

*Lesson 3 The Seven Sealed Document,
the Title Deed to the Earth, the Ketubah,
Revelation 4-5*

Only the Lamb Who was Slain Worthy

Deuteronomy 10:14 “Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the highest heavens, the earth and all that is in it.” NASB

Day 1 **Creation of Man and the Fall – Genesis 1-3, John 1**

In eternity past, the Triune God, decided to make Mankind for whatever reason, and place them in His kingdom on earth (must have a realm for a kingdom) as not only His subjects (must have subjects for a kingdom) but also as the caretakers (tenants of the land) of His kingdom (the earth). Perhaps Creation was brought into being to settle a dispute between the two-thirds of the angels who wisely stayed with God and the one-third of the angels who defected and chose their lot with ha-Satan, or Lucifer. Or perhaps He brought the earth into being, just because God is a creative kind. He is God, you know. And He creates.

We will start at the very beginning in Genesis, the first book of the Hebrew Tanakh. We will see from the beginning God gave the responsibility to rule over the earth to Adam, God’s representative to God’s kingdom (the earth). We will also see how Adam and Eve lost the possession of the land God gave them (or their tenant rights to the land) to the serpent. This came about because of Adam’s disobedience to a direct command given him by God. That direct command was not to eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God told Adam, right up front, the consequence for disobedience to this command is D E A T H. And we will also see that God, who owns the earth and everything on it, the Redeemer of Man, has the rights to buy back Mankind’s right over the earth.

Re-a-lly God? ...Are you truly going to bring death to Adam and Eve and all those in the future because of this one disobedient act of eating this tiny piece of fruit from this one particular tree? Re-a-lly? It seems like such a silly little commandment. Why worry about it? The punishment of death doesn’t fit the crime of eating a piece of fruit. Re-a-lly? This r-ea-lly is not very important. There are so many more important things in this life to focus on, rather than one little disobedient act with a tree.

Adam, has God said? Adam, you surely will not die. Adam, you can’t believe Him. What kind of God would sentence you to die over eating a piece of fruit? Adam, it is

a beautiful piece of fruit. You don't want to miss this opportunity. In the day you eat of it you will be like God, knowing good and evil. You may never get this opportunity again. Come on Adam, don't you realize, this calls God's character into question?

Then Adam asks the serpent, "what is death?"

Of course I am using my own dialog above for emphasis. Explain below in the space provided what I am re-a-lly doing here?

My husband and I like to go to movies. We went to see Valerian last Wednesday evening. It did not get very good reviews, but those movies are usually the ones in which we find some nugget of important truth with a little "t." Valerian was about the genocide of a whole species of intelligent beings and the destruction of a whole planet. The person responsible for that genocide tried to cover it up which only led to more carnage and killing. It reminded me of the genocide of the Jewish people in World War II in Europe, but it wasn't anywhere as gruesome as the Nazi "Shoah." My comment to Jeff after our conversation came back to the Holocaust was, "you wouldn't have thought that little act of disobedience made by Adam would have ever grown into such a monster as genocide."

What was God trying to do here with Adam and Eve, anyway? Why such punishment for a small crime of eating the fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil? What is the big deal? Why d-e-a-t-h?

Read the first chapter of **Genesis** and also the first chapter of **John** and answer the following questions:

Of the Godhead, who was present at Creation?

Which one of the Godhead was responsible for Creation?

In whose image was Adam made?

What mandate did God give His newly created human beings? What is God giving to the human pair here? You have to think on this one. This is not a simple question nor is the answer. Dig deep in your soul. BIG HINT! **Genesis 1:26 - 28**

God is giving them dominion and also the right to rule over God's kingdom, as God's representative on the earth.

Read all the way through **Genesis 2** and answer the following questions:

After creating Adam, where did God place him?

What did God give Adam to eat? What did God tell Adam not to eat? Why did He tell Adam eat this, not this? Was He testing them? Was He tempting them?

