



# Covenant in the Old Testament

Image: Mount Sinai

From: [https://www.worldhistory.org/Mount\\_Sinai/](https://www.worldhistory.org/Mount_Sinai/)





**When you hear 'Covenant'  
what springs to mind?**

## Amulet from Arslan Tash in Syria

“The Eternal One has made a covenant with us,  
Asherah has made a pact with us.”

7<sup>th</sup> Century BC

*(cf, Deuteronomy 29:12,14)*





## Hittite Suzerain Treaties (14/13C) Six Elements

- **Preamble**  
“These are the words of King ...”
- **Historical Prologue**  
Setting out relationship between the Hittite King and his subjects ...
- **Requirements**  
No alliances with other kings  
Answer a call to arms  
Treatment of refugees  
Prizes of war  
No murmuring or rebellion
- **Deposit & Public Reading**  
Written on stones
- **List of Witnesses**  
Usually the gods of both peoples
- **Blessings and curses**  
What the gods will do in response to obedience or disobedience

## Deuteronomy Six Elements Mirrored?

- **Preamble - Deut 1**  
“These are the words that Moses spoke to all Israel ... The LORD our God spoke to us at Horeb, saying ...”
- **Historical Prologue - Deut 1-10**  
What God has done for his people ...
- **Requirements - Deut 11-27**  
“You shall love the LORD your God”  
“Keep this entire commandment”
- **Deposit and Public Reading - Deut 27,31**  
Written on plastered stones  
Book of Law deposited by / in the ark  
Law to be read every 7 years
- **List of Witnesses - Deut 31**  
Book of Law by in the ark to be a witness
- **Blessings and curses - Deut 11, 27-33**  
What God will do in response to his people’s obedience or disobedience



# Covenants in the Old Testament



## **Covenant with Noah**

Genesis 6:18-21  
Genesis 9:8-17

## **Covenant with Moses**

Exodus 19:3–24:14  
Exodus 34:10-28  
Deuteronomy

## **Covenant with Abraham**

Genesis 15  
Genesis 17

## **Covenant with David**

2 Samuel 7  
Psalm 89



# Types of Covenant

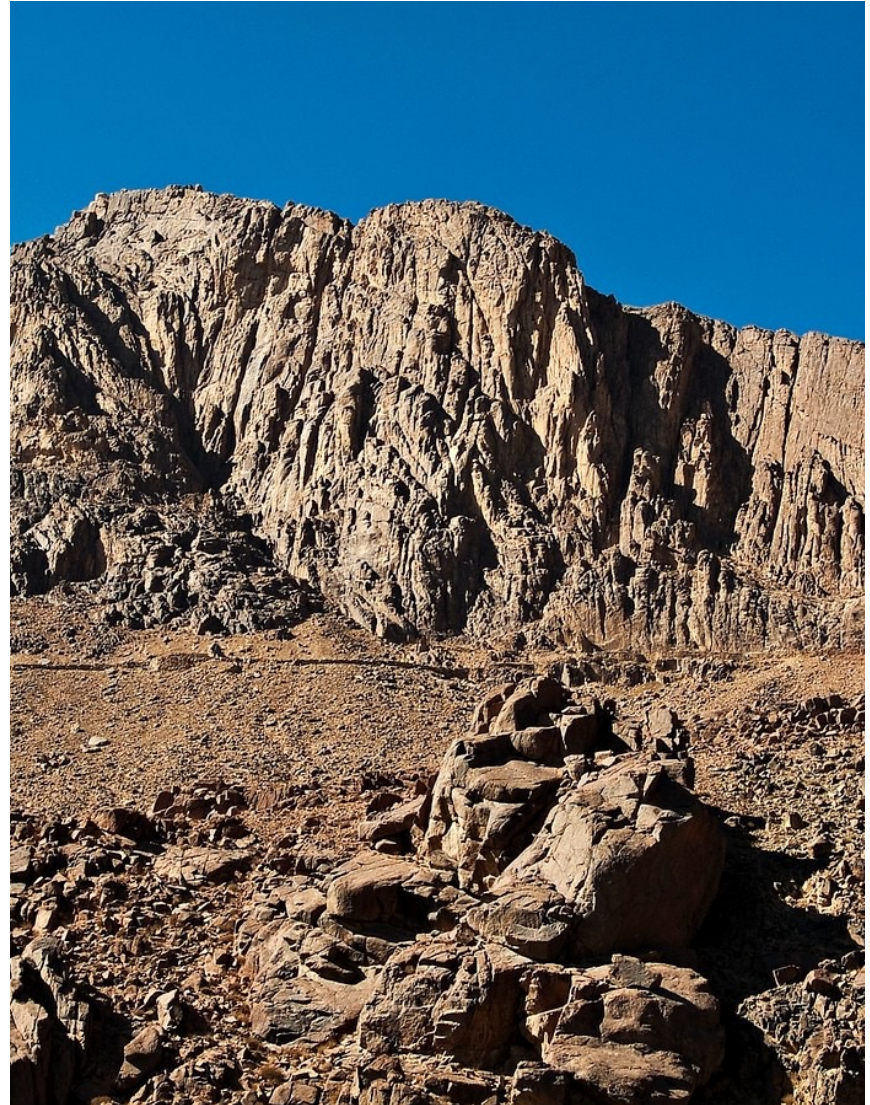
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## Conditional

