

ZOLA 

welcome

to the wedding of

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• Signing of the Ketubah •

(Officiant) “Please gather around for this ‘ceremony before the ceremony’, the signing of the Ketubah. _____ and _____, in this quiet moment before your public wedding ceremony begins, those closest to you are here to witness the signing of the important documents that make this day a remarkable moment for you both. As you become legally husband and wife, we delight in your happiness, and we wish you only good things to come as you face life together. This beautiful Ketubah has these words for you today, and I ask the groom’s witness [NAME] to read the words.”

[Groom’s witness reads the Ketubah.]

(Officiant) “I ask you both to sign the Ketubah as the first ceremonial act of your wedding day celebration.”

[Couple signs the Ketubah.]

(Officiant) “Now I ask your parents to sign the Ketubah.”

[Couple’s parents sign the Ketubah.]

(Officiant) “And now I sign it as well.”

[Officiant signs the Ketubah.]

• Opening Words/Welcome •

(Officiant to reception) “This is the day that _____ and _____ marry the person they love the most in the world...the one they will laugh with, live for, and love for the rest of their lives. So it is only fitting that those closest to them are here to witness this special day. Your presence at this wedding celebration is a reminder to _____ and _____ of how lucky they are to have you in support of their union.”

(Officiant) “The chuppah under which _____ and _____ stand is the traditional structure used in a Jewish wedding ceremony. What you see in the setting for this ceremony tells you so much about the path that brings _____ and _____ to be married. Today, their families are joined together, and the combined richness of their two heritages will be the foundation for their life together.

As the open sides of a chuppah symbolize hospitality, the chuppah in this ceremony invites you all to feel welcome today, for this is the day of all days that _____ and _____ want to share with you.”

• Declaration of Support •

(Officiant to the couple) “A marriage is a lifelong adventure. Today’s ceremony, while important, is only the beginning of that journey. Marriage is a challenge that will require _____ and _____ to have love and understanding. You must dedicate yourselves to each other, listen to each other, and be honest with each other. You will need laughter and forgiveness, tenderness and empathy.”

• Sand Ceremony •

(Officiant to the couple) “We will now begin the sand ceremony. Through it, _____ and _____ will symbolize the permanence of the commitment of their marital relationship. They will each pour separate containers of sand into one vessel.

(Officiant to _____) " _____ , as a token of your intentions, please place this ring upon _____ 's finger and repeat after me:
' _____ , I give you this ring as a symbol of my love and faithfulness.'"

[_____ repeats the words while placing the ring on ' _____ 's finger.]

• Blessing of the Hands •

(Officiant to the couple) " _____ and _____ , please join hands. Look at these hands, for they are of your closest friend. They are strong and full of love. As you join hands today, you make the promise to love each other today, tomorrow, and forever.

Your future will be built by these hands. As the years pass, these hands will love you and cherish you. The slightest touch from these hands will give you comfort. These are the hands that will hold your children. These are the hands that will keep your family as one. When you have tears of sorrow or tears of joy, they will be wiped away by these hands."