Read all the way through **Genesis 3** and answer the following questions:

Tell me about the serpent. Who is the serpent? How do you know who the serpent is? I will give you several hints as to where to find his description. Read **Revelation 12:1-9**. Cross-reference the Revelation passage with **Isaiah 14:12-14** and **Ezekiel 28:11-19**. Now, in the space below, with words, describe the serpent.

What happened to the serpent to make him so mean? ...so evil? ...so cunning?

What was the serpent's sin? Who was he anyway before he became the serpent? How did the serpent get the right to rule over the earth and dominate it?

What is Adam's consequence for disobeying God? What is Eve's consequence for disobeying God? What is the serpent's consequence for his disobedience in **Gen. 3**?

Day 2 **Ha-Satan tempts the LORD Jesus Christ in the desert- Mark 1:14, Matthew 4:1-11, Luke 4:1-13**

Mark 1:14 tells us that immediately after Jesus is baptized by John the Baptist, the Spirit of God impelled Him to go out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil for 40 days. We have to go to the other Gospel accounts to know the rest of the story. Please read **Matthew 4:1-11** and **Luke 4:1-13**.

During this 40-day period of time, Jesus had been fasting, both day and night. I know I would not last 40 minutes in the desert. How about you? Would you be

hungry after 40 minutes of being in the desert? There is no food pantry in the desert. Dah!

How did Jesus last 40 days and 40 nights in the desert without food?

What was Jesus doing all this time He was fasting?

When did Jesus become hungry?

When, in this 40 days, did ha-Satan tempt Jesus?

What is ha-Satan implying in Matthew 4 when he comes to Jesus and says, "If you are the Son of God...." then..."command that these stones become bread"?

Is there some kind of competition here between the former cherub ha-Satan, known as Lucifer, and Jesus, the Son of God?

What does the Bible teach about the relationship between ha-Satan (Lucifer), a created cherub, and Jesus, the Only Son of God? If you don't know, go back to Day 1.

The Bible teaches that Jesus is one with the Father and the Holy Spirit. He is God. Jesus has been from everlasting to everlasting. Jesus has no equal. Lucifer was a created being, an angel. He was one of the highest angels created who guarded the holiness of God until his pride got him kicked out of heaven along with one-third of the heavenly host who sided with him.

Finishing up on the Matthew 4 passage we started above: when ha-Satan tries to get Jesus to turn the stones into bread, is there anything wrong with Jesus turning these stones into bread? Jesus has been fasting for 40 days and 40 nights. He's hungry. Jesus comes back at ha-Satan with inspired Scripture. Write Jesus' response below:

Then the devil takes Jesus into the holy city and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and says, once again...."if You are the Son of God..." then, "throw Yourself down; for it is written, 'HE WILL COMMAND HIS ANGELS CONCERNING

YOU': and 'ON their HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, SO THAT YOU WILL NOT STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.'"

What is ha-Satan trying to do here? What does Jesus come back at ha-Satan with once again?

Finally, we come to the last temptation. This time, ha-Satan does not say "if you are the Son of God, then..." The devil now takes Jesus again to a very high mountain and shows Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory: and he says to Him, "All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me."

What is ha-Satan trying to do here? How could he offer all the kingdoms of the world and their glory to Jesus unless all the kingdoms were his to offer?

Did all the kingdoms of the world belong to ha-Satan?

What did Adam and Eve forfeit in the Garden when they sinned? I realize this is a repeat question.

Did the serpent of **Genesis 3** actually get the "deed" to the earth? What is a deed anyway? We will explore this more later on in the study.

Is the serpent ruler over this earth today? Does he still have dominion over the earth? I thought the earth was the LORD's and everything in it.

What does Paul call the serpent, the devil, ha-Satan in **Ephesians 2:1-2**? Wow! Does this verse ever come alive, here? Note the words dead, sins, the sons of disobedience.

"And you were **dead** in your trespasses and **sins**, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to **the prince of the power of the air**, of the spirit that is now working **in the sons of disobedience**.

How was the serpent of Genesis 3 defeated? When was he defeated? Is there yet a part of the defeat of ha-Satan yet to come?

When we say the serpent was defeated at the cross, afterwards, did He still maintain dominant rule over the earth?

