



Deuteronomy 1:5 Sermon Notes

2nd Millennium Hittite Suzerain-Vassal Covenant Treaties

Preamble - "These are the words of . . ."

Historical Prologue - A recounting of the past acts of kindness of the suzerain toward the vassal

Stipulations - Laws defining the obligations of the vassal toward the suzerain. This often included both 1) a general list of obligations and 2) a more specific list.

Deposition - Provision for the document to be stored in the temple of the gods

Witnesses - A calling upon divine witnesses to the covenant oath

Blessings and Curses - Blessings are pronounced for keeping the covenant, curses for breaking the covenant

Deuteronomy as Covenant Document

Preamble	1:1-5
Historical Prologue	1:6-4:49
General Stipulations	5-11
Specific Stipulations	12-26
Deposition of document	27:1-8
Blessings and curses	27:9–28:68
Reading of covenant	31:9-29
Divine Witness?	32

Important Covenant Words

1. God "establishes," "grants," "sets down" and "commands" his covenant.
2. God's covenant includes "laws," "statutes," "commandments," and "judgments."
3. God called Israel to "obey," "keep," "remember," "do" and "walk in" the covenant.
4. Instead Israel "forgot," "broke," "sinned against," "rejected," "transgressed" and "profaned" the covenant, resulting in God's curse and their eventual removal from the Promised Land.

The New Covenant

I the LORD have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles. Isaiah 42:6

Give ear and come to me; hear me that your soul may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David. Isa 55:3

"The time is coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." Jeremiah 31:31-34

I will give them singleness of heart and action so that they will always fear me for their own good and the good of their children after them. I will make an everlasting covenant with them: I will never stop doing good to them, and I will inspire them to fear me, so that they will never turn away from me. Jeremiah 32:39-40