

# The Life & Teachings of Yeshua

Learning about the real Jesus, his message, his culture  
and the people he taught and loved.

2008 • NUMBER 3

## The Hem of His Garment

By Jim Myers

### Comments & Notes

(1) Parallel accounts are found in Mark 5:25-34 & Matthew 9:20-22

(2) She had not only been ill, but also ritually impure for 12 years. She had spent all of her money searching for a cure.

(3) Translators couldn't agree on how to translate the name of what she touched – *hem*, *border*, *edge* or *tassel*. Check your translation.

(4) The woman had a specific reason for touching the specific part of his garment.

(5) The Greek word translated here as “made you well” is translated as “saved” in other verses.

(6) Also see 15:37-41 & Deut. 22:12.

Luke 8:43-48 preserves an account that is very well known by millions of Christians, but the original author's purpose and reason for including it in his Gospel may not have been understood since the first-century.

Now a woman, having a flow of blood for twelve years, who had spent all her livelihood on physicians and could not be healed by any, came from behind and touched the hem of his garment. And immediately her flow of blood stopped!

And Yeshua said, "Who touched Me?" When all denied it, Peter and those with him said, "Master, multitudes surround and press against you, and you say, 'Who touched Me?' " But Yeshua said, "Somebody touched me, for I perceived power going out from me."

Now when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before him, she declared to him in the presence of all the people the reason she had touched him and how she was healed immediately. And he said to her, "Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace."

It would have been very helpful for future Gentile readers if he had included the woman's reason for specifically touching the hem of Yeshua's garment and the why her declaration “in the presence of all the people” was so important. I am sure that the original readers of his words clearly understood the implied message, so he felt there was no need to write down what everyone already knew.



In first-century Israel men wore a simple tunic called a *halluq* when they were at home or work. But when they went out in public they covered their tunic with a large rectangular garment that draped over their shoulders, which was called a *tallit*. The picture shows a modern *tallit*, however during Yeshua's life the *tallit* was longer and extended further down the legs.

Attached to each corner is a tassel of twisted wool called a *tzitzit* in order to fulfill the commandment found in Numbers 15:38 – “Speak to the children of Israel: Tell them to make *tzitzit* on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and to put a blue thread in the *tzitzit* of the corners.”



**TZITZIT**

During the centuries between Alexander the Great and Yeshua's birth, many new beliefs concerning the expected Messiah, or Messiahs, came into the Jewish culture. They defined how the Messiah would be recognized and what events would take place. During this period many claimed to be that person.

One of those beliefs included a connection between the Messiah and the *talit*, which resulted from an interpretation of the Torah that linked a phrase in Numbers 15:38 to the Messiah's identity – “the *tzitzit* of the corners (*kanaph*).” The Hebrew word *kanaph* is also found in a Messianic prophecy found in Malachi 4:1-3, where it is translated as wings:

(7) In the Tanakh the verses are found in Malachi 3:19-21.

(8) This quote has several Messianic clues – (A) the day which is coming; (B) the Sun of Righteousness; and (C) healing in his wings.

(9) Most of the Messianic expectations included the beliefs that when the Messiah appeared the Kingdom of God would burst forth, Gentiles invaders would be driven from Israel, and the great judgment would take place.

Yeshua didn't drive the Gentiles out and there was no great judgment. The Kingdom and his Messianic authority was based on the following evidence: the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, etc. His selected disciples also possessed this power (Luke 7:19-22; & 9:1-2).

(10) Are the above happening today?

“For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, and all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up,” says Yahweh of hosts, “That will leave them neither root nor branch. But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in his wings; and you shall go out and grow fat like stall-fed calves. You shall trample the wicked, for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day that I do *this*,” says Yahweh LORD of hosts.

When a first-century Jew heard the word *kanaph* he or she would also probably immediately think of the very familiar words found in Psalm 91:1-4 and the context in which the Psalmist used it there.

He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to Yahweh, “*He is* my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust.” Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler *and* from the perilous pestilence. He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth *shall be your* shield and buckler.