So, if the serpent of Genesis 3 was defeated at the cross, then why is there so much evil on the earth today? And why does it seem like He rules the kings and the peoples of the earth?

With what did Jesus come back at ha-Satan when ha-Satan offered Him all the kingdoms of the world if only He would bow down and worship ha-Satan?

*During the Tribulation, ha-Satan will offer the same deal to the anti-Christ. Only the anti-Christ will bow down and worship ha-Satan.

Day 3 **Law of the Kinsman Redeemer, Law of the Land Redemption, Law of Inheritance– Ruth 1-4, Leviticus 24: 23-31, 25: 23, Deuteronomy 25:5-10, Numbers 27:1-11**

I know we looked at the entire book of Ruth in Part 2 of the Book of Revelation, but we are going to look at it again here because it is one of several references in the Scripture that brings clarity to the Law of Land Redemption.

Please read or reread all four chapters of the **Book of Ruth**. You may want to mark the following important words: Redeem, redemption, relative, kinsman, Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz.

Who is Boaz?

Is Boaz Naomi's closest relative?

What did the closest relative have to do in addition to buying the land from Naomi's hand according to **Ruth 4:5**?

Please read **Deuteronomy 25:5-10**.

In your own words, what is the Law of the Kinsman Redeemer or the Levirate marriage?

Why is it important to the Israelites for the brother of the dead male to sire a male offspring in the dead relative's place?

This is what The Second Book of Jewish Why has to say about the Kinsman Redeemer? "The Levirate Marriage (called *Yibum* in Hebrew) requires that a man marry the childless widow of his brother in order to produce a child who will carry the deceased brother's name. The reason: so that the deceased brother's name will not be forgotten. So important is the perpetuation of a name that which is called incest (in this instance marriage to a sister-in-law) and is forbidden in an earlier book of the Bible (**Leviticus 18:16**) may be engaged in to comply with the law of Levirate Marriage."⁸

What happens if the brother of the deceased refuses to marry the widow of his dead brother? This is what The Second Book of Jewish Why has to say about this: "**Deuteronomy 25-7-10** explains that the wife then must go to the gate of the city where the Elders sit and inform them that her brother-in-law has refused to marry her. The Elders then must call the brother to them, and if he states, 'I will not marry her,' the Ceremony of the Removed Sandal (called *Chalitzah* in Hebrew) takes place. In this ceremony the widow loosens or removes the brother-in-law's shoe, spits in front of his face, and says, 'So shall be done to a man who refuses to build up his brother's house.'" ⁹

Doesn't seem to me like its much of a problem or an embarrassment for the brother-in-law, does it? And, I don't think the widow would feel like she had had her vengeance on her unworthy brother-in-law by saying, "Thus it is done to the man who does not build up his brother's house."

In the second century A.D., the Jewish Rabbis, did away with the Levirate marriage, partly because they saw it as an unfair way for the brother-in-law to take advantage of his brother's widow for his own selfish gain (the dead brother's land).

The Second Book of Jewish Why goes on to say, "Levirate marriage was performed well into the second century AD or CE. About that time rabbinic authorities began to question the wisdom of continuing the practice, especially in view of **Leviticus 18:16**, which declares that marriage between a man and his brother's wife is incest...It was not until Rabbenu Gersham ben Judah of Germany placed a ban on polygamy, that *Yibum* was taken out of practice...*Chalitzah* not *Yibum* is the

⁸ The Second Book of Jewish Why, Alfred J. Kolatch, Jonathan David Publishers, Inc. New York, 2000, pp. 113-114.

