

The Covenant

February 26, 2015

1. At the Mountain (19-24)

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 - A. Preparation at Mt Sinai (19)
 - B. The Ten Words (20)
 - C. The Book of the Covenant (21-23)
 - D. The Revelation to the elders at Sinai - confirmation of the Covenant (24)

At the Mountain (19)



1. A Preparation at Sinai (19-20:2)

1. A Preparation at Mt Sinai (19)

- i. Three new moons after leaving Egypt (19:1)
- ii. At Sinai Wilderness (19:2)
- iii. The Mediator (3-15)
 - a. Moses goes up the mountain (3a)
 - b. God gives preparation commands (3b-6)
 - c. Moses reviews with Elders and people who all accept (7-8)
 - d. God tells Moses to go and prepare the people (9a)
 - e. Moses Prepares the people (9b-15)
 - f. God comes to Mountain and calls Moses UP (15-25)
- iv. Preamble to the Covenant (20:1)
- v. Historical Prologue (20:2)

Apodictic vs Casuistic Law

- Generally in ANE cultures there are two types of Laws.

Apodictic

These are absolute commands like those found in the Ten Words and are characteristically Israelite although they can be found occasionally in ancient Mesopotamian cultures.

Casuistic

These are Case Law and like most of the laws in the book of the covenant present precedent setting rules that had to be applied by judges according to circumstances of individual cases.

ie, IF x THEN y

Lex Talionis

- An  for an ,
and A  for a 
- It was designed to **LIMIT** vengeance, not to be a prescriptive for vengeance.

1. B The Ten Words (20)

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- i. I am Yahweh your God ...
You shall have no other gods before me.
- ii. You shall not make for yourself an idol ...
- iii. You shall not misuse my name
- iv. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy
- v. Honor your Father and your Mother
- vi. You shall not murder
- vii. You shall not commit adultery
- viii. You shall not steal
- ix. You shall not give false testimony
- x. You shall not covet.

There are two ways of viewing these Ten Words in sets !

1. B The Ten Words (20)

First option – partition as five plus five.

1. B The Ten Words (20)

- i. Commands for Israel - each includes “Yahweh your god”
 - a. I am Yahweh your God ... You shall have no other gods before me.
 - b. You shall not make for yourself an idol ...
 - c. You shall not misuse my name
 - d. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy
 - e. Honor your Father and your Mother
- ii. Commands for humankind in general
 - f. You shall not murder
 - g. You shall not commit adultery
 - h. You shall not steal
 - i. You shall not give false testimony
 - j. You shall not covet.

1. B The Ten Words (20)

Second option – partition as four plus six

1. B The Ten Words (20)

i. Commands for relationship to God

- a. I am Yahweh your God ... You shall have no other gods before me.
- b. You shall not make for yourself an idol ...
- c. You shall not misuse my name
- d. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy

ii. Commands for relationships to others

- e. Honor your Father and your Mother
- f. You shall not murder
- g. You shall not commit adultery
- h. You shall not steal
- i. You shall not give false testimony
- j. You shall not covet.

1. B The Ten Words (20)

Second option – partition as four plus six

1. B The Ten Words (20)

i. Commands for relationship to God

a. I am Yahweh your God ...

You shall have no other gods before me.



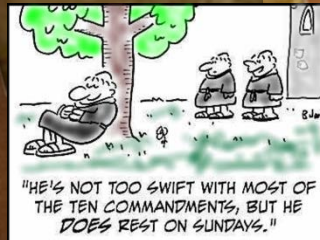
b. You shall not make for yourself an idol ...



c. You shall not misuse my name



d. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy



1. B The Ten Words (20)

Second option – partition as four plus six

1. B The Ten Words (20)

ii. Commands for relationships to others

e. Honor your Father and your Mother



f. You shall not murder



g. You shall not commit adultery



h. You shall not steal



i. You shall not give false testimony



j. You shall not covet.