- If this, then this
- Covenant with Moses

## Unconditional

- I will do this for you
- Covenant with Noah
- Covenant with Abraham
- Covenant with David







# Biblical Law

Image: Mount Sinai

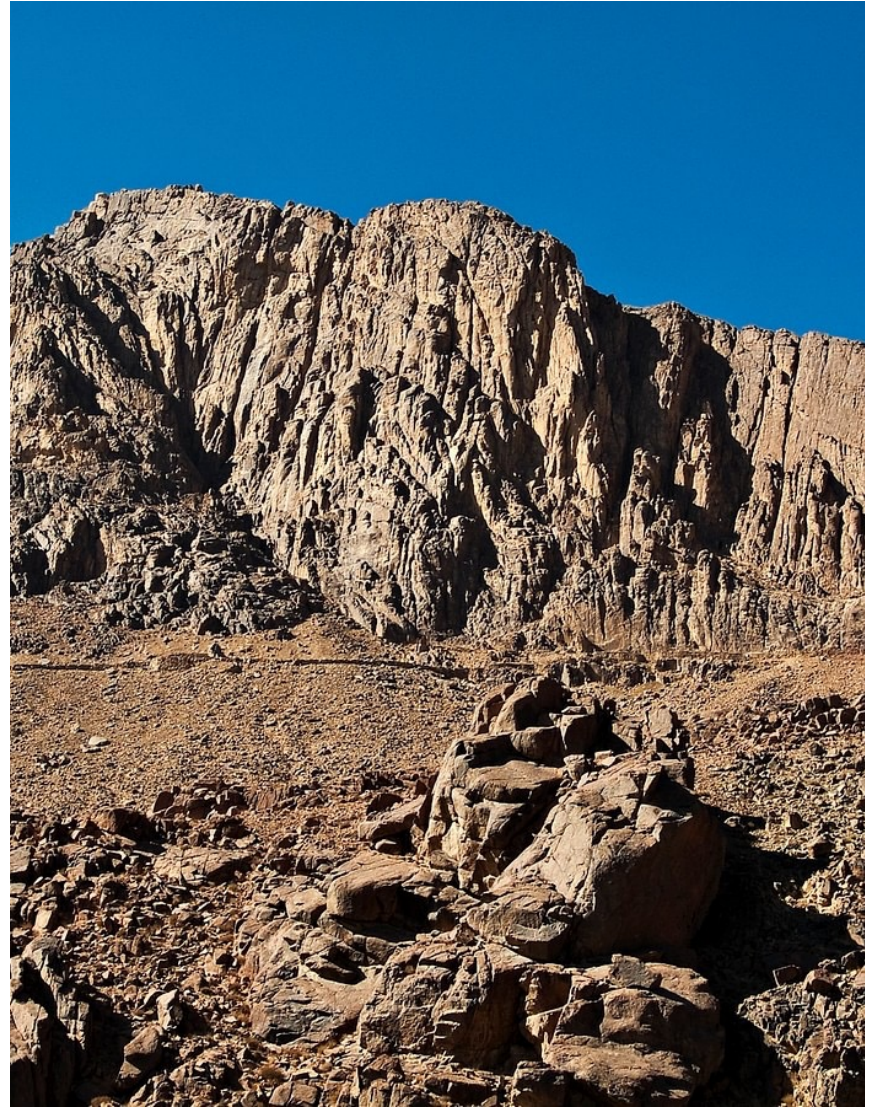
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# Other ANE Law Collections

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- The laws of Ur Nammu
- The laws of Lipit-Ishtar
- The laws of Eshnunna
- The laws of Hammurabi
- The laws of the Hittites
- Middle Assyrian laws





# Hammurabi Stele

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# Types of Law

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## Absolute Law (Apodictic)

- You will do this / you will not do this

## Case / Conditional Law (Casuistic)

- If this, then this...





