

Hebrew Marriage Customs	Bride of Messiah
SHIDDUKHIM: ARRANGEMENTS BEFORE BETROTHAL	
Common in ancient Israel, <u>father of groom selects a bride</u> for his son. (<i>Genesis 24, Abraham sends servant for Rebekkah. "Unnamed Servant" = Holy Spirit</i>)	God the Father sent His servant, the Holy Spirit, to select the Bride for His Son Yeshua . Invitation given to all who would receive it and be saved through Him. Believers accepted invitation, became chosen, selected by the Father to be His Beloved Son's loving precious bride. (Ephesians 1:4)
Intended bride <u>could refuse</u> .	Invitation given to all who will hear and come. Some have sadly refused. Marriage is by the Bride's choice .
KETUBAH (Betrothal): THE MARRIAGE COVENANT (<i>Ketubah</i>)	
<u>Groom travels to bride's home</u> to make arrangements.	Jesus left His Father's house in heaven, came to earth, home of prospective Bride, 2000+ years ago to obtain His Beloved.
Bridegroom promises to support his wife to be. Bride agrees to marriage. Bride offers dowry (<i>financial status, what she will bring</i>)	Legal contract for marriage/betrothal = New Covenant (Jeremiah 31). Groom promises to love and care for His bride - and to give Himself for her. Bride promises to pay her dowry = <u>yielded life, and to keep herself for Him</u> . (1 Corinthians 6:20).
MOHAR: BRIDAL PRICE	
Covenant (marriage contract) established, negotiations for <u>price to be paid to purchase bride</u>	Yeshua paid a price to purchase His Bride, the <i>ekklesia</i> , price = His own life blood shed on the cross. (1 Peter 1:18-19) The Father "covenanted" this promise throughout OT.
As symbol of covenant relationship established, groom and bride <u>drink from a cup of wine</u> and betrothal benediction pronounced.	Communion = symbol of "new" covenant through which Yeshua obtained the Bride (1 Corinthians 11:25). Referenced this during Passover meal with disciples before His death.
EYRUSIN (also kiddushim = sanctification or set apart ones): Part of Betrothal, SETTING APART	
Price paid, covenant established, bride declared to be consecrated/sanctified, <u>set apart</u> for her groom.	Church declared to be sanctified/set apart exclusively for Messiah (Eph. 5:25-27; 1Cor. 1:2; 6:11; Heb. 10:10; 13:12).
<u>Defined purpose of betrothal period</u> , preceded separation. Intended bride and groom officially " set apart " (live apart) to prepare themselves to enter into covenant of marriage.	Yeshua's Bride "set apart" from world. "Ekklesia" = "called out ones," -called out of the world, set apart, sanctified to Jesus. During separation (<i>Bride and Bridegroom live apart</i>) we are to prepare ourselves for union with Him. We are chosen and set apart for Him. <i>We do not belong to the world any longer</i> .
MIKVEH: RITUAL IMMERSION	
Common for bride and groom to separately take a <u>ritual immersion</u> (<i>Mikveh</i>). Done before actually entering into formal betrothal period, was symbolic of spiritual cleansing (purification)	Both Bride and Groom have undergone immersion (baptism). Jesus at beginning of His ministry (Matthew 3:13-17) and we the Bride in the ritual of water baptism, as well as cleansing by the Word (Ephesians 5:26-27, 1 Corinthians 6:11).
HUPPAH: Canopy Public Ceremony	
After immersion, appear together under canopy <i>in public</i> to announce betrothal and marriage. Huppah symbol of new household to come .	One of the last of Yeshua's actions was to bless cup of New Covenant [cup of <i>ketubah</i> , contract of marriage]. Communion = symbol of "new" covenant through which Yeshua obtained the Bride (1 Corinthians 11:25). Referenced this during Passover meal with disciples before His death. He said He would not taste it again until a later time, when he would drink at the wedding feast.
Sometimes things of value exchanged here, such as rings. As symbol of covenant relationship established, groom and bride <u>drink from a cup of wine</u> and betrothal benediction pronounced.	
MATAN: Bridal Gift	
Groom to return home to prepare a place for bride. Before leaving would <u>give bride a gift</u> , and pledge of love to remind bride during separation that he was thinking of her, preparing a place for her, and would return for her.	<i>Matan</i> means gift or pledge -Greek = <i>Charismata</i> - gift. Ephesians 1:13-14 Paul says this gift/pledge is the Holy Spirit , a promise of love, and that He will return for us. Pledge given at Shavuot (<i>Feast of Weeks, Pentecost</i>) Acts 2:1-4. (Holy Spirit comes)
SEPARATION: TIME APART FOR PREPARATION	
After marriage covenant established, groom would leave home of his bride and return to his father's house. There he would <u>remain separate from her until appointed time</u> .	Jesus left the earth, the home of the Church (His Bride), and returned to His Father's house in heaven after He had established the new covenant and risen from the dead (John 6:62; 20:17). He will remain separate from His Bride until He returns at the appointed time .

