

# SHAVUOT — FROM SINAI TO THE UPPER ROOM

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## Part 1 - Introduction

## Part 2 - A Quick Review of the Engagement

Shemoth 6:6-7 - ...and shall take you as My people,...

### The 4<sup>th</sup> Cup - The Cup of Acceptance “and shall take you as My people”

**Note:** By way of review from a few weeks ago. The Hebrew word which is translated “shall take” is *lawkach*. It is a rather common word usually meaning “to take.” However, it is also used in reference to a man taking a bride for himself.

- i.e. — Bereshith 4:19, 6:2, 11:29, and 12:19 just to name a few
- Again, based on this usage I don't believe that it's a stretch that Yahweh was telling Yisrael there that He was going to take them to be His bride!
- So, this can be looked at as Yahweh's engagement to Yisrael.
- By grace, Yahweh selected His bride. He promised to separate her from all the others in the world. He told her that He intended to marry her. He delivered Yisrael from her bondage in Mitsrayim and severed all Yisrael's bonds to Mitsrayim and its ways.
- Now in this weeks parasha we will see Yahweh lead His bride out of Mitsrayim to the wedding ceremony at Mt. Sinai. As we discussed last week, Yahweh, during the engagement period began to prepare His bride-to-be. He began a separation process with the purpose of making her unreachable for other pursuers and at the same time helping to remove any temptations on her part.
- Yahweh also began to teach His bride-to-be how to love Him. We saw that through the process of bringing Yisrael out of Mitsrayim, Yahweh had taught them the first 3 commandments, and then very quickly once they had left Mitsrayim He taught them the 4th commandment the Shabbat.

## Part 3 - Yahweh Lays Out His Marriage Proposal

**Shemoth 19:5-6** - Yahweh speaks tender words to Yisrael, and tells them that there is a special purpose for their relationship. This marriage would have goals and direction. Yahweh said to Yisrael you shall be a kingdom of priests and a set-apart nation.

The Hebrew word used here is **kadosh** which has as a part of its meaning the idea of being set-apart for the purpose of serving Yahweh. So Yisrael was and is to be a kingdom of priests. Well, we might ask next “what is it that priests do?” One of the main functions of priests was to lead others into an understanding of Yahweh and to help them worship and serve Him. In other words Yisrael was and is to act as Yahweh’s representative to others. Ultimately by doing this the promise to Avraham of being a blessing to all nations would and will be fulfilled. Yisrael was and is to be a nation among the nations serving as a perpetual witness and testimony of the one true Elohim.

Of course if Yisrael was going to be a kingdom...there would have to be a king.

Yahweh himself would be their king. Of course later in time they would desire a physical king.

**In Shemoth 19:7-8** - Yisrael accepts the proposal

## Part 4 - A Yisraelite Wedding - The Mikveh

Before a traditional Jewish/Israelite wedding, it is customary for the bride and some circles the groom to go into the mikveh. Separately of course!

## Part 5 - A Yisraelite Wedding - The Chupah

A chupah is a canopy under which a wedding takes place. The word chupah can be found in **Yo’el 2:16** and in **Tehillim 19:5**. Both refer to a bride or bridegroom coming out of their chupah. Think of the chupah as a symbolic house into which the groom welcomes the bride.

**Shemoth 19:16** - I don’t believe it’s a huge stretch to look at the thick cloud as a chupah

## Part 6 - A Yisraelite Wedding - The Ketubah

The Ketubah is the marriage contract or covenant. It is a legally binding agreement between the bride and the groom which governs their marriage. It is always a written agreement. The word Ketubah comes from the Hebrew word *katav* which means to write. The Ketubah is read and signed during a traditional wedding ceremony.

In this wedding ceremony at Mt Sinai, what is the Ketubah?

What is it that represents the legally binding marriage covenant/contract between Yahweh and His bride Yisrael?

