

## Judaism Depth Study – Marriage (not only the marriage ceremony)

- Marriage is regarded as a social, moral and religious ideal, a necessary condition of spiritual perfection – ‘It is not good for man to be alone’ – Genesis; ‘He who has no wife is less than a man’ – Talmud
- At the circumcision, the customary blessings of good wishes are that he should grow in Torah learning, in marriage and in good deeds
- Marriage is for the triple purposes of procreation, companionship and self-fulfilment
- ‘Be fruitful and multiply’ – Genesis
- ‘A man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife so they become one flesh’ – Genesis
- ‘He who dwells without a wife, dwells without joy, without blessing and without happiness’ – Talmud
- *Shalom bayit*
- The marriage ceremony is rich in symbolism: *chuppah*, circling the groom, wine, ring, ketubah, breaking the glass
- Religious aspects – *aufruf*, *mikveh*, fasting, *sheva brachot*, *yichud*
- The significance in the life of the adherents and community