

# ASK THE RABBI

**Question:** Why do we break a glass at a wedding?

**Answer:** At the end of every wedding ceremony (under the chuppah) right before everyone screams mazol tov and dances with the bride and groom to the catering hall, the groom breaks a glass by stomping on it with his foot.

There are two schools of thought as to why we have this custom. The first explains that while it is a mitzvah to make the bride and groom happy at their wedding, we must always keep in mind that our goal in this world is to improve ourselves. A person cannot get carried away with his happiness and forget his responsibilities in this world. In order to ensure that our happiness doesn't turn to levity we break a glass to bring the mood down a notch.

The other school of thought explains that various customs at weddings changed with the destruction of the Temple. Brides and grooms used to wear gold crowns and tiaras under the chuppah. At the destruction, these customs were stopped. So too, we instituted breaking a glass under the chuppah in order to remember the Temple. Our joy can never be complete without the Temple.