Now let's return to the story of the desperate woman. She had exhausted every option in her search for a cure. Again let me noted that not only was she dealing with the illness, she was also viewed as ritually impure. Contact with other Jews and her ability to enter the Temple may have been gravely affected by her condition. She must have known the above Messianic beliefs linked to the words of Malachi before she first heard the accounts of Yeshua's healings.

If Yeshua was the “Sun of Righteousness” there would be “healing in his wings,” which she believed meant the “*kanaph* of his *tallit*.” Attached to each corner was a *tzitzit*, which consisted of five double knots and eight threads making a total of thirteen. The symbolism is very clear – together they represent the 613 commandments of the Torah. Luke wants readers to understand that if Yeshua is the Messiah he would not only be the healer, he would also be Yahweh's anointed interpreter of the Torah.

When she stood face-to-face with Yeshua as a healed woman everyone heard her reason for touching his *tzitzit* and why she did it. Her experience was proof of who Yeshua was and what he was here to do. Modern readers understand the miracle, but not the ancient messianic expectation linked to it. **BHC**

## Elevate the Level of Your Bible Studies

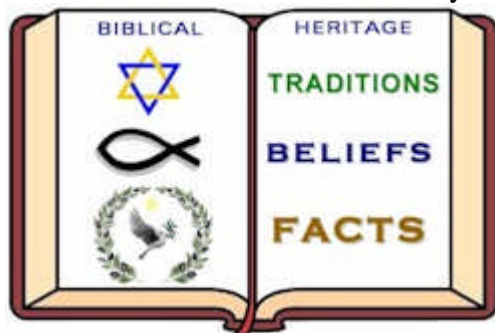
Elevate your Bible study experience to a new level by incorporating our BHC Bible Study Aides every time you study your Bible. You have many new sources of accurate information at your fingertips every time you visit the BHC website. They are located at the top of every page on the website and easily accessed from every page. Learn how to use this invaluable, but FREE resource at – [http://www.biblicalheritage.org/Bible%20Studies/mark\\_1a.htm](http://www.biblicalheritage.org/Bible%20Studies/mark_1a.htm)

## Information Resource Center

You will discover a gold mine of solid information every time you visit the BHC Information Resource Center. Each page contains many links to a wide number of sources of information on topics that our readers and visitors have an interest – Afterlife, Ancient Languages, Ancient Texts, Archaeology, Christianity, Dead Sea Scrolls, God, History, Israel, Jesus, Judaism, Myths, Religions, Rituals & much more. A link to our Information Resource Center is at the top of every page – <http://www.biblicalheritage.org/inforesources.htm>

## We want to earn your support.

The Biblical Heritage Center, Inc. is not a religious organization and therefore does not promote any doctrinal system or statement of faith. BHC is an educational and research organization that seeks factual information from a wide variety of sources. This is reflected in our logo and primary guideline.



### BHC Primary Guideline

*Our belief systems must be  
large enough to include all the facts;  
open enough to be tested; and,  
flexible enough to change  
when new factual information is discovered.*

Matters of faith are playing an increasingly greater role of importance in the political and social environments today. Our mission is to provide solid factual information about the book and the heritages from which those matters of faith originated. *Even though millions read their Bible regularly, many know nothing about its history or the heritages that shaped it and were shaped by it in return. We are continually searching for solid information that we can deliver it you, so you can incorporate it into your belief system.* We believe that you value accurate information and are willing to support organizations that provide it.

BHC is completely funded by contributions sent by those who benefit from its work. *Your support is greatly appreciated and valued.* You may make a donation online at -- <http://www.biblicalheritage.org/BHC/donate.htm> or you may mail your contribution to:

**Biblical Heritage Center, Inc.  
P. O. Box 79  
Cleburne, TX 76033-0079**

***Thank you for recognizing the value of factual information & for supporting BHC!***

Join the BHC Google Group to discuss this newsletter – [www.biblicalheritage.org](http://www.biblicalheritage.org)  
**Biblical Heritage Center • P. O. Box 79 • Cleburne, TX 76033-0079**