

Chuppah Checklist

To efficiently and effectively get you married, it's best to clarify a number of things well in advance.

The Chuppah in a Nutshell

Basically, the rabbi recites the two Berachot of Kiddushin - *Borei Peri HaGefen* and *Birkat Erusin* – both bride and groom take a drink, then the groom declares the canonical proposal in Hebrew (“*Harei At Mekudeshet Li beTaba’at Zo...*”), and puts the ring on the bride’s finger. The Ketubah is read, and the rabbi may even share a Torah thought. Then, Sheva Berachot are recited by up to seven honorees, the glass is shattered, and the couple is danced out of the room.

The Ketubah:

The Ketubah is a written contract stating the groom’s financial commitment to their marriage and his obligations to support his bride. The Ketubah is so crucial that our Chachamim went as far as prohibiting a married couple from living together without one, to guarantee the security of the wife. Therefore, one should ensure that his Ketubah is valid by recruiting a qualified rabbi to select an appropriate one and fill it out. To avoid errors, sit down with your rabbi and let him fill it out in advance and bring a backup, too.

1) Names

Relationship	Hebrew Name	English Name	Nicknames & Last Name
Groom			
Groom’s Father			
Bride			
Bride’s Father			

- 2) Is anyone a Kohen or Levi? _____
- 3) Are there any conversions, adoptions, divorces, or remarriages in the family? _____

- 4) Where and at what time (honestly) will the Chuppah be taking place? _____

- 5) Are the witnesses fully Torah observant and not related to either bride, groom, each other? Do they know and can they sign their names in Hebrew? _____
- 6) Is the groom Ashkenazi, Sepharadi, or a specific subset of one of them? _____

To Bring Under the Chuppah

1. Text of the chuppah ceremony, commonly found in the back of the Siddur (see below)
2. Tallit
3. Ketubah + Backup Ketubahs
4. Plain ring purchased by the groom using his own money or acquired by him
5. Kosher (Mevushal) wine
6. 1-2 wine glasses (check with caterer before Chuppah ceremony)
7. Honorees list

For your convenience, the honorees list and wedding ceremony text are included below.

Honorees List

The Chuppah

Officiating rabbi (*Mesader Kiddushin*): _____

(The officiating rabbi usually recites *HaGefen* and *Birkat Erusin*. If not, add who will here: _____)

Kiddushin witness #1: _____

Kiddushin witness #2: _____

Reading the Ketubah: _____

Ketubah witness #1: _____

Ketubah witness #2: _____

Divrei Torah/Speech: _____

Sheva Berachot #1 (*Borei Peri HaGefen*): _____

(*Besamim* for some Sepharadim: _____)

Sheva Berachot #2 (*Shehakol Bara Lichvodo*): _____

Sheva Berachot #3 (*Yotzer HaAdam*): _____

Sheva Berachot #4 (*Asher Yatzar et HaAdam BeTzalmo*): _____

Sheva Berachot #5 (*Sos Tasis*): _____

Sheva Berachot #6 (*Same'ach Tesamach*): _____

Sheva Berachot #7 (*Asher Bara*): _____

Birkat Kohanim: _____

Some also read and have witnesses sign a marriage stipulation document (Tennaim) before the chuppah, and some appoint witnesses for the Badeken (veiling the bride) and Yichud room (post Chuppah seclusion). Keep in mind those who can't receive one of these honors (such as women) are still eligible to sign the marriage license.

Sheva Berachot are also recited at the meal after Birkat HaMazon:

Birkat HaMazon (*Zimmun*) & Sheva Berachot #1 (*Borei Peri HaGefen*): _____

Some have the custom to recite #1 immediately at the end of the Zimmun, while others save it for the end.

Sheva Berachot #2 (*Shehakol Bara Lichvodo*): _____

Sheva Berachot #3 (*Yotzer HaAdam*): _____

Sheva Berachot #4 (*Asher Yatzar et HaAdam BeTzalmo*): _____

Sheva Berachot #5 (*Sos Tasis*): _____

Sheva Berachot #6 (*Same'ach Tesamach*): _____

Sheva Berachot #7 (*Asher Bara*): _____

All witnesses must be fully Torah observant men not related to the couple or each other.

Those signing should make sure they know how to sign their names, as well.

Berachot may be recited by any adult Jewish male.

The Wedding Ceremony

Kiddushin

Officiating rabbi recites the Berachot over a cup of wine:

סְבִירֵי מִרְגָּן. וְעוֹנִים: לְחַיִּים.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הַגֶּפֶן:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ עַל הָעֲרִיּוֹת וְאָסַר לָנוּ אֶת־הָאֲרוּסוֹת, וְהִתִּיר לָנוּ אֶת־הַנְּשׂוּאוֹת לָנוּ עַל יְדֵי חֲפָה בְּקִדּוּשֵׁינוּ. בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה, מְקַדֵּשׁ עַמּוֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל עַל יְדֵי חֲפָה בְּקִדּוּשֵׁינוּ:

Groom and bride take a sip of wine and then the groom declares to the bride:

הֲרִי אֶת מְקַדְּשֶׁת לִי בְּטַבַּעַת זֶה כְּדַת מִשָּׁה וְיִשְׂרָאֵל.