⁹ Ibid, p.114.

established practice among Orthodox Jews today. Apparently this is (just) a ceremony which releases the dead husband's wife to marry any one she chooses."¹⁰

This is bothersome to me for 2 reasons:

1. This is not my understanding of incest; my understanding of incest is: the two to be joined for the producing of an offspring, must be actually, physically, related. I don't think the rabbis knew about genes in the second century, so they may have had a different understanding of how incest was committed. This is from Wikipedia, dated July 23, 2017 (not knowing who added this): "In theory, however, the Biblical law of Levirate marriage is still presumed in force, thus making the childless widow who remarries someone other than her brother-in-law without performing the *halizah (chalitza)* ceremony an adulterer."¹¹
2. More importantly, by eliminating the Levirate marriage, this takes away one of the laws that teaches the Jewish people about their relationship with God and their Messiah who would come as their Kinsman Redeemer, a human being yet fully God. I used to work with a Jewish gal who was emphatic that God was not going to come in human flesh. She didn't know her Hebrew Scriptures very well, which really is not uncommon for any of the Jewish people and especially a woman. I think she had a hard time believing that God could do anything He wants, and specifically, anything He has already prophesied to do in the Scripture. It wasn't just any man's "body" the Kinsman Redeemer's was coming in, but a body God the Father designed for His Son to inhabit specifically. **Hebrew 10: 5** paraphrases **Psalm 40: 6-8**. Please read both of these references and place your thoughts in the space below this paragraph. In order for the redeemer of Mankind to come, He had to not only come as a human being, but he had to be a relative, as well, like Boaz was to Ruth. In order for the redeemer of Mankind to come, He also had to be able to pay the redeemer's price, which also meant that He had to be sinless or unblemished. Remember, God of whom Jesus is one member of the Triune Godhead is and was perfect and sinless. Finally, He, the Kinsman Redeemer, had to take possession of the earth and administer rule over the earth. We will see this last requirement for the role of Kinsman Redeemer when we look at the seven-sealed scroll of Revelation 6.¹²

I would like you to think on this statement: the LORD Jesus Christ came to not only redeem his next of kin, to claim His bride, but He also came to redeem the land for His next of kin. Comment below on your thoughts.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Wikipedia, July 23, 2017.

¹² Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry, Inc., 2016 Prophecy Conference, Jim Showers, Israel's Law Lessons of Redemption

Not only is there is a redemptive marriage (like Boaz and Ruth) in the works with Jesus coming to earth, but there is also redemption of the land that each of the Israelites were given. Land was life. Land meant food for the next generation. Land had been given to Abraham's offspring 400 years into Abraham's future when Abraham's offspring entered the Promised Land as a Nation. See **Genesis 15**.

Let's take a look at the Law of Land Redemption in **Leviticus 25:23-31**. Please read this now.

When you buy a new home, what do have in your possession, although the bank mortgage may not be paid yet in full?

Although, HOAs' are trying to convince you otherwise, what rights do you have to the land your home sits on?

What were the Israelites to do about their land when one of their brothers needed to sell their land for a period of time? List in the space below what they were to do from the text of **Leviticus 25:23-31**.

Jim Showers of Friends of Israel Ministry sees five clear principles of redemption in the following Scriptures:¹³

1. In **Deuteronomy 10:14**, the Land is God's.
2. In **Genesis 13:15** and **Psalms 105:9-11**, God gave Israel *tenant* possession over the land forever. God gave the Israelites the right to possess the land and also use it. Therefore, the Israelites were tenants. An example of a tenant in our day in age is Wal-mart. They do not own the buildings their businesses are in. The buildings were erected just for them, but someone else owns them. Wal-mart leases the buildings: therefore they are tenants. When we look at Israel, they could temporarily sell the right to use the land, but they could not sell their tenant rights. In the first line of the **Leviticus 25:23-31** passage written out for you above, God says that the Israelites could not sell the land permanently. Do you think this maybe is front and center of the thoughts of the Israeli government today when they are faced with giving more and more of their land away to the Palestinians?
3. In the year of Jubilee, the land reverted back to the seller of the land. All debts were cancelled. Rabbi Baruch S. Davidson says the last time

¹³ Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry, Inc., 2016 Prophecy Conference, Jim Showers, Israel's Law Lessons of Redemption, 2016.