### The Torah of course!!!

By referring to the Torah as a Ketubah, I am strongly suggesting that is not merely a nice ethical system, or a list of do's and don'ts. It functions as the sacred marriage covenant between Yahweh and His people, Yisrael. It outlines the way the marriage is to be lived out. Its stipulations are what makes this a happy and fruitful marriage. Its precepts describe how the marriage would function. Its word pictures tell what married life would be like. Its judgments describe how each of the partners would relate to each other. For either party to violate this agreement is to violate the marriage itself. The Groom promised never to violate it. Because the Groom is Yahweh, He has never broken it. The bride, Yisrael, broke it quite regularly, and when they did Yahweh sent prophets to rebuke His unfaithful bride and help her to return back to the Ketubah, the Torah.

We begin reading the Ketubah with what are known as the 10 words or 10 commandments. The 10 commandments are not, should not, and cannot be separated from the rest of the Torah. They simply serve as a convenient summary of the rest of the Torah. The rest of the Torah takes the 10 commandments and fleshes them out and expands them to their fullest understanding.

**Note: In Shemoth 19:9, 20:22** - Contrary to what we have always been told and The images we have from the movie the 10 Commandments, this verse says that Yahweh **spoke** the Torah to Moshe so that all the people heard it.

## Part 7 - Here is a standard way, from rabbinic sources, of summarizing the 10 commandments

- Duties toward Yahweh
- Recognition of the sovereignty of Yahweh
- Unity and spirituality of Yahweh
- Uniqueness and Sensitivities of Yahweh
- The Special Time To Meet With Yahweh (Shabbat)
- Honor The Ones Who Stand In The Place Of Yahweh (Parents)
- Duties Toward Other People
- The Sanctity of Human Life
- The Sanctity of Marriage
- The Sanctity of Property
- The Sanctity of Speaking The Truth
- The Sanctity of Other's Property

## Part 8 - What did Yahshua have to say about the Torah?

**Mattithyahu 5:17-22, 27-28** - Do not think that I came to destroy the Torah...

**Shemoth 20:18-22** - And all the people saw the thunders, the lightning flashes, the sound of the Shofar...

The Hebrew word translated thunders is **HaKolot** which is from the root kol which means to call aloud; a voice or sound and the Hebrew word translated lightning is **lappiyd** meaning to shine; as in a lamp or a flame:

**Acts 2:1-4** - The parallels to the events at Sinai

**Note:** This all fits in as evidence to back the common belief that the Torah was given on Shavuot

**Yochanan 14:15, 21, 15:10** - If you love me you shall guard My commands

**1Yochanan 2:1-6** - And by this we know that we know Him...

**1 Yochanan 5:2-3** - ...His commands are not heavy

**Revelation 12:17** - And the dragon...went to fight...those guarding Torah

**Revelation 22:14** - Blessed are those doing His commands, so that the authority shall be theirs unto the tree of life, and to enter through the gates into the city.

## **Part 9 - A Yisraelite Wedding - The Ring**

**Shemoth 31:13** (also in Yechezk'el 20:12 and 20) - Yahweh's Sabbaths are a sign of the marriage covenant

Removing or not keeping the Sabbaths would be like taking off your wedding ring. It gives people sufficient reason to question if the marriage is still in tact. When Yisrael stopped keeping the Sabbaths it was like they were saying "this marriage is over." Yahweh as the groom, however, promises that the marriage is forever.

**READ Yirmeyahu 31:35-37**

Then it naturally follows that the sign of the marriage, the Sabbaths is still in force for Yisrael.

## **Part 10 - Parallels to The Wedding of The Lamb**

**Ephesians 5:22-32** - parallels of human marriage relationship to the relationship of Messiah and His called out ones.

**Revelation 21:9** - ..."Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife."

**Revelation 19:7-9** - The bride has made herself ready.

As the bridegroom, the Messiah, Yahshua, loves honors, protects, and cherishes His bride, His people, as a perfect husband would. He is committed to meet all of His bride's needs. He has promised to lead His bride lovingly to great heights of intimacy with Him.