

1. **Abrahamic Covenant** – afterthoughts:

- **Redemption** – the presence of God, the place (land), and the people of God (Rev. 21:3).
- Luke 1:68-77 – Zechariah's song about God acting to bring redemption to Israel through Jesus.
- vv. 72-73 – a reference to the Abrahamic covenant.
- v. 77 – salvation through the "forgiveness of sins."
- "forgiveness of sins" concerns Israel being exiled from the land.¹
 - Adam & Eve – were exiled from Eden and the presence of God.
 - The Israelites were enslaved in a land not their own (Gen. 15:13), and God redeemed them to his presence and went with them to the Promised Land.
 - Israel was exiled to Babylon – but God promised through Isaiah (Isa. 40-66) to restore them to the land and his presence (see also Ezekiel 43).
- Metaphorically speaking, the entire world is "exiled" from Eden and the presence of God because of sin. We must therefore receive forgiveness of sin as we are redeemed back into the presence of God.

2. **Elements of ANE Suzerain Vassal Covenant** –

I. Preamble	- names the covenant giver
II. Historical Prologue	- why you should obey the covenant
III. Stipulation and Obligations	- what is expected out of each party
IV. Deposition	- a copy of the covenant is kept in the temple of the deity
- Periodic reading	- the covenant should be read aloud periodically
V. List of Witnesses	- usually a pantheon of gods
VI. Curses and Blessings	- what happens if you do/do not keep the covenant requirements

- Covenant ratification ceremony – usually involving the blood of a sacrifice
- A shared meal.

3. **Exodus 20-24** -

I. Preamble	- names the covenant giver
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- Preamble to the Treaty of Suppiluliumas (1375 – 1322 BCE) and Aziras of Amurru²

“These are the words of the Sun Suppiluliumas, the great king, the king of Hatti land, the valiant, the favorite of the Storm-god.”

- God's Preamble – "I am the LORD your God" **Exodus 20:2a**.

¹ N. T. Wright, 1995. *Following Jesus: Biblical Reflections on Discipleship*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, p. 25.

² Pritchard, James B., 2011. *The Ancient Near East: an Anthology of Texts and Pictures*. Princeton, N.J: Princeton University Press, pp. 205.

II. Historical Prologue	- why you should obey the covenant
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- **Exodus 20:2b** – because God delivered the Israelites. Why should we obey? Because of God's mercy, grace, and willingness to forgive our sins.

III. Stipulations & Obligations	- what is expected from each party
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- **Exodus 20:3-17** – "You shall have no other gods before me."

English	Hebrew	Hebrew Concept
Law	<i>Torah</i>	To teach, to guide, to instruct
Commandment	<i>Mitzvah</i>	It shares a root that means "bond" or "connect."
Offering	<i>Korban</i>	Root <i>krb</i> means to "approach" or "come near."

IV. Deposition	- a copy for each party kept in the temple of their deity
Period reading	- everyone should be familiar with the covenant

- "two tablets" (Ex. 32:15) – a copy for each party.
- Place the covenant under the protection of the god – which happens to be God (Ex. 25:21)
- Every seven years, "you shall read this law in front of all Israel" (Deut. 31:10-13; Ex. 24:7)

V. List of Witnesses	- usually a pantheon of gods from both sides of the covenant
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- Who can God call as a witness for Him? "Heaven and earth" – Deut. 4:26
- Isaiah 1:2 – Isaiah appeals to heaven and earth as witnesses to Israel's covenant violations.

VI. Curses and Blessings	- what happens if you do/do not keep the covenant requirements
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- Deuteronomy 28 – see **Deut. 28:52** – both Babylon and Rome lay siege to Jerusalem and eventually destroy the city.

4. Covenant Ratification Ceremony –

- Exodus 24:7-8 "**this is the blood of the covenant** that the LORD made with you."
- Matthew 26:28 – "**this is my blood of the covenant**, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."
 - Jesus' death points backward to the Abrahamic covenant and the forgiveness of sins and forward as the ratifying sacrifice of the New Covenant.

7. Shared Meal – Exodus 24:9-11