

Ketubah

(preparation for the Lord's Supper)



The Hebrew Marriage Covenant is called the Ketubah. It is also referred to as the “bride price.”

The prospective groom writes a legally binding contract stating his devotion of love as well as his sacrificial financial obligation to be held in trust by the bride and used if he should die or divorce her. The father of the bride, the one most concerned with her best interest, approves the contract with the groom before the bride ever sees it. She might never have seen the groom before!

In a special ceremony, the groom reads the Ketubah in the presence of the bride. Her father is silent, while pouring a glass of wine. The bride listens silently. If she agrees and accepts the Ketubah, she indicates her willingness by drinking the wine poured by her father. Then the groom drinks. He swears to not drink it again until he returns for her. To say “no,” she simply says nothing and walks out of the room. Her father walks out after her and the marriage is off.

If the wedding is on, the groom returns to his father’s house to build an addition for he and his wife. Only his father can decide when the addition is done and ready for his son and his wife. Then the son can return to receive his bride.

Traditionally, the groom returns at night and there is a secret ceremony of him coming on a horse for his bride. The bride’s girlfriends all go out to meet the groom with their lamps to show the way.

We say “yes” to Jesus as our bridegroom by drinking the Lord’s cup. Every time we take the Lord’s cup we renew and strengthen our resolve to keep ourselves pure and holy for his return.

Consider the parallels of a Jewish Ketubah and our relationship with Jesus

♥ Jesus said, “In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me.”

♥ “No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.”

♥ “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.”

♥ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

♥ In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation-- having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God’s own possession, to the praise of His glory.

♥ God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”

♥ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

♥ Jesus said, “I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom.”

♥ The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Some took enough oil for their lamps, some didn’t. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. Those without enough oil had to go into town to buy oil. But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

Now let’s speak our words of commitment back to our Bridegroom as we take the Lord’s Supper. As you drink the fruit of the vine, let it be your “yes” to His pledge of love to you.