

I. DIFFERENT TYPES OF ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN COVENANTS ARE FASHIONED AFTER GOD'S COVENANTS OF PROMISE

A. Between Individuals

Mutual benefit regarding friendship, business, a dowry, etc

1. **Gen. 3:44** Jacob and Laben
2. **1 Sam. 18:3-4** Jonathan and David

B. Between Tribes

Mutual peace agreements, trade, etc.

1. **Gen. 14:13** Abram and the Amorites (Implied)

C. Between Equal Parties From Different Nations

Alliance regarding trade, mutual protection, etc.

1. **1 Kgs. 5:12** King Solomon and King Hiram of Tyre

D. Between Unequal Parties From Different Nations (*Suzerain/Vassal*)

A dependant lesser nation (Vassal) petitions a sovereign (Suzerain).

1. **Josh. 9:3-16** Gibeonites sought a covenant with Joshua
2. The lesser (Vassal) nation petitions the Great King (Suzerain)
3. Vassal's loyalty to the covenant was out of loving gratitude for what the King had all ready done for them by His grace and mercy
4. King expected obedience to the treaty because He deserved it
5. The Book of Deuteronomy sets the format of a Suzerain Covenant (*see outline on page 11*)

E. Between Unequal Parties Of The Same Nations (*Sovereign/Subjects*)

The people come to the King seeking a covenant

1. **1 Chron. 11:1-3** People sought a covenant with King David
2. The lesser seeks the covenant with the greater (King David)
3. Stipulations of the covenant become the Laws that govern the nation (**National Constitution**)
 - Laws serve as a national constitution which defines the nation as a whole. (*Sets them apart from the other nations – Deut. 28*)
4. Both the King and His subjects relate to one another based on the stipulations set forth in the covenant agreement – i.e. God's Torah

II. COVENANT METAPHORS BETWEEN GOD AND HIS PEOPLE

A. Father and Son Relationship

1. **Exodus 4:22** God calls Israel **"My son, My first-born"**
 - **Luke 9:35** God calls Jesus His Son
"And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My Son, My Chosen One; listen to Him [Obey Him]!"
 - **Gal 3:26** All believers are called "sons of God"
"For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus."
 - **Heb 1:5-6** God calls Jesus His First-Born
⁵ **"For to which of the angels did He ever say, 'Thou art My Son, today I have begotten Thee'? And again, 'I will be a Father to Him and He shall be a Son to Me'?" ⁶ And when He again brings the first-born into the world, He says, 'And let all the angels of God worship Him."**
 - **Rom 8:29** Jesus is the **"first-born of many brethren"**
 - **Heb 12:22-23** Church Body is called the first-born
²²**"But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, ²³ to the general assembly and church of the first-born who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of righteous men made perfect."**
2. **Hos 11:1** God calls His son (Israel) out of Egypt
"When Israel was a youth I loved him, and out of Egypt I called My son."
 - **Matt 2:14-15** God calls His son (Jesus) out of Egypt
¹⁴**And he arose and took the Child and His mother by night, and departed for Egypt; ¹⁵and was there until the death of Herod, that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, 'Out of Egypt did I call My Son.'**

- **2 Cor 6:17-18** God calls His sons (the church) out of Egypt
¹⁷“Therefore, come out from their midst [*Egypt/World*] and be separate,’ says the Lord. ‘And do not touch what is unclean; and I will welcome you. ¹⁸And I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me,’ says the Lord Almighty.”

3. **Pro. 3:1-2 (KJV)** Obedience is a requirement for being a son
 “My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee. (See also Pro. 7:1-2)

B. A Husband and A Wife (Torah Serves As The Ketubah)

1. **Ex. 6:7** God takes Israel as a wife at Passover Meal
 “Then I will take you for My people, and I will be your God”
 - “take” laqach (law-kakh)
“a root word; to take, to get, to receive, to marry, to take a wife..”
 - Passover meal is the pattern for a betrothal dinner
 - Covenant at Sinai was the Wedding Ceremony complete with a Ketubah (Torah)
2. **Rev 19:7** Church is called the Bride of Christ
 "Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready."

C. All The Characteristics And Metaphors Contained Within The Covenants Of Promise Come Together In The New Covenant

D. Steps Required For Making And Keeping Covenant With God Remain The Same

II. STEP 1: EXCHANGE COATS

A. 1 Sam. 18:3-4 Coat Represents Who And What A Person Is

“Then Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his armor, including his sword and his bow and his belt.”