the year of Jubilee was observed was approximately 150 years prior to the deportation of the Jews to Babylon and the subsequent destruction of the first temple.¹⁴ I've been under the impression all these years that the Jewish people never observed the year of Jubilee. How was this supposed to work in real time. Starting with the sabbatical year, God told the Israelites that they were to work their land for 6 years and then in the 7th year (the sabbatical year) they were to rest the land. God gave them enough produce the 6th year so that they could rest the land on the 7th year. God sent the Jewish people (from Judah) into captivity in Babylon for 70 years, one year for each of the sabbatical years they did not trust God enough to rest their land on that 7th year. This becomes very important when we study the book of Daniel. So, keep this in the back of your mind as we move through the study. In the 50th year (or $7 \times 7 + 1$), the year of Jubilee, all debts were forgiven and the land reverted back to the original owner. Let's look at a real time example of a Jew named Paul who needed to sell his land for whatever reason to his neighbor Peter. Paul and Peter try to negotiate the sale of Paul's land. The amount that Peter is going to be willing to give to Paul for his land will be based on how many years this year is from the year of Jubilee. Say, it is 15 years until the Jubilee. If Paul said that the land is worth \$100 per year to him, then Peter would pay Paul \$1500. Paul will never give that \$1500 back to Peter unless Paul buys back the land from Peter. The way Peter will get his \$1500 back is by working the land, growing crops and selling the produce. If the years are good and rains favorable, Peter may make more than \$1500 back. If the years are not good and rains not favorable, then Peter could lose some money. Either way, when the year of Jubilee came, all debts are forgiven and Paul resumes his ownership of the land once again.

4. The tenant right to the land must stay within the family. God placed this concept into the Law of Inheritance in **Numbers 27:1-11**. We see in this passage of Scripture that the daughters of Zelophehad's father had died in the wilderness and he had no sons. So these girls stood before Moses, Eleazar, the priest, the leaders, and all the congregations and asked the question: why should the name of their father be withdrawn from among his family because he had no son? So Moses went before the Lord and inquired of Him on their behalf. God agreed and the inheritance of the land was given to the daughters. This also spurred other law concerning inheritance: ...if a man dies, "and he has no daughter, then you shall give his inheritance to his brothers. If he has no brothers, then you shall give his inheritance to his father's brothers. If his father has no brothers, then you shall give his inheritance to his nearest relative in his own family, and he shall

¹⁴ Internet: Chabad.org, Rabbi Baruch S. Davidson, August 14, 2017.

possess it; and it shall be a statutory ordinance to the sons of Israel, just as the LORD commanded Moses.”

5. The closest relative had the right to buy back or redeem the land rights at any time. This is how this works in real time; we will use the example of Paul and Peter, again. Let's say Paul has sold Peter, 3 acres of land. That was four years ago. Paul's closest relative Barnabas wants to buy back his land from Peter. Peter has no choice in the matter. He must sell back the land to Paul's closest relative. Peter has been working very hard on this land to make it productive. It seems like Peter should have some say so, but he doesn't because the law says he does not. There is 11 years left to the year of Jubilee. Then Barnabas must pay Peter, 11 years x \$100/acre/year (the original worth of the land) or \$1100 to buy back Paul's land. The land does not revert back to Paul until the year of Jubilee.

Day 4 **The Law of the Land – Jeremiah 32:6-15**

Please stay with me on this. There is purpose in the order I am giving you these lessons.

Please read **Jeremiah 32:1-5**.

Where is Jeremiah?

What has happened to the city of Jerusalem? And who has caused this to happen to Jerusalem? (trick question)

What has the King of Israel been telling his people?

What had Jeremiah, the prophet, been telling the people?

Did the King of Israel like what Jeremiah had been telling the people?

If not, what has he done to Jeremiah?

Why is Jeremiah in jail? How is Jeremiah warning the people?

Jeremiah 32:6-15

Who is coming to see Jeremiah in jail?

What does his cousin, Hanamel, tell him when he arrives to see Jeremiah in jail? See **Jeremiah 32:8**.

What message is God sending to Jeremiah by telling him to buy the field that is his right of redemption in **Jeremiah 32:14-15**? Think here: the Jews including their king will all be making a very long trip to Babylon. Some will die when in captivity. Some will not.