1. C The Book of the Covenant

1. C The Book of the Covenant (20:22-23)

- i. Worship: idols and altars (20:22-26)
- ii. Social Responsibility (21:1-22:17)
 - a. Freedom and servitude for Hebrew slaves (21:1-11)
 - b. Humans injuring other humans (21:12-27)
 - c. Various injuries involving animals (21:28-36)
 - d. Concerning matters of property (22:1-17)
- iii. Worship and Social Responsibility (22:18-23:19)
 - a. Worship: Sorceresses, bestiality and false sacrifice (22:18-20)
 - b. Social responsibility: oppression and loans (22:21-28)
 - c. Worship: offerings, firstborn, holiness (22:29-31)
 - d. Social Responsibility: Testimony in court, and enemy's animal, and oppression (23:1-9)
 - e. Worship: Sabbaths and festivals (23:10-19)

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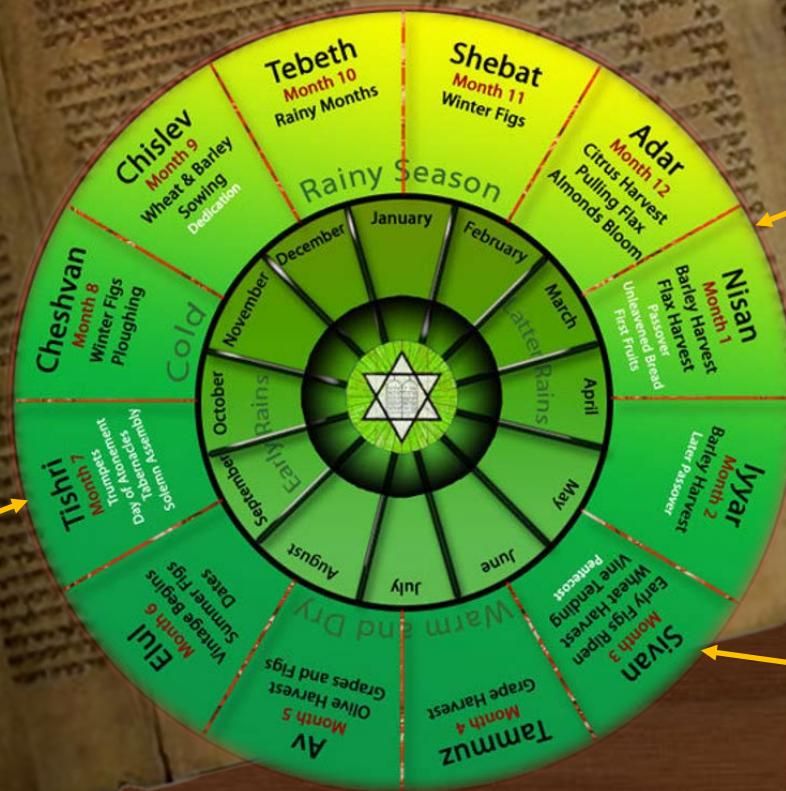
Proposed Similarities:

Suzerain Treaties and Biblical Covenants

ANE Suzerain Form	At Mt Sinai	At Transjordan	At Canan
Preamble	Ex 20:2a	Deut 1:1-4	Josh 24:1-2a
Historical prologue	20:2b	1:5-4:43	24:2b-13
General stipulations	20:3-17	4:44-11:32	24:14-15, 23
Specific stipulations	20:22-23:33	12:1-26:15	
Deposit and public readings	(25:16,21)	31:9-13,26	24:25-26a
List of witnesses	24:1-2	30:19; 31:28	24:22, 26b-27
Curses & Blessings		27-28	24:19-20
Vassal's oath	24:3		24:16-18, 21, 24
Solemn ceremony	24:4-11		

The Feasts of Exodus

- Three times per year, MEN must come together for feasts and offerings



PASACH
Feast of
Unleavened Bread
(first Fruits)

SHAVUOT
Feast of Weeks
(Harvest)

SUKKOT
Feast of
Tabernacle
(Ingathering)

By the First Century:

- The Pharisees had “reduced” the law to:
 - 365 negative commands
 - 248 positive commands
- According to Jesus, which is the greatest command of all (Matt 22:34-40)?

How does this one commandment fulfill the others?

The Application of the Law to the New Testament Believer.

- The NT upholds much of the Law as an essential element of the New Covenant (Heb 8:6-13)
- Paul appeals to specific OT commands as the norm for Christian Conduct (Rom 13:8-10)
- The Law as a contractual obligation has ended. But the law as a righteous standard which reflects God's holiness has not changed (Lev 19:2; 1 Pet 1:16)

So,

Should Christians obey the law?

- Believers should obey and study the LAW for the underlying principles – the timeless principles that reflect God's holy character and standards.
- Three questions to help in studying OT law:
 - Does the NT nullify the OT application?
 - Does the NT modify the OT application?
 - Does the NT verify the OT application?

Christians should be challenged to study and appreciate God's law, applying its principles in relevant ways.