

THE EPIC OF EDEN VIDEO STUDY

Session 5—Treaty

What are the **two types of international treaties** found in the ancient Near East?

- 1) Suzerain/Vassal (made between a superior and an inferior).
- 2) Parity (made between equals/partners).

The Gibeonites are looking for what kind of treaty from Joshua? Suzerain/Vassal

Why? they needed military support

Hittite suzerain/vassal treaty format of the late second millenium BC and the <i>berît</i> at Mt. Sinai		
	Treaty Format	<i>berît</i> at Mt. Sinai
I.	Preamble/Title Gives title of superior party. Exodus 20: <u>2</u> ; Deut. 5:6a	<i>Who does Yahweh say that he is?</i> I am the Lord your God.
II.	Historical Prologue Furnishes the basis of obligation and the motive for accepting the covenant's stipulations as binding. Exodus 20: <u>2</u> ; Deut. 5:6b [cf. Deut. 1-3]	<i>What has Yahweh done? What is the basis of obligation and motive for accepting the covenant's stipulations as binding?</i> delivered them
III.	Stipulations/Obligations Imposed Exodus 20:3-17; Deut. 5:7-21 [cf. Deut. 12-26]	<i>What is the first commandment?</i> no others gods
IV.	Deposition and Provision for Periodic Reading of the Treaty Before the People Treaty text archived in the temple of the vassal's chief deity (i.e., the witness to his oath). Exodus 32:15; Exodus 25:21; cf. Exodus 40:20; Deut. 10:5] Deut. 31:10-12; cf. Exodus 24:7; Josh. 8:30-35	<i>Where were they deposited? When were they read?</i> Moses had two copies of the commandments The Ark --> Holy of Holies --> Temple read every seven years
V.	List of Witnesses The deities of both parties are summoned to act as witnesses to the oaths taken. Deut. 4:26; 30:19-20; 31:28.	<i>Who served as witness to the covenant?</i> heaven and earth
VI.	Curses and Blessings Deut. 27:11-28:68	"And all these <u>blessings</u> will come upon you and overtake you if you <u>obey</u> the Lord your God . . . But if you do not <u>obey</u> the Lord your God. All these <u>curses</u> will come upon you and overtake you."

These acts of treaty-making were sealed off by means of ratification ceremony involving oath and sacrifice (Exod. 24:3-8; cf. Gen. 15:17-21; Jer. 34:17-20; Matt. 27:22-25).

The Theology of the Historical Prologue

God _____ acts/calls _____ before he requires _____ obedience _____.

The rules are designed to _____ protect _____ the relationship not to _____ create _____ the relationship.

The indicative precedes the imperative ----
the relationship precedes the rules

How does it teach Israel?

Idea of a _____ national _____ identity _____.

Idea of _____ monotheism _____. Yahweh will be the king of Israel.

Idea of _____ canon _____. Yahweh's words never change.

Old Covenant at Mt. Sinai	New Covenant at the Last Supper
Exodus 24:3-8	Matthew 26:27-28
<p>Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the ordinances; and all the people answered with one voice, and said, "All the words that the LORD has spoken we will do." And Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD. He rose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and set up twelve pillars, corresponding to the twelve tribes of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed oxen as offerings of well-being to the LORD. Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he dashed against the alter. Then he took the book of the covenant, and read it in the hearing of the people; and they said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient." Moses took the blood and dashed it on the people, and said, "See <i>the blood of the covenant</i> that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words."</p>	<p>Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for <i>this is my blood of the covenant</i>, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">note the italicized words</p>

Questions, comments, aha moments . . .

Ratification Ceremony by which the oath is sealed:

1. always accompanied by sacrifice

2. ratified by blood