

## Unit 3 : Life Cycle

### 1. Birth

Shalom Zachor

- Held on the first Shabbat after the Jewish baby boy is born ( Friday Night)
- It takes place in the home of the family and the community come and wish Mazel Tov to the family.

### 2. Brit Milah

- It marks the Covenant between humans and G-d
- It ideally should take place on the morning of the 8<sup>th</sup> day.

The order of the Brit: A) Brought in by a pillow by the Kvatter B) Placed onto the chair of Elijah. C) Placed onto the lap of the Sandek. D) The Mohel ( Trained G-D Fearing Jew) performs the Brit Milah. E) A series of blessings and the naming ceremony takes place. F) Festive meal / Seuda.

### 3. Naming a girl

- The father will be called up to the Torah and a special prayer is recited. They announce the child's Hebrew name.

A Kiddush is held after the service and the community share their blessings.

### 4. Pidyon Haben

- Additional suggested reasons for the Mitzva: 1<sup>st</sup> of everything belongs to G-d and how the firstborn males have a special connection to G-d as they were saved in the 10<sup>th</sup> plague in Egypt.

Ceremony : The father has to redeem the son from G-d and the representative in this world is the Kohanim. The father pays the Kohen 5 silver Shekalim on the 31<sup>st</sup> day after the birth. The ceremony takes place within a meal which follows on after. The child is traditionally brought in on a tray covered in Jewellery.

### 5. Bar / Bat Mitzva

- The individual is now obligated to follow the Mitzvot.

- Hebrew birthday – 12 for a girl and 13 for a boy.

Upon the Bar Mitzvah: Boys wear Tefillin / called up to the Torah – Aliyah / makes a Minyan / Read from the Torah on Shabbat.

- Bat Mitzvah : She will traditionally read a speech about the Parasha to mark this stage in her life.

## 6. Vort

- Engagement ceremony of a couple.

- Custom is to break a plate to show that engagement should be final and binding and a reminder of the destruction of the Temple.

## 7. Aufruf

- The Groom called up to the Torah on the Shabbat before the wedding.

Bride has a similar ceremony called the Shabbat Kallah

## 8. Marriage

- The Wedding day is like a Yom Kippur for the couple and a new start for them both. On this day they will traditionally fast.

- At the wedding ceremony:

### a) Kabbalat Panim – Reception

- The bride and groom greet the guests separately.

The groom signs the Ketubah in front of two witnesses.

### b) Bedeken

- The groom lifts the veil over the face of the bride.

- The veil signifies how the inner person is most important.

The groom is accompanied by the friends when performing this ceremony.

The source: Rivka covered her face prior to marrying Yitzchak.

### c) Chuppah

- Symbol of the home to be built and shared by the couple.

Opened on 4 sides like the tent of Avraham and Sarah – looking out to welcome guests.

Ideally held outside under the stars to connect with the promise Avraham was given about his future children like the stars of the sky.

Groom may wear a Kittel – spiritual purity.

Groom goes first followed by bride who circles him 7 times.

2 cups of wine – 1<sup>st</sup> for Kiddushin – Betrothal and the second cup for the Sheva Brochot ( 7 blessings)

Groom gives ring and places it on her finger and recites statement in front of two witnesses.

### d) Ketubah – Marriage contract

- Written in Aramaic

- Details the husbands obligations to his wife eg. To feed , clothe and provide shelter to her.

It is the wife's property.

### e) Sheva Brochot – 7 blessings

- Recited over two cups of wine

Recited by community members as they share their blessings to the new couple.

The bride and groom drink from the wine.

### f) The breaking of the glass

- The Groom breaks the glass.

- Represents and reminder of the destruction of the Temple.

g) Yihud

- The couple go to a private room together.

h) Seuda

- Festive meal held followed by dancing .

- Concluded with the Sheva Brochot + Bride and Groom drink from the wine.

i) The week following the wedding – There are 7 days of festivities called the Sheva Brochot.