

Handout 1: Exodus Lesson 10

1. Parity Covenant Treaties (between equals)
2. Suzerainty Covenant Treaties (great king and his vassal)
 - a. Royal Grant Covenant
 - b. Covenant Treaty

The Suzerainty Covenant Treaty's six-part formula:

Part I: The Preamble (identification of the great king).

Part II: The Historical Prologue (antecedent history of the two parties).

Part III: The Ethical Stipulations (terms of the treaty the vassal must swear to uphold).

Part IV: Sanctions (blessings for loyal obedience and curses/judgments for violations).

Part V: The List of Witnesses (pagan gods who would impose judgment on the parties if they broke their oaths to uphold the covenant treaty)

Part VI: Succession Arrangements and Disposition of the Covenant Document

In the Sinai Covenant Treaty, since there is no god greater than Yahweh, the fifth part of the treaty formula is absent and only five parts are expressed in the formula:

1. Preamble:	Identifying the Lordship of the Great King & stressing his greatness, dominance & eminence
2. Historical Prologue:	Recounting the Great King's previous relationship to his vassal (with special emphasis on the benefits or blessing of that relationship).
3. Ethical Stipulations:	Enumerating the vassal's obligations to God, the Great King (the vassal's guide to maintaining the relationship)
4. Sanctions:	A list of the blessings for obedience and the curses that will fall on the vassal if he breaks the covenant by failing his obligations.
5. Succession Arrangements and Disposition of the Document:	Arrangements and provisions for the continuity of the covenant relationship over future generations & where the covenant document is to be secured (shrine/temple).

One of the best examples of a five-part covenant treaty formula found in the Old Testament is the covenant renewal treaty found in the Book of Deuteronomy:

1. Preamble	Deuteronomy 1:1-5
2. Historical Prologue	Deuteronomy 1:6 – 4: 49
3. Ethical Stipulations	Deuteronomy 5:1 – 26:19
4. Sanctions	Deuteronomy 27:1 -1 30:20
5. Succession Arrangements and Disposition of the Covenant Treaty	Deuteronomy 31:1 – 34:12

Handout 2: Exodus Lesson 10

Parallels between Mt. Sinai and the desert Sanctuary:

1. Both the Sanctuary and the mountain have a tripartite division:
 - a. The summit corresponds to the Sanctuary Holy of Holies.
 - b. Mid way up the mountain corresponds to the Sanctuary Holy Place.
 - c. The foot of the mountain corresponds to the Outer Courtyard.
2. The three distinct zones represent three ascending degrees of holiness:
 - a. Moses is the only one who can ascend to the peak—the high priest is the only one who can enter the Holy of Holies of the Tabernacle.
 - b. Only the priests and elders are permitted to come mid-way up the mountain—only the priests can enter the Holy Place of the Tabernacle.
 - c. The people are confined to the foot of the mountain where the altar was built—the covenant laity was confined to the Outer Court of the Sanctuary where the altar was located.
3. God descended upon the mountain in a dense cloud—God took possession of the Ark of the Covenant in the Holy of Holies in a dense cloud.
4. God communicated with Moses on the mountain summit—God communicated with Moses in the Holy of Holies.
5. The smoke, the cloud, and the fire that enveloped the mountain peak are paralleled by the cloud and fire that are associated with the Tabernacle.

Older codes and codes contemporary to the Law of the Sinai Covenant:

- ◆ Lipit-Ishtar Law Code: Mesopotamia c. 2000 BC.
- ◆ Egyptian Law Codes: Dating back as far as c. 2000 BC.
- ◆ Laws of Ur: BC, Mesopotamian city on the Persian Gulf and home of Abraham c. 2000.
- ◆ Law Code of Hammurabi: Written between 1900 - 1700 BC; Babylon in Mesopotamia. This code includes the law of *lex talionis* = ["an eye for an eye.."] law of equivalent retaliation which is also found in the Mosaic code [law limited the scope of retribution].
- ◆ Eshnunna code: Believed to be older than Hammurabi's Code and at least 5 centuries older than The Sinai Covenant.
- ◆ Ras Shamra Tablets: Canaanite city on the coast just opposite the tip of Cyprus, c. 1400 BC.
- ◆ Ugarit Law Code: Ugarit was a Canaanite city contemporary to Ras Shamra, c. 1400 BC.
- ◆ Hittite Legal Code: Possibly contemporary to the Sinai Code, dates to c. 1300 BC and provides many parallels to the Sinai Code. At the height of their empire the Hittites ruled from south of the Black Sea to include Asia Minor [Turkey] and into modern Syria.
- ◆ Assyrian Law Code: 99 articles on three tablets found at Ashur in Mesopotamia and dating c. 1300 BC.