# Breakout Rooms

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- Exodus 21:1
- Exodus 21:25-26
- Exodus 22:5-6
- Where else do we see these laws enacted in the OT?
- Who enacts them?







# Purposes of Laws

- Holiness
- Sacrifice
- Justice
- Sacred Time

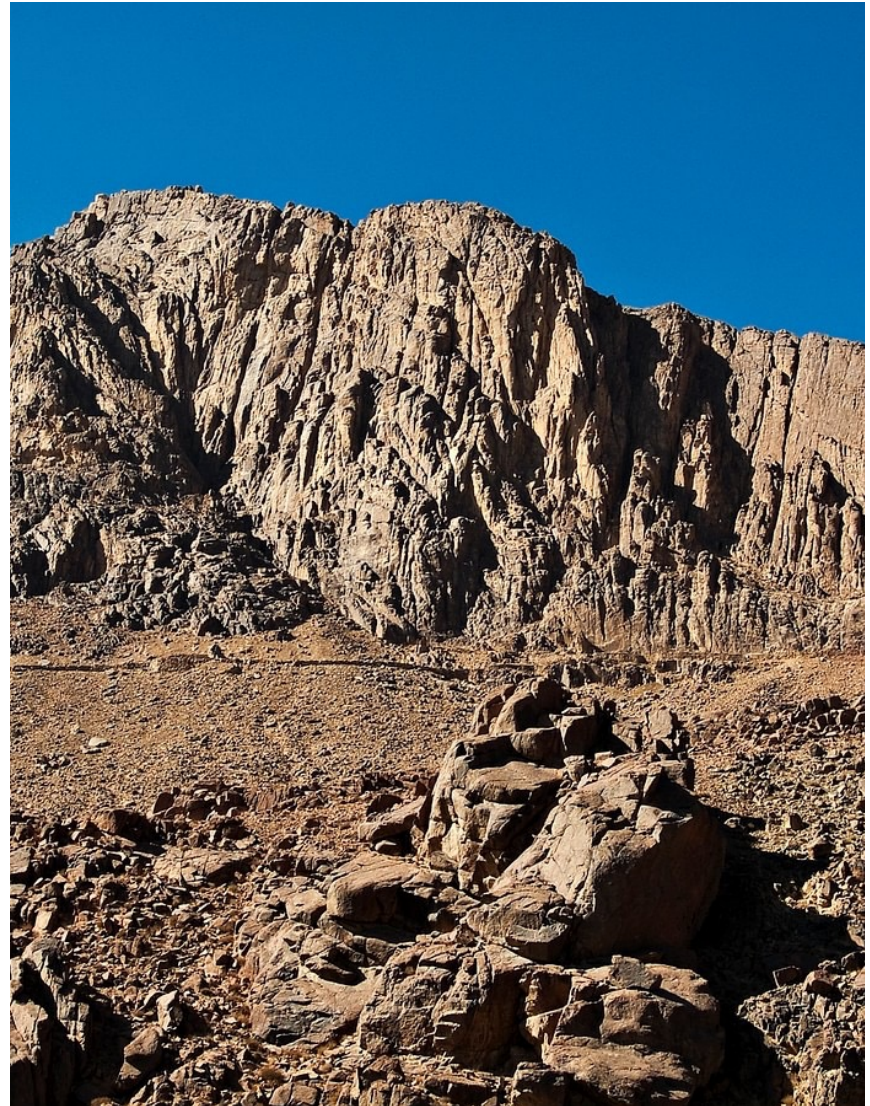




# Differences

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- Israelite law is given by God
- Israelite law is holistic
- Each crime is also a sin
- Israelite laws command compassion
- Many Israelite laws contain a rationale
- Israelite laws demonstrate equality and the sanctity of life







# OT Covenant & Law

- Are about grace
- Reveal God is unchanging
- Give Security
- Are about God's forgiveness and redemption