How many years will the Jews be in captivity in Babylon? See **Jeremiah 25:11-12**, **Jeremiah 29:10**, **Daniel 9:2**.

Jeremiah purchases his cousin's field for 17 shekels of silver. That was a huge amount of money back then. Jeremiah signed and sealed the deed in front of witnesses. Then he takes the deeds (plural) of purchase to the elders of the city. Why are there two deeds here?

What are the names of the two deeds?

Jeremiah goes on to tell us that he took the two deeds of purchase, both the sealed copy and the open copy, and gave the sealed copy to the elders of the city. Then Jeremiah commands Baruch, the elder of the city taking responsibility for the deeds, to take the *sealed* and *open deed* and to put them in an earthenware jar that they may last a long time.

When God says next: houses and fields and vineyards will again be bought in this land, what is God telling Jeremiah about the Jews who will go into captivity? Refer to one of the above questions.

This following is from Jim Showers, Friends of Israel Prophecy conference cited earlier.¹⁵

In ancient Israel, when one transacted land, one needed two deeds, the open deed and the sealed deed. The open deed could be shown to anyone at anytime. It

¹⁵ Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry, Inc., 2016 Prophecy Conference, Jim Showers, Israel's Law Lessons of Redemption

probably was in the possession of the one who was going to purchase the land if he had the right of redemption. The other deed was sealed and probably in the possession of the elders of the city. Let's say that Jeremiah comes back to the land after the 70 years of Jewish captivity in Babylon. He finds someone else working his land that he had purchased from his cousin (who did not come back). Jeremiah asks the guy working his land, "Why are you working my land?" The guy working Jeremiah's land says he has an open deed; he purchased the land. Jeremiah shows the guy working his land, the open deed Jeremiah holds. How will the two Jews settle the matter? They will visit the elders of the city and since Jeremiah presented to them the sealed deed to the land, he will be **the ONLY one who can break the seal** on the document and open it. When the sealed document that the elders held onto and the open document that Jeremiah held on to, were compared, the two were found to be exact duplicates of each other. The land belonged to Jeremiah. The man who had been working the land that belonged to Jeremiah, went away empty handed. Have you ever heard of "buyer-beware" before?

Now, I am going to ask you to reread **Revelation 4-5** and answer the following questions.

What did John the Revelator see in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne?

What is the purpose of the seven seals?

What does the strong angel ask with a loud voice for all to hear?

Who was found worthy to open the book and to break its seals?

Why does John start weeping?

What does one of the *elders* tell John?

Why does one of the elders tell John to stop weeping?

Who has been found worthy to open the book and its seven seals?

Why was the Lion of Judah worthy to open the book and its seven seals? See both **Revelation 5:5** and **Revelation 5:9**

What is the purpose of all the elders and the four living creatures and the angels and the myriads of myriads, and the thousands of thousands looking on to this scenario that is happening before them?

What are your thoughts about the book with the seven seals? What does the scroll with the seven seals represent?

Day 5 **The Title Deed to the Earth - Revelation 4-5**

As much as I believe that the seven sealed scroll written on both sides is the title deed to the earth and the Lord Jesus has the right of redemption to the earth and to the land He gave to Abraham, I know there are others in the Messianic community who believe the seven sealed scroll is representative of the Ketuba, the marriage contract. We looked at this only briefly in the introduction to part 1 of this study. There are definitely so many similarities between the seven-sealed document and the Ketuba that it cannot be coincidental. Perhaps this seven-sealed scroll is like a parfait. You know, it has layers, like Donkey said in the Dreamworks movie Shrek. There may even be more than two layers here in the seven-sealed scroll that no one yet has figured out. I can think of one more layer of the parfait that is obvious and that I have not mentioned before. It is the top layer and each of the seven seals represent seven different judgments of God's wrath carried out upon the earth and the earth dwellers because of their rebelliousness.