During separation, any relations with another man were considered <u>adultery</u> . Betrothal was contractually binding. <i>[Betrothal so binding couple would need divorce to annul the contract (Deuteronomy 24:1-4)] (Mary's dilemma)</i>	Yeshua away from Bride 2000 years. Bride now in separation. Possible for believers to commit spiritual adultery before He returns. Paul concerned about this (2 Corinthians 11:2-3)
This separation gave the bride time to <u>prepare for married life</u> .	Separation = time of preparation for Bride. Is sanctifying work of Holy Spirit preparing us to be with Jesus .
Groom spent this time <u>preparing a home in his father's house</u> to which he would bring his bride.	Jesus preparing a home for us (His Bride) in His Father's house during separation from His Bride (John 14:2)
Only <u>father of groom knew when time right</u> for son to get his bride. Father would tell son when that time was, when all preparations were complete.	Jesus said that no one except the Father knows the hour of His return (Mark 13:32). When God's plan of redemption is complete and it is time for the wedding.
REUNION/MARRAIGE	
At the end of the period of separation the <u>groom collects his bride</u> to live with him.	Jesus will come to take His Bride to live with Him at the end of the period of separation (John 14:3).
Taking of bride usually at night. Groom, best man and other escorts would leave the groom's father's house and conduct a torch light <u>procession to the home of the bride</u> .	Taking of Bride (Church) will be accomplished by a procession of Jesus and an angelic escort from the Father's house in heaven to the home of the Church/Bride (1 Thessalonians 4:16). <i>(catching away, we meet Him in the air)</i>
Bride expected her groom to come, but <u>did not know the exact time of his coming</u> . Always prepared!	Church does not know the exact time of Jesus' coming for her. The Bride of Messiah should be prepared at all times .
Groom's arrival preceded by <u>shout and the shofar</u> (trumpet). Would forewarn bride to be prepared for his imminent coming.	Yeshua's arrival to take the Church will be preceded by a shout and a trumpet blast (1 Thessalonians 4:16).
After the groom received his bride, together with her attendants, the wedding party would <u>return to the groom's father's house</u> .	Bride will return with Yeshua to His Father's house in heaven after she is snatched from earth to meet Him in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:17; John 14:2-3).
The wedding guests had already assembled for the marriage/feast.	Jesus and His Bride (Church) find OT saints assembled in heaven when they arrive. These serve as wedding guests.
Shortly after arrival bride and groom escorted to the bridal chamber. Prior to entering the chamber the bride remained veiled so that no one could see her face. Bride and groom entered the bridal chamber alone. There they would enter into physical union for the first time, consummating the marriage that had been covenanted earlier.	Bride of Christ safely hidden away during 7 years of the Tribulation. (Isaiah 26:19-21, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18) She will not be seen by anyone on earth. She is still "veiled." Our spiritual and eternal union is consummated. <i>Your dead shall live; Together with my dead body they shall arise. Awake and sing, you who dwell in dust; For your dew is like the dew of herbs, And the earth shall cast out the dead.</i> <i>Come, my people, enter your chambers, And shut your doors behind you; Hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment, Until the indignation is past. For behold, the LORD comes out of His place To punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; The earth will also disclose her blood, And will no more cover her slain. (Isaiah 26:19-21)</i>
FEAST: CELEBRATION	
After consummation, groom announced to wedding party waiting outside (John 3:29). They would pass on news of marital union to wedding guests.	Jesus and believers experience <u>spiritual union</u> after arrival at Father's house in heaven, consummating relationship covenanted earlier. Assembled wedding guests will rejoice!
Upon receiving news wedding guests <u>feast and make merry for next seven days</u> . Included 7 full days of food, music, dance and celebration (John 14:10-12).	Bride to remain "hidden" 7 years after arrival at Yeshua's Father's house in heaven. While Tribulation on earth, likely believers in heaven totally hidden (veiled).
During 7 days of wedding festivities, sometimes called " <u>7 days of the huppah</u> ," bride remained hidden in the bridal chamber, with her bridegroom. At end of seven days groom would bring his bride out of bridal chamber, <u>with her veil removed</u> , so that all could see his bride.	Jesus will bring His WIFE out of heaven at His Second Coming at conclusion of 7-year Tribulation <u>in full view</u> , so that all can see who the true Bride is (Col. 3:4). She is "unveiled" at this point. (Revelation 19:7-8, Jude 14-15, Zechariah 14:5). The marriage has already happened.