 5 wraps around all the other cords. This symbolizes the second letter in His Name. [5=hey (**H**), **Malachi 4:2**
 4. Tie another double knot, take blue cord and make 6 wraps around all the other cords. This symbolizes the third letter in His Name. [6=waw (**W**), **2 Corinthians 5:21**
 5. Tie another double knot, take blue cord and make 5 wraps around other cords. This symbolizes the fourth and last letter in His Name. [5=hey (**H**), **Matthew 14:36**
 6. Tie another double knot to finish TzitTzit, and then cut ends to match w/equal length.
- 5 double knots + 8 cords = 13, TzitTzit spells out to Hebrew number 600. Add these two numbers and you get 613 which is a number symbolizing the "every word of YHWH"

YOU'RE DONE with one TzitTzit!! Now make three more! And every morning when you put them on, ask Yahweh to help you to obey His commandments. He is faithful to bring His commandments to our remembrance, but we must hide them in our hearts by reading them!

The number 4 is significant in that the 4th letter of Hebrew, Dalet is a Door, the letter also represents selflessness. Yeshua is the Door to Life who emptied Himself so we could enter into life. Shema Mitzvoth, Observe the Commandments (Directions) of YHWH. Yeshua is the Perfect Lamb who gave of Himself with no reservation; His desire is to gather all souls unto Himself as a hen gathers her young under her wings.

The words on the tallit (prayer shawl) are usually the blessing that is said before wrapping oneself up in the shawl. The words are: "Baruch Attah Adonai Eloheinu Melech Ha'olam asher kidshanu bemitzvotav vetzivanu lehit'atef betzitzit". In translation: *Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has sanctified us by your commandments, and commanded us to cover ourselves in fringes.*

Rom 11:17-18 *And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and became a sharer of the root and the fatness of the olive tree with them, do not boast against the branches. But if you boast, it is not you that bears the root, but the root bears you.*

So it is clear that the promises that were given to the Israelites apply to us as well, the moment you accepted Yeshua as your savior, you have been adopted into an ever growing family. It would be wrong to say that Old Testament is what its called "OLD" and no longer in affect or to say Yeshua did away with the Torah (Law) is contradicting what he preached,

Mat 5:17-18 *Do not think that I have come to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I have not come to destroy but to fulfill. For truly I say to you, Till the heaven and the earth pass away, not one jot or one tittle shall in any way pass from the Law until all is fulfilled.*

Yeshua did not come to destroy it, but to fulfill it to make an example of how we should live day to day.

Mat 5:19 *Therefore whoever shall relax one of these commandments, the least, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of Heaven. But whoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of Heaven.*

He is saying who ever breaks one of these least commandments and teaches others to do so as well, shall be called "least" in the kingdom of Heaven, but who ever shall do and teach them, shall be called "great" in the kingdom of Heaven. Now here's a very important note, we are by all means saved by faith and grace alone!

Rom 10:9 *Because if you confess the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved.*

Salvation is a gift from God, **John 3:16** you all know it "For God so loved the world, he gave his only son" Now that we are saved how do we live? We are now a new creation right? Are the commandments given by God no longer in effect? Did Yeshua's ministry here on earth make void the commandments of God? Of course NOT!

Isa 55:11 *so shall My Word be, which goes out of My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall certainly do what I sent it to do.*

The question if we should wear TzitTzit? Will one not enter Heaven if they don't of course not, because were not saved by works! But by faith and grace alone!! So what is the purpose of TzitTzit? Simple to remind you daily to be holy for GOD is holy, and to live by every word given by GOD. We are a chosen generation,

1Peter 2:9-10 *But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for possession, so that you might speak of the praises of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; you who then were not a people, but now the people of God, those not pitied then, but now pitied.*

We are supposed to live as Yeshua did, taking up our cross daily! Seeking after God our Father in Heaven for the times we live in is getting harder every day. But through him and in him all things are possible! Peace, love, joy, in Yeshua, Amen!

What the Tallit Symbolizes:

1. The ominous of God's Spirit over the waters in **Gen.1:2**
2. The spreading of the wings of eagles in **Deut. 32:11; Isaiah 40:31**
3. Overshadowing of Most High (Holy Spirit) conception of Yeshua in **Luke 1:35** Shadow of Gods wings. **Psalms. 36:7**
4. Overshadowing of God's glory on Peter, John, James on Mt. Tabor. In **Luke 9:28** (transfiguration),
5. Peter's shadow for healing in **Acts 5:14**
6. The passing of the prophetic mantle from Elijah to Elisha In **2 Kin 2:13-14** Elisha struck the waters with the tallit.
7. The healing of the woman with the issue of blood **Luke.8:43-48.**
8. Raising the dead **Mark 5:41** "tallit a cumi"; "come under my tallit and rise." (Tallit=covering; cumi=rise up).
9. Declaration that faith is for all nations. Jews and Gentiles alike. **Acts 10:9**, Peter, (his Hebrew name is Kefa) a Jew, receives a spiritual impression of a vision of a cloth coming down with unclean animals. This cloth is a tallit. Meaning: "He now can go and bring the Word to the Gentiles". Note: Peter did never eat the unclean animals. The vision of the tallit meant all nations are accepted by faith in Yeshua and no-one is unclean, who follows the Lord. Peter got the message to not only teach Jews but also Gentiles.
10. **Rev. 19:13-16** Tallit dipped in blood is the Word of God the robe Jesus wore had YHWH Echad on it meaning King of Kings and Lord of Lords. What kind of robe would our returning Yeshua wear? When sitting upon His Throne with His tallit around Him saying: King of Kings and Lord of Lords... Yeshua Ha Mashiah!!