For today, we are going to look at the seven-sealed scroll as some in the Messianic Jewish community see it. All of the following is from three volumes of *Lost in Translation*, written by John Klein, Adam Spears with Michael Christopher. Two of the three authors are Messianic Jews. They are Jewish yet they believe Jesus is their long awaited Messiah who came to earth to save them from their sins. The rest of their beliefs fall right along side those of the born again Christian believer. The other one of the three authors is a Christian pastor of a church. Honestly, I've had a very difficult time trying to understand what they are trying to get across to their readers. I will do my best in trying to explain that which I see as clearly relevant to our understanding of the Ketuba and its representation in the seven-sealed scroll that begins the unraveling of God's wrath upon the earth and the unrepentant earth dwellers.

Do you remember what the Torah is? Another word used for the Torah is the Pentateuch. What books of the Bible make up the Torah? There are five of them.

What does the number 7 mean?

It means completion and sometimes perfection, right?

Getting back to the Ketubah, the authors of the Lost in Translation series define the Ketubah as the word used for the marriage contract. The two families of whom the two parties were to be united got together and worked out the terms of the marriage contract over dinner or a shared meal. When both sides to the marriage contract agreed upon the terms, the two parties called a scribe or a rabbi to write the actual contract. This contract had five parts. Remember here there are five books to the Torah: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. Each part of the contract could be associated with one of the books of the Torah.

We will start with **Genesis**.

1. The first part of the Ketubah was a **combined family history** of both the bride and groom. This contained detailed family trees and anecdotes (stories) associated with this part of the Ketubah.

How do you think the book of Genesis corresponds to the first part of the Ketubah?

Who are the bride and groom of the book of Genesis?

What stories do we have in the book of Genesis of both the bride and groom separately?

In Genesis, we have the story of the Beginning of Creation. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit were all present at Creation.

What stories do we have in the book of Genesis of the bride and groom together?

In Genesis we have the stories of Abram, Sarai, Isaac, and Jacob who became Israel. Jacob had 12 sons and those 12 sons became the 12 tribes of Israel who went down to Egypt as only 70 men, women, and children and came out of Egypt 430 years later (as some estimate or believe) a whopping six million people. God's story is in Genesis as well. God created Adam. God covered Adam and Eve's sin. God promised Adam and Eve a redeemer. God went through the flood with Noah, Shem, Ham, and

Japheth and their wives. God chose one man out of the sea of humanity to worship Him and be His link to the Redeemer who was coming as one of Abram's seed.

What is the family tree of God and Mankind? Draw it below:

What is the family tree of those who are rebellious against God? What do you notice about this family tree?

Now we will look at the book of Exodus, the second book of the Pentateuch:

2. Secondly, came the part of the Ketubah that detailed a personal and family history of the bride, with again, a detailed family tree and stories.

Who is the bride here?

What are the stories about the Israelites? How did they come out of Egypt?

Who is Moses and why was he appointed the spokesman for the Israelite people before pharaoh of Egypt and also before God?

How did Moses meet God and receive his marching orders?

How did the Israelites wander around in the desert for 40 years? Why did they wander around in the desert for that time period? Why did those who came out of Egypt never enter the Promised Land?

Then, who was allowed to enter the Promised Land?

This second part is associated with the book of Exodus, the second book of the Torah, because the stories of God's people, the Israelites, (His Bride) are recorded in Exodus.

3. With the third part of the Ketubah, came once again, a personal and family history of the groom and the stories associated with the groom's heritage. Leviticus is the third book of the Bible and representative of God's heritage and the family tree of the priesthood.

In Leviticus, we have the story of God.

How were the Israelites to approach God?

Why were the Israelites to approach God in this way?

Who was God anyway?

How did God come into being?

Who of the Israelite tribes were chosen to be His the caretakers of God's dwelling place with the Israelites?

Who of the Israelites were chosen to perform the necessary sacrifices for the sin of the people?

Which family of the tribe of Levi was chosen to be the priesthood?

Who was the first High Priest?

Leviticus is the story of God. In it we discover the story of the Tabernacle and the only approach of Man to God through the Levitical priesthood, the Tabernacle itself, and the sacrificial system used to atone for Man's sins.