The groom then puts the ring on her finger in front of two kosher witnesses. After which the rabbi declares the marriage successful:

מְקַדְּשֶׁת! מְקַדְּשֶׁת!

[Reading of the Ketubah / Speech]

Sheva Berachot

1. *Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech HaOlam, Bore Peri HaGefen.*

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הַגֶּפֶן:

2. *Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech HaOlam, Shehakol Bara Lichvodo.*

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהַכֹּל בָּרָא לְכַבוֹדּוֹ:

3. *Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech HaOlam, Yotzer HaAdam.*

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, יוֹצֵר הָאָדָם:

4. *Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech HaOlam, Asher Yatzar Et HaAdam BeTzalmo, BeTzelem Demut Tavnito, VeHitkin Lo Mimmenu Binyan Adei Ad, Baruch Atah Adonai, Yotzer HaAdam.*

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר יָצַר אֶת־הָאָדָם בְּצַלְמוֹ, בְּצֶלֶם דְּמוּת תְּבַנִּיתוֹ, וְהִתְקִין לוֹ מִמֶּנּוּ בְּנֵי עֲדֵי־עַד. בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה, יוֹצֵר הָאָדָם:

5. *Sos Tasis veTagel Akarah beKibutz Baneha LeTochah BeSimcha, Baruch Atah Adonai, Mesameach Tzion beVaneha.*

שׁוֹשׁ תְּשִׁישׁ וְתִגַּל עֲקָרָה בְּקִבוּץ בְּנֵיהָ לְתוֹכָהּ בְּמַהֲרָה בְּשִׂמְחָה. בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה, מְשַׂמֵּחַ צִיּוֹן בְּבִנְיָהּ:

6. *Sameach Tesamach Re'im Ahuvim, KeSimchacha Yetzircha BeGan Eden Mikedem, Baruch Atah Adonai, Mesameach Chattan veChallah.*

שְׂמֵחַ תִּשְׂמַח רַעִים אֲהוּבִים כְּשִׂמְחָה יִצְרָךְ בְּגַן עֵדֶן מִקֵּדָם. בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה, מְשַׂמֵּחַ חֲתָן וְכַלָּה:

7. *Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech HaOlam, Asher Bara Sasson veSimcha Chattan veKallah, Gilah, Rinah, Ditzah, veChedvah, Ahavah, veAchvah, Shalom, veReiut, Meherah Adonai Eloheinu Yishama beArei Yehudah uv'Chutzot Yerushalayim Kol Sasson veKol Simchah, Kol Chattan veKol Kallah, Kol Mitzhalot Chattanim MiChupatam u'Ne'arim MiMishteh Neginatam, Baruch Atah Adonai, Mesameach Chattan Im HaKallah.*

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר בָּרָא שְׁשׁוֹן וְשִׂמְחָה, חֲתָן וְכַלָּה, גִּילָה רִנָּה דִּיצָה וְחֻדוּהָ, אֲהָבָה וְאַחֻוּהָ, שְׁלוֹם וְרַעוּת, מְהֵרָה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ יִשְׁמַע בְּעֲרֵי יְהוּדָה וּבְחוּצוֹת יְרוּשָׁלַיִם, קוֹל שְׁשׁוֹן וְקוֹל שִׂמְחָה, קוֹל חֲתָן וְקוֹל כַּלָּה, קוֹל מִצְחָלוֹת חֲתָנִים מִחֻפָּתָם, וְנִעְרִים מִמִּשְׁתֵּה נְגִינָתָם, בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה, מְשַׂמֵּחַ הַחֲתָן עִם הַכַּלָּה:

Groom and bride take a sip.

Breaking the Glass

אם אֲשַׁכְּחֶךָ יְרוּשָׁלַיִם תִּשְׁכַּח יְמִינִי:

תִּדְבֹק לְשׁוֹנֵי לְחֻפֵי אִם לֹא אֲזַכְּרֶכִי אִם לֹא אֲעֲלֶה אֶת יְרוּשָׁלַיִם עַל רֹאשׁ שִׂמְחָתִי:

Im Eshkachekh Yerushalayim, Tishkach Yemini.

Tidbak Leshoni Lechiki Im Lo Ezkerechi, Im Lo A'aleh et Yerushalayim al Rosh Simchati.

Break the glass.

Mazal Tov!