

Ancient Eastern Weddings

Betrothal (Cup of the Covenant)

Groom leaves to prepare the house

Arrival of the bridegroom

Bride is consecrated

Shofar is sounded (bride's entrance)

Gather under the *chuppah*

Presentation of the *ketubah*

Consummation of the wedding

Exchange of wedding gifts

“Honeymoon” year (Deuteronomy 24:5)



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“Honeymoon” year (Deuteronomy 24:5)

“Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be **my treasured possession**. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”

Exodus 19:5–6

Exodus & Mt. Sinai

Betrothal (“Abram, leave your father’s house...”)

Groom leaves to prepare the house (time in Egypt)

Arrival of the bridegroom (story of Passover)

Bride is consecrated (God tells Moses to “consecrate” Israel)

Shofar is sounded (sound of a shofar at Sinai)

Gather under the *chuppah* (cloud covering the mountain)

Presentation of the *ketubah* (10 Commandments)

Consummation of the wedding (Tabernacle)

Exchange of wedding gifts (the Law)

“Honeymoon” year (time of wandering in the wilderness)

When Moses approached the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, his anger burned and he threw the tablets out of his hands, breaking them to pieces at the foot of the mountain. And he took the calf the people had made and burned it in the fire; then he ground it to powder, scattered it on the water and made the Israelites drink it.

Exodus 32

“The priest shall bring her and have her stand before the Lord. Then he shall take some holy water in a clay jar and put some dust from the tabernacle floor into the water. ... He shall make the woman drink the bitter water that brings a curse, and this water that brings a curse and causes bitter suffering will enter her. The priest is to take from her hands the grain offering for jealousy, wave it before the Lord and bring it to the altar. The priest is then to take a handful of the grain offering as a memorial offering and burn it on the altar; after that, he is to have the woman drink the water. If she has made herself impure and been unfaithful to her husband, this will be the result: When she is made to drink the water that brings a curse and causes bitter suffering, it will enter her, her abdomen will swell and her womb will miscarry, and she will become a curse. If, however, the woman has not made herself impure, but is clean, she will be cleared of guilt and will be able to have children. This, then, is the law of jealousy when a woman goes astray and makes herself impure while married to her husband.”

Numbers 5