

The Pidyon ha'ben Service

We have redeemed our firstborn son a few years ago. We invited all our friends in Y'shua to share this special time with us. We chose a close friend of ours to be the priest in this redemption ceremony and asked everybody to bring a gift of Scripture for our son. After the ceremony, we had some lovely fellowship and a potluck dinner. It was indeed a memorable day.

Here is an outline of the ceremony. You may use this when you redeem your son. This was written by a dear friend of mine, thank you Noreen!

Introduction and background - read by the "priest"

YHVH saved the firstborn of the Israelites when he judged Egypt for not letting Israel go to serve Him.

The firstborn therefor belongs to YHVH, they were to serve YHVH but, after the golden calf incident the Levites were chosen to serve Him as priests.

YHVH is speaking to the Levites here:

[Numbers 18:14-16](#)

¹⁴ "Every devoted thing in Israel shall be yours. ¹⁵ "Every first issue of the womb of all flesh, whether man or animal, which they offer to YHVH, shall be yours; nevertheless the firstborn of man you shall surely redeem, and the firstborn of unclean animals you shall redeem. ¹⁶ "As to their redemption price, from a month old you shall redeem them, by your valuation, five shekels in silver, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, which is twenty gerahs.

This is how it would have taken place in that time. After the days of purification were complete, the father would go up to the Tabernacle, or later to the Temple, to present his son to YHVH. As the father presents him to the priest, the priest would ask him " What is your preference, to give me your son or to redeem him with five shekels?

Y'shua's parents also observed this. Hereby we know Y'shua was redeemed before He could redeem us.

[Luke 2:22-24](#)

²² And when the days for their purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to YHVH ²³ (as it is written in the Law of YHVH, "Every firstborn male that opens the womb shall be called holy to YHVH"), ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what was said in the Law of YHVH, "A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

It was also at this time that both Simeon and Anna prophesied that Y'shua was the Messiah.

[Luke 2:34–38](#)

³⁴ And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed—
³⁵ and a sword will pierce even your own soul—to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed." ³⁶ And there was a prophetess, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years and had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple, serving night and day with fastings and prayers. ³⁸ At that very moment she came up and began giving thanks to Elohim, and continued to speak of Him to all those who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

Prayer by the priest

YHVH, the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, we bless you and give you all the glory. In Your abundant Mercy and through the work of Your Ruach ha Kodesh (Holy Spirit) bless these parents as they devote (pass over) and redeem their son, for the sake of Your great name. Bless this child, their son on this day and hereafter. May his heart be kept pure and be made receptive towards the learning of Your precious Torah, to teach, to observe and fulfill Your commandments. May You release him into Your hand, may You free him from every bondage and bind him to Your Word, both Spirit and Truth.

Thank you that through the blood of Y'shua I can stand in the privileged position as priest to present this child before Your holy throne. Bless all these witnesses here today as they stand with us as kings and priests to confirm the observance of this commandment of Pidyon Ha'ben. Bless this day and our communing with you.

➤ **The child is presented**

We will now present the child..

The father gives his son to the priest and says: "*This is the firstborn son of his mother, and YHVH has directed us to redeem him, as it is written in the Torah.*"

➤ **The father reads Ex 13:11-15 and then takes the five silver coins in his hand.**

[Exodus 13:11–15](#)

¹¹ "Now when YHVH brings you to the land of the Canaanite, as He swore to you and to your fathers, and gives it to you, ¹² you shall devote to YHVH the first offspring of every womb, and the first offspring of every beast that you own; the males belong to YHVH. ¹³ "But every first offspring of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, but if you do not redeem it, then you shall break its neck; and every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. ¹⁴ "And it shall be when your son asks you in time to come, saying, 'What is this?' then

you shall say to him, 'With a powerful hand YHVH brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. ¹⁵ 'It came about, when Pharaoh was stubborn about letting us go, that YHVH killed every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of beast. Therefore, I sacrifice to YHVH the males, the first offspring of every womb, but every firstborn of my sons I redeem.'

Priestly blessing

Numbers 6:24–26

²⁴YHVH bless you, and keep you; ²⁵ YHVH make His face shine on you, And be gracious to you; ²⁶YHVH lift up His countenance on you, And give you peace.'

The priest says: "*Which do you prefer, to give your son or redeem him?*"

Father: "*I wish to redeem him with the equivalent of five shekels and thus fulfill my obligation in the Torah and to YHVH.*"

➤ **Father reads Num 18:15-16**

Numbers 18:15–16

¹⁵ "Every first issue of the womb of all flesh, whether man or animal, which they offer to YHVH, shall be yours; nevertheless the firstborn of man you shall surely redeem, and the firstborn of unclean animals you shall redeem. ¹⁶ "As to their redemption price, from a month old you shall redeem them, by your valuation, five shekels in silver, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, which is twenty gerahs.

The priest accepts the payment for redemption and returns the son to the arms of the father as the father says:

"Baruch atah YHVH eloheyenu melekh ha-olam, asher kidshanu g mitsvotav v'tzivanu al pidyon ha'ben – Selah"

Or in English

"Blessed art Thou o YHVH, our Elohim, King of the universe, who has sanctified us by His commandments and commanded us concerning the redemption of the firstborn – Selah"

The father and mother thank YHVH for the son entrusted to them...

"Baruch atah YHVH eloheyenu melekh ha'olam, shehekheyanu v'kiymanu v'higiyanu lazman ha'zeh – Selah"

Or in English

"Blessed art Thou O YHVH, King of the universe Who has kept us in life, sustained us and brought us to this occasion – Selah"

The father hands the priest the coins and he holds it and declares:

"I accept the five shekels and hereby declare your son redeemed through the blessing of Messiah: May he be granted a blessed and full life, living in devotion to YHVH"

May this redemption ceremony remind us all of our need for spiritual redemption found in Y'shua as it is written in the Apostolic writings:

[1 Peter 1:17-21](#)

¹⁷ If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth; ¹⁸ knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, ¹⁹ but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Messiah. ²⁰ For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you ²¹ who through Him are believers in YHVH, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in Elohim.

Blessing

"May YHVH bless you as He has blessed Ephraim and Manasseh"

[Genesis 48:20](#)

²⁰ He blessed them that day, saying, "By you Israel will pronounce blessing, saying, 'May Elohim make you like Ephraim and Manasseh!'"

➤ Now present the kiddush cup

The priest blesses the cup and then he blesses the people

[Numbers 6:24-26](#)

²⁴YHVH bless you, and keep you; ²⁵ YHVH make His face shine on you, And be gracious to you; ²⁶YHVH lift up His countenance on you, And give you peace.'

Shekels for the ceremony

If you want to use shekels in your ceremony, you can obtain these from http://begedivri.com/catalogue/Shekel/XPB_50.htm. They make a set of 10 half shekels especially for this Pidyon ha'ben ceremony and the money paid for this goes towards the rebuilding of the Temple.

