

Handout 1: Joshua Lesson 5

Bronze Age: Early Bronze Age 3200 – 2200 BC
 Middle Bronze Age 2200 – 1550 BC
 Late Bronze Age 1550 – 1200 BC

Three collections of commands and prohibitions found in the Pentateuch:

Theme	Book of the Covenant Ex 20:19-23:33	Holiness Code Lev 17:1-26:46	Deuteronomic Code Dt 12:1-28:69
Prologue: right worship	Ex 20:19-23:9	Lev 17:1-16	Dt 12:1-19
Duties toward the Land	Ex 23:10-11	Lev 19:9-37; 25:23-34	Dt 15:1-11; 24:19-22; 26:1-15
Liturgical Calendar	Ex 23:12-19	Lev 23:1-44; 25:1-22	Dt 16:1-7
Epilogue: covenant blessings and curses	Ex 23:20-33	Lev 26:3-46	Dt 28:1-69/29:1
M. Hunt © copyright 2010			

The additional information about the ceremony in Joshua 8:30-35 that is included in Moses' instructions from Deuteronomy 27:1-26:

1. In addition to the altar, they were to set up tall memorial stones coated with lime (plaster) upon which they were to write the Law [torah].
2. The tribes of Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph and Benjamin were to stand on the Mt. Ebal side of the valley pass between the two mountains while Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan and Naphtali were to stand on the opposite side, with the Ark in the middle.
3. The two groups must exchange the covenant blessings and curse-judgments (perhaps the list in Dt 28).
4. The priests were to summarize twelve curses for the assembly, to which all the people answered "Amen" (probably the list in Dt 27:13-26). "All the people" includes the Gentile resident aliens and Rahab's kinsmen.

The people's vocal "Amen" signifies their acceptance of the curse-judgment upon the people, collectively and individually, if they violate the Law.

The theological and historical significance of Shechem:

1. Shechem is where Abraham first stopped and settled when he entered Canaan and where God first appeared to him.
2. The royal grant covenant treaty promise of the gift of the land to Abraham's descendants was made at Shechem (Gen 12:6-7a).
3. Abraham built the first altar to Yahweh at Shechem and offered sacrifice (Gen 12:7b)
4. Abraham's grandson Jacob also settled at Shechem after returning to Canaan from Haran (in modern day Syria) with his family. He purchased land and built an altar to offer worship to Yahweh (Gen 33:18-20).
5. It was at the same site that two of Jacob's son dishonored a covenant treaty with the people of Shechem (Gen 34:1-31).

Handout 2: Joshua Lesson 5

The two kinds of covenant treaties:

1. Parity Covenant Treaties (between equals)
2. Suzerainty Covenant Treaties (great king and his vassal)
 - a. Royal Grant Covenant
 - b. Covenant Treaty

Sinai's Suzerainty Covenant Treaty's formulary:

1. Preamble:	Identifying the Lordship of the Great King & stressing his greatness, dominance & eminence (Ex 19:3-6)
2. Historical Prologue:	Recounting the Great King's previous relationship to his vassal, with special emphasis on the benefits or blessing of that relationship (Ex 20:1-2)
3. Ethical Stipulations:	Enumerating the vassal's obligations to God, the Great King; it is the vassal's guide to maintaining the relationship (Ex 20:3-23:19)
4. Sanctions:	A list of the blessings for obedience and the curse-judgments that will fall on the vassal if he breaks the covenant by failing in his obligations (Ex 23:20-33)*
5. Succession Arrangements and Disposition of the Document:	Arrangements and provisions for the continuity of the covenant relationship over future generations & where the covenant document is to be secured (Ex 25:8, 21-22)

*Leviticus 26:3-13 repeats the blessings and 26:14-46 has curse-judgments.

Same formulary is found in the covenant renewal treaty in the Book of Deuteronomy:

1. Preamble	Deuteronomy 1:1-5
2. Historical Prologue	Deuteronomy 1:6 – 4: 49
3. Ethical Stipulations	Deuteronomy 5:1 – 26:19
4. Sanctions	Deuteronomy 27:1 -1 30:20
5. Succession Arrangements and Disposition of the Covenant Treaty	Deuteronomy 31:1 – 34:12

Comparison of the covenant treaty ratification at Mt. Sinai and the renewal at Mt. Ebal:

1. Both ceremonies are associated with mountains where an Assembly of Israel was convened (Ex 19:16, 23; 24:4; Dt 27:4; Josh 8:30).
2. Both ceremonies had temporary altars of undressed stones (Ex 20:25; 24:4; Dt 27:5-7; Josh 8:31) where burnt offerings and communion sacrifices were offered (Ex 24:5; Dt 27:6-7; Josh 8:31).
3. There was the command to erect memorial stones (Ex 24:4; Dt 27:4, 8; Josh 8:32).
4. The people swore an oath of obedience to Yahweh (Ex 24:3, 7; Dt 27:15-26).
5. The ceremonies were concluded with a communion meal in the presence of God (Ex 24:9-11; Dt 27:7).