Lesson 4 THE PATTERN OF REDEMPTION Covenants

I. The Ancient Near East Covenant Pattern

A. Main types

- 1. Equal Party Covenants
- 2. Suzerain-Vassal Covenants
- 3. Conditional and Unconditional
- B. Form of Berit 1. Preamble

 - 2. Historical Prologue
 - 3. Stipulations
 - 4. Agreement
 - 5. Witnesses
 - 6. Periodic Reading
 - 7. Ratification Ceremony

<u>II. Biblical Examples</u> A. Joshua 9

B. Jeremiah 34:12-22

C. Genesis 15

III. The Covenant at Mt. Sinai

A. God Offers Israel a Suzerain-Vassal Covenant, Exodus 19

- B. The Covenant, Exodus 20–23 1. The Preamble, Ex 20:2a
 - 2. The Prologue, Ex 20:2b
 - 3. The Stipulations a. The Ten Commandments, Ex 20:3-17
 - (Big Interruption) Ex 20:18-21
 - a. The people are terrified
 - b. They ask for a Mediator
 - c. Moses goes back up
 - (3.) The Stipulations Explained
 - a. How to worship, Ex 20:22-26
 - b. Treatment of slaves, Ex 21:1-11
 - c. Dealing with murder, revenge, justice, Ex 21:12-36
 - d. Laws concerning stealing, Ex 22:1-4
 - e. About property damage, Ex 22:5-6
 - f. Concerning dishonesty, Ex 22:7-15
 - g. Concerning immorality, Ex 22:16-17
 - h. Other civil laws, Ex 22:18–23:9
 - i. The Sabbath and feasts Ex 23:10-19
 - j. How to conquer the land, Ex 23:20-33
 - 4. The People Agree! Ex 24:3
 - 5. Written and "signed" with witnesses, Ex 24:4; Deut 30:19
 - 6. Periodic Reading, Ex 24:7; Deut 31:11
 - 7. Ratification Ceremony a. With the people, Ex 24:5-8
 - b. With the leaders, Ex 24:9–11

<u>IV. Moses Receives Instructions for Tabernacle, Exodus 25–31</u> A. The "temple" for their God (suzerain)

B. Sabbath, sign of perpetual covenant, Ex 31:12-17

C. Two Tablets, Ex 31:18

<u>V. Meanwhile, Exodus 32–34</u> A. The Golden Calf, Ex 32

B. The People Repent, Ex 33

C. The Covenant Renewed, Ex 34

<u>VI. Deuteronomy, the Covenant Repeated</u> A. The Covenant, Deut 5-6

- B. The Preamble Who their God is, Deut 10:12-21
- C. Their king's allegiance is to the Lord, their God, Deut 17:14-20
- D. Ratification Ceremony repeated, Deut 26:16-19
- E. Blessings if obey, Deut 28:1-14
- F. Cursings if disobey, Deut 28:15-68
- G. Moses repeats obey the Lord! Deut 30:11-20
- H. Read the Covenant, Deut 31:9–13