1. Covenant based on grace (*Greater one chooses the lesser one*)
2. We are saying, “*I take off me and put on you*”
3. Began the process that makes us one with each other

B. Eph. 4:22-24 In The New Covenant We Exchange Coats With Jesus

“That, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.”

1. Take off the old man - flesh
2. Put on the new man - *image and likeness of God* - Put on Jesus

• Col 3:9-10

“Do not lie to each other [*9th commandment*], since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.”

1. “Renewed Covenant” Renews Us In His Image

C. Illustration 1: Wearing a Prayer Shawl is a picture of *putting on Messiah*

1. <u><i>tzitzit</i></u> :	Numerical value	600
	+ 5 knots (Torah)	5
	+ 8 Stands (Messiah)	8
	Laws of Torah	613

D. Illustration 2: Story Of The Shepherds - Mother and Baby Lambs

1. Change skins on the baby lambs

E. Illustration 3: New Covenant (Passover) Lamb Is Jesus

1. Jesus died *“Slain from before the foundations of the world”*
2. Abba took off Jesus’ coat of righteousness and put it on us, so He could except us
3. We took off our sin and gave to Jesus (He became sin for us)

Isaiah 53:4

“Surely our griefs He Himself bore and our own sorrows He carried.”

- “Bore” Hebrew word: **“Naw-saw”**

“To put upon, to wear guilt and sin, and the punishment that goes along with it”

4. Sin (death) could not hold Him, and He rose from the dead
5. When we say yes to His covenant, we are also raised from the dead and transferred into the Kingdom of God
6. Called the **“one baptism”** (Eph 4:5)

Gal. 3:27-29

Paul relates this to the Abrahamic Covenant

“For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Him. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.”

2 Corn. 5:21

“God made Jesus who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Christ.”

F. Begins Transfer Of Ownership That Comes With The Marriage Vows

“I will be their God and they will be My people.”

III. STEP 2: EXCHANGE OUR BELTS

A. I Sam 18:4 David And Jonathan Also Exchanged Belts

“And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his armor, including his sword and his bow and his belt.”

1. Shield: Represented ability to defend yourself
2. Sword: Represented your strength and fighting ability
3. Deut. 33:29 God becomes a Shield and Sword to Israel

B. Eph. 6:16-17 The New Covenant *Shield* and *Sword*

1. Shield of Faith

Rom. 12:3 God Gives each man a measure

“For through the grace given to me I say to every man among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.”

2. Sword is the Word of God

Heb. 4:12

“The Word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than any two edged sword.”

C. Belt Also Included The Money Purse “*All I have is yours*”

1. In the wilderness, God became all Israel needed
 - Jehovah Jireh *The Lord who provides*
 - El Shaddiah *The great two breasted one*
2. New Covenant: *Jesus became poor that we might become rich*

Phil 4:19 “My God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”

BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY IS A SUZERAIN STYLE COVENANT DESIGNED TO GOVERN THE COMMONWEALTH OF ISRAEL

- **Preamble – (Deut. 1:1-5)**
Introduction of the Suzerain (Israel's Great King) describing His gracious, loving, and merciful nature
- **Historical Prologue – (Deut. 1:6 – 4:49)**
A review of all the great things the Great King has done for the Vassal nation (*Israel – a mixed multitude of Jews & gentiles*)
- **Stipulations – (Deut. 5:1 – 26:19)**
Explanation of the terms, conditions, and expectations incumbent on both parties in order to maintain the covenant. God keeps His covenant and He expects Us to keep it also:

“Know therefore that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments.” (Deut 7:9)
- **Blessings and Cursings – (Deut. 27 – 30)**
Explanation of the consequences (discipline) for being unfaithful to the covenant and the Great King. *“God disciplines those whom He loves”*
- **Witnesses (Deut. 30:19)**
The Great King calls forth appropriate witnesses to sign the covenant. In this covenant He calls upon heaven and earth to be witnesses:

¹⁹“I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, ²⁰ by loving the LORD your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days, that you may live in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.” (Deut. 30:19-20)
- **Succession (Deut. 31:1-8)**
Provides for the continuation of the covenant in case the leader of the Vassal nation dies. God stipulates that the covenant passes to Joshua when Moses dies.
- **Storage of the Covenant (Deut. 31:9-13)**
Two copies were made, one for each party, and stored in their respective temples. Here the two tables were probably two summary copies of the covenant (one for Israel and one for God) that were stored in the “Ark of the Covenant”.