11. Peter went into the empty tomb and found the tallit of Jesus. **John 20:6-7** (a symbol of the Resurrection) *Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. (Read about the Burial)*

12. A covenant sign **Ruth 3:9** "spread your tallit over me" During a Jewish wedding (called ketubah) the bride and groom are covered with the "chupah" a canopy which is a large tallit. It is either held over the couple by the four corners (Tzitzis) held by friends. We read in the Bible that in the last days goyim (gentiles) will cling to the Tzitzis of one Jew.

13. **Matthew.14:36.** *The sick begged Him that they might only touch the Tzitzis of His garment and as many as touched it were made perfectly well.*

14. **In Revelations 4:8** we see the four living creatures with six wings who cry: "Holy, holy, holy." They surround the throne of God in the temple. Are we not the temple of the Holy Spirit of God?

In **Numbers 24: 2-5**, Bil'am was on Mt. Pisgah overlooking the camp of the Israelites and he observed the glory of the Lord directly above the Tabernacle in the wilderness. He also saw the throngs of Israelite worshipers around the Tabernacle with their tallit over their heads worshipping. The Scriptures say: "and Bil'am lifted up his eyes and saw Israel encamped according to the tribes. And the Spirit of God came upon him." And he said: "How beautiful are your tents, O Jacob; your dwellings, O Israel ." In the former verse the word, "tents" in the original Hebrew is "o'hel" meaning a "distance covering" or what we would call a tent. "O'hel" is from the word, "ahal" which means something obvious. Thus, Bil'am was speaking of the actual physical tents that they lived in. However, in the latter part of the verse, the Hebrew word translated "dwellings" is "mishkan" which means "dwelling place" a reference to the spiritual dwelling place of the nation of Israel. At this point, Bil'am was speaking of the tallit which the men who were worshipping were wearing as they stood outside the Sanctuary.

I Samuel 24:4 tells the story of how young David cut off one of the Tzitzis of King Saul and thus, showed the King that his authority was going to be taken away from him. David and King Saul, both knew that the power of the King's authority was from Yahweh (God) and that the symbol of Yahweh was the king's Tzitzis on his tallit. It is interesting to note that the Hebrew word used to describe the "skirt" of Saul's tallit is the word, "kanaf" which means "edge, extremity, wing tip, border, corner, or tip". Compare this to the use of the same Hebrew word in **Ruth 3:9** He said, *"Who are you?" And she answered, "I am Ruth, your servant. Spread your wings over your servant, for you are a redeemer."*

There are many other references to the tallit scattered throughout the New Testament and the Old Testament. On one occasion our Messiah was weeping over the city of Jerusalem and He said: *"Yerushalayim, Yerushalayim (Jerusalem, Jerusalem), killing the prophets and stoning those who are sent to her. How often I wished to gather your children, the way that a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you would not"* **Matthew 23:37.**

To paraphrase the literal meaning of the verse, we could say: "how I would have taken you under My tallit, into My personal Tabernacle, and you would not." Once the reader realizes that the words, "tents" and "wings" are frequently a reference to the tallit, the meaning of each of these references becomes more beautiful and significant.

Psalms 36:7 *How precious is your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings.*

Psalms 57:1 *Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge; in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by.*

Psalms 61:4 *Let me dwell in your tent forever! Let me take refuge under the shelter of your wings! Selah*

Acts 11:5: *"I was in the city of Jafa praying. And in a trance I saw a vision, a certain vessel descending like a great sheet, let down from heaven by four corners, and it came to me." If the reader does not know that the "great sheet" is a tallit much of the significance of the text is lost.*

Esther 8:15 *Then Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal robes of blue and white, with a great golden crown and a robe of fine linen and purple, and the city of Susa shouted and rejoiced.*

The Scriptures on the Four Corners of the New Covenant - Messianic Prayer Shawl

Two scriptures from the Old Testament reflect the prophetic emphasis that through the Messiah Yeshua the covenant promises of healing and righteousness would come.

Isaiah 53:5

But He was wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities;
The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,
And by His stripes we are healed.

Malachi 4:2

"But to you who fear My name
The Sun of Righteousness shall arise
With healing in His wings;

Two scriptures from the New Testament show us the fulfillment that through the New Covenant righteousness and healing is given to all.

