

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

II. Biblical Examples

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

