

Scottish Jewish People Have Their Own New Tartan

'You are not to wear garments made of mixed thread, wool and linen together' (Deuteronomy 22:11).

The word tartan is not modern. Tartan was the name of a Syrian military commander-in-chief who lived about 2,300 years ago during the days of righteous Judean King Hezekiah who reigned for about thirty years, 726-697 BC (2 Kings 18:17; Isaiah 20:1). The word tartan describing the fabric design was first used in Scotland about 1500 AD. The first Jewish person recorded to have lived in Edinburgh, Scotland was back in 1691, although Jews were living there before then but the 1690's was about the time when records began to be kept. Most Scottish Jewish people arrived in the 1890's when Scottish shipping companies were transporting Jewish people to America from Eastern Europe as they escaped the pogroms and persecution. Thousands of Jewish passengers were routed through Glasgow and when they arrived, many chose to cut their long journey short and decided to settle in Scotland instead of continuing on to America. Some passengers were too ill to continue sailing and rebuilt their lives in Scotland. Scotland's settled resident Jewish community rose to the challenge of providing for the many new arrivals escaping from Eastern Europe. In 1908 at the peak of Jewish immigration, only 75% of the new arrivals received state-funded financial relief. All other arrivals had their needs of housing, education, health care, food and clothing met by the Jewish charities and the Jewish community already settled there. Scotland has never persecuted the Jewish people.

At the time, no one thought about giving them their own tartan to wear, but hundreds of years later a simple comment sparked interest resulting in the Scottish Jewish people being blessed with their own tartan, giving them a sense of belonging. The idea began when a Scotsman sat beside a Jewish man at a charity dinner. The Jewish man asked the Scotsman if there had ever been a Jewish tartan or Jewish kilt. The answer was, there never had been. They then asked a leading kilt outlet to invent three different designs. By popular Jewish vote, one of the three designs was chosen. The only Scottish-born Rabbi in Scotland initiated the process of giving Scottish Jews their own tartan and chose the kosher design. The tartan fabric is made of kosher, non-wool/linen mix consistent with Jewish laws that prohibit mixing wool and linen in garments. This kosher tartan kilt is 100% wool.

Jewish experts and Scottish authorities worked together to come up with the final design. The navy and burgundy weave represent Jewish values and Scottish history. The colours, weave and number of threads have all been chosen for their importance in Judaism. The tartan features three lines of blue and white, and three is a significant number in Judaism, plus blue and white are the colours of both Jewish and Scottish flags, with a central gold line representing the gold on the Ark of the Covenant once kept in the ancient Tabernacle. 'Set the golden altar for incense before the Ark of the Testimony and put on the screen door to the Tabernacle' (Exodus 40:5). The silver weave represents the silver adornments on the ancient Sacred Scroll of the Law plus the silver used in the building of Tabernacle. 'All the silver, gold and vessels of brass and iron are holy to Elohim. They will come into His treasury' (Joshua 6:19). While the burgundy represents the ancient wine used in animal sacrifices. 'Wine for the drink offering, the fourth part of a hin (about 5 litres), you will prepare with the burnt offering or for the sacrifice for each lamb' (Numbers 15:5). There are seven lines in the central motif, which is a greatly significant number in Judaism. The tartan is registered with the Scottish National Register of Tartan in the name of the Jewish Community of Scotland. The 6,500 or so Scottish Jewish people can happily dance their jigs in officially registered kilts. The aim is for the tartan to be worn by Scottish Jews, expatriate Scottish Jews, members of Jewish organisations, individuals with links to the Jewish or Scottish communities and interested expatriates and Jewish people in Scotland.

The colours of blue and white are royal colours in Israel. 'Mordecai went out of the presence of the king in royal clothing of blue and white, with a great crown of gold and with a robe of fine linen' (Esther 8:15). White linen with blue is also a priestly colour worn by the Levitical priests. 'They made coats of fine linen of woven work for Aaron and for his sons. The turban of fine linen, the linen headbands of fine linen, the linen breeches of fine twined linen, the sash of fine twined linen, and blue, purple and scarlet, the work of the embroiderer. They made the plate of the holy crown of pure gold and wrote on it like the engravings of a signet, "HOLY TO ELOHIM." They tied to it a lace of blue to fasten it onto the turban' (Exodus 39:27 to 31).

Amen and may Elohim bless the Scottish Jewish people as they enjoy their new gift.

www.bibleabookoftruth.com