4. The fourth part of the Ketubah is stories about **how the bride and groom met.**

May I tell you the story of how my groom and I met?

I was dating a guy named Bill. I wasn't sure I really liked him all that much, but we did have our Christian faith as common between us. Bill, being a poor (money-wise) grad student, always chose really cheap dates. He took me to this rinky-dink free Christian coffee house in the middle of the worse part of Indy to see one of his buddies sing and play music. It was April 1980. The singer/guitar player to stage left was wearing shorts, which is kind of weird for April. Nevertheless, I had never seen such cute legs on a guy before. Then, I noticed his smile. There was real joy in his genuine smile. I had never seen a smile like that, either.

At the time, I was working with a group of five middle school-aged girls from my church's youth group. We met each week for Bible study and prayer time. We also did some extra curricular activities together, like going to King's Island in Cincinnati or going to Christian concerts. It just so happened that two weeks after my date with Bill, this great "legs and smile" guy's band was playing a concert at a local church. My little girls' group and I went to the concert. I saw the guy after the concert, but he didn't notice me.

It also just happened that I was scheduled to go to a single's retreat the next weekend with some of my girlfriends. Guess who was playing music for the retreat? It was during the weekend, and during the group activities that Jeff noticed me for the first time. He was my group leader and he liked what I had to say. From that moment on he pursued me. Three weeks into our courtship, he asked me to marry him. We were married 8 and ½ months later. Jeff and I have now been happily married 36+ years...key word "happily." I am blessed.

Jeff said I stalked him at that concert to which I took my middle school girls. Oh, little did he know. When I told Bill that Jeff and I were engaged, he didn't really seem to mind. I did not see Bill again until after Jeff and I were married for several years. Yep, you guessed it! Bill brought a date to the free concert Jeff's band was playing.

I love my story.

What is God's love story with Mankind? May I suggest you start with **John 3:16.**

What is God's love story with the Israelites? Write this out in your own words in the space below. The book of **Numbers** tells of God's love story with His people, Israel, in the wilderness. Numbers tells of God's joys and sorrows with His Bride.

What is God's love story with you? How did you first meet Him? Write this out in your own words in the space below. I will share my testimony with you in class.

5. The fifth document of the Ketubah detailed the **bride and groom's responsibilities before and after the wedding**. The book of **Deuteronomy** specifies the responsibilities that both God and Israel must fulfill once the Israelites are in the land.

The Law that was given to Moses on the mountain detailed how God and the Israelites were to live. We know that the first four of the 10 Commandments were about how the Israelites were to live in respect to God. The last six of the 10 were about how the Israelites were to live in respect to their fellow man. **Moses** wrote **Deuteronomy** in the last week of his life. If you will remember, Moses had disappointed God by disobeying him. The consequence for disobedience: Moses did not get to go into the Promised Land with the rest of the Israelites. So, Moses wanted to give the Law to the Israelites one more time before they entered the Land. Now the Law (the 10 Commandments plus everything else God gave to Moses on the mountain was a conditional covenant. If you do this, you will be blessed. If you don't do this, you will be cursed. The do's and don'ts are obedience and disobedience. If you obey me, I (God) will bless you. If you don't obey me, I (God) will curse you. As some background Scripture that puts some light on this rehash of the Law, you can read Deuteronomy 27 for the cursings and Deuteronomy 28 for the blessings and the cursings. This is not required reading.

When all the details of these five documents had been written down, seven witnesses signed the Ketubah. These witnesses were the bride, the groom, the two fathers, a scribe, and two other witnesses. These seven witnesses each have a seal of their own and so the document is completed, witnessed, rolled up, and sealed with their seven seals.

So, here we end this week's lessons with the seven seals of the Scroll of Revelation in Revelation chapters 4-5. The scroll and its seven seals might be the title deed to the earth and Jesus is the only one who is worthy to open its seals. It's most definitely the seven seals that are broken that unleash the seven seal judgments upon the earth and the earth dwellers. And finally, the seven seals could also represent the required seven signatures of the marriage contract between God and Mankind and/or God and the Jewish people. Or, it just might be "parfait."