

Deuteronomy 20:7 agrees that betrothal is 'marriage'

And what man is there that hath betrothed a wife, and hath not taken her? let him go and return unto his house, lest he die in the battle, and another man take her. (Deu 20:7 KJV)

And what^{H4310} man^{H376} is there that^{H834} hath betrothed^{H781} a wife,^{H802} and hath not^{H3808} taken^{H3947} her? let him go^{H1980} and return^{H7725} unto his house,^{H1004} lest^{H6435} he die^{H4191} in the battle,^{H4421} and another^{H312} man^{H376} take^{H3947} her. (Deu 20:7 KJV+)

[Assertions/Conclusions of this Article](#)

Some use this verse to try to claim that ancient Hebrew betrothal was not a binding marriage covenant. Some versions use the 'married' instead of 'taken' there in the verse making it SEEM as though the man and woman aren't actually married and deceptively make it seem like they are only 'engaged' as most of us today understand engagement. Ancient Hebrew betrothal was nothing like our engagements, but was a lawfully and religiously binding covenant/contract of marriage.

[Supporting evidence](#)

The word in the verse above simply means 'to take'.

H3947

לקח

lâqach

law-kakh'

A primitive root; to take (in the widest variety of applications): - accept, bring, buy, carry away, drawn, fetch, get, infold, X many, mingle, place, receive (-ing), reserve, seize, send for, take (away, -ing, up), use, win.

In Hebrew culture at that time it was customary to enter a marriage contract/covenant, then the betrothed virgin wife had one year until the husband would 'take' his wife into his home ("hometaking").

Thus the KJV and any translations that use 'take' or similar in Deut 20:7 are presenting what the actual word means and is in very clear agreement with the Hebrew custom that the wife had a year and then her husband would 'take' her from her father and into his home.

Translations such as the NASB which render the word 'marry' instead are quite misleading since the word does not actually MEAN 'to marry' or 'matrimony'.

When we understand how Hebrew betrothal worked at that time then we see that that Deut 20:7 and its ACTUAL wording very much agree with the rest of scripture that betrothal then WAS a lawfully binding marriage lacking in hometaking and consummation.