



The 12 Step Hebrew Betrothal Ceremony

1. Bride is selected by the father. The father sends a trusted servant, an “agent of the father” to search out the bride. (Gen 24; I Peter 1:8)
2. A bride price is established and agreed upon by the father and the son. (I Peter 1:18-19)
3. The bride and groom are betrothed, or legally bound.
4. A contract is prepared. The contract must be written.
5. The bride must give her consent. (Ex 19:8; 24:3; Rom 10:9)
6. Gifts must be given and a cup shared. (Luke 22:17)
7. The bride must be cleansed in a *mikvah*. Ez 16:8-14; Ex 19:14; Luke 3:16; Acts 1:5)

8. The bridegroom departs to prepare a home for the bride. (John 14:1-3)

9. The bride is consecrated (set apart). The groom's father gives permission for the son to go to the bride. (Mark 13:32)

10. The *shofar* (trumpet) is blown. The bridegroom returns with a shout, “Behold, the bridegroom comes!” and “Blessed is he who comes!” (Matt 25:6; Matt 23:39)

11. The bridegroom abducts the bride for seven days. (Joel 2:16)

12. A marriage supper is given for guests invited by the father of the bride. A friend of the bridegroom relays the news to those invited. (John 3:29)

Edward Chumney, *The Seven Festivals of the Messiah*