2 Corinthians 5:21

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Matthew 14:36

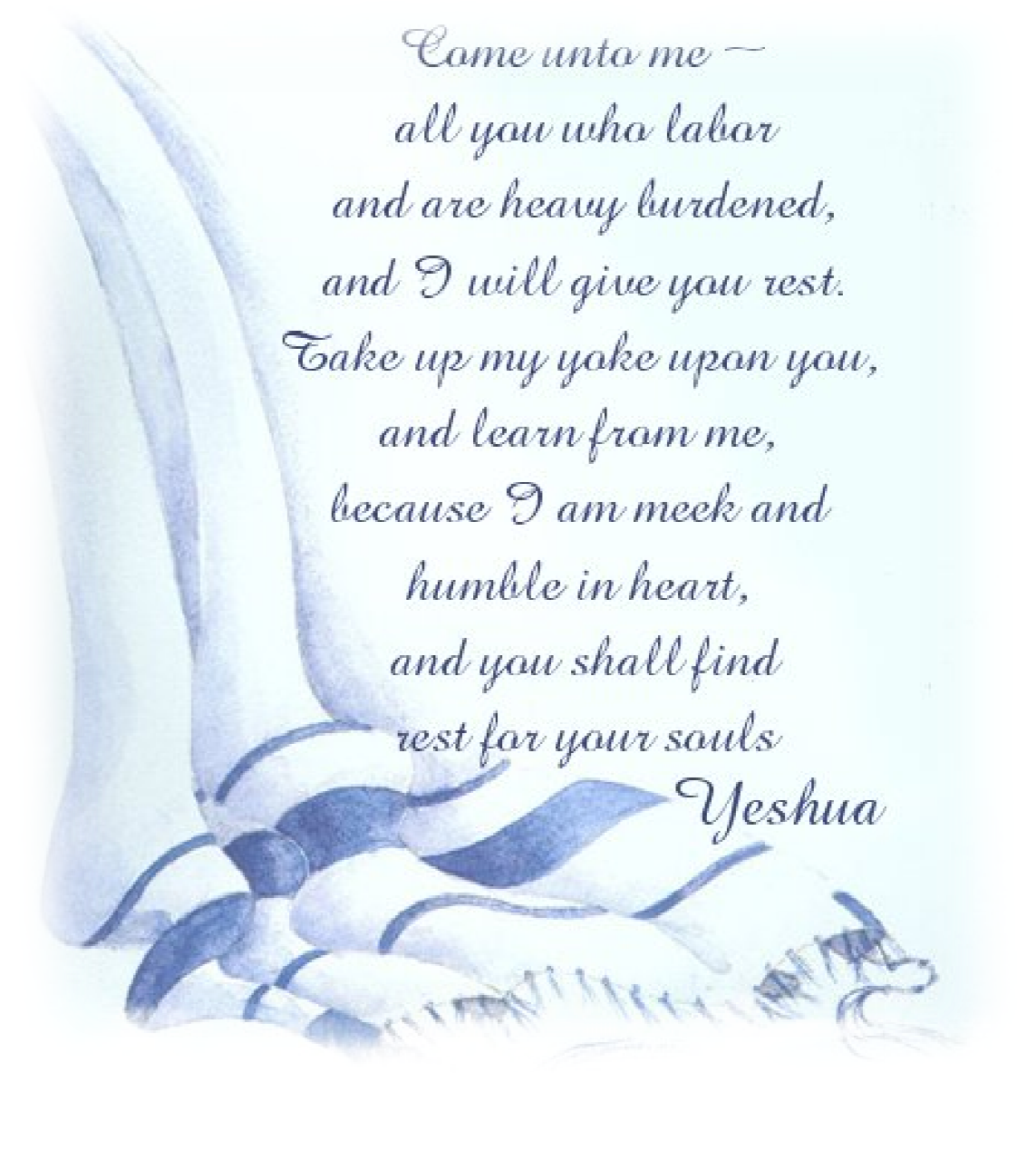
and they desired of Him that they might only touch the hem of His garment. And as many as touched it were made perfectly well.

Burial & the Tallit

After a ritual washing of the body, the body is dressed in a *kittel* (a white robe which serves as a burial shroud) and then a *tallit*. One of the *TzitTzit* is then cut off. In the Land of Israel, burial is without a casket, and the *kittel* and *tallit* are the only coverings for the corpse.

As soon as the Jewish person is found deceased the body is immediately cleansed and the eyes are closed. Before the service begins and the Rabbi reads from the Torah. It is traditional that the body is accompanied by people called Shomerim who are normally close relatives that stay with the body till burial. The body is dressed in white burial shrouds which are purposely kept simple to avoid distinguishing between rich or poor. Men are buried with their prayer shawls (*tallit*), which are rendered ineffective by cutting off one of the fringes. Jewish funerals are normally done a couple days after the person is pronounced deceased.

There are rich rewards to be obtained by Christians who study their Jewish heritage, the Jewish Messiah. HaShem's richest blessings to you.



*Come unto me ~
all you who labor
and are heavy burdened,
and I will give you rest.
Take up my yoke upon you,
and learn from me,
because I am meek and
humble in heart,
and you shall find
rest for your souls*

Yeshua