

The Jewish Wedding Ceremony

The selection of the bride	Ex 19: 5-6
Chosen by the father of the bridegroom	
Sends a servant (agent) to search for the bride	Gen 24:1-5
A bride price was established	
The bride & groom are betrothed to each other	Jer 2:2-3
First step taken by them	
Legally binds them into a marriage contract	
Remain separated	
Written document is drawn up	Ex 32: 15-16
<i>Ketubah</i> (that which is written):	
States the bride price	
States the promises of the groom	
States the rights of the bride	
Must be executed & signed prior to the wedding ceremony	
The bride must give her consent	Ex 19: 8
Gifts were given to the bride	
Cup of the covenant was shared between bride & groom.	Matt 26:27
Groom gives the bride something of value	
She must accept it	
The bride has a ritual of cleansing (<i>mikvah</i>)	
<i>Mikvah</i> = immersion in water	
Separation from a former way of life	Gen 2:23-24
Leaving an old life for a new life with your spouse	
The bridegroom departs to prepare a bridal chamber	John 14: 2-3
In his father's house	
"I go to prepare a place for you; if I go, I will return unto you again."	
The bride is consecrated while the bridegroom builds the house	
His father decides when it is ready	
The bridegroom does not know when his father will declare the chamber fit	
The bride must be ready at all times	
The bridegroom returns with a shout & the <i>shofar</i> is blown	
This is the marriage ceremony.	
Usually late at night	
Vows are exchanged under a canopy (<i>chupah</i>).	
Bridegroom leads the wedding procession	
" <i>Baruch ha-ba b'shem Adonai</i> "	
"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD"	Matt 21:9 & 23: 39, Mark 11:9, Luke 19:38 & John 12:13
The bridegroom takes his bride to the bridal chamber (<i>chadar</i>)	
The marriage is consummated	
The bridegroom's friend stands outside the door	
The bridegroom "announces" the consummation to the friend	
The guests start the wedding celebration.	
They consummate the marriage in the chamber for 7 days	
The marriage supper for all the guests invited by the father	
The Millennial Kingdom	Rev 19:1-10, 17-18