

## MAJOR COVENANTS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

COVENANT	REFERENCE	TYPE	PARTICIPANT	DESCRIPTION
<b>NOAHIC</b>	Genesis 9:8-17	Royal Grant	Made with "righteous" (6:9) Noah (and his descendants and every living thing on earth - all life that is subject to man's jurisdiction)	An unconditional divine promise never to destroy all earthly life with some natural catastrophe; the covenant "sign" being the rainbow in the storm cloud.
<b>ABRAHAMIC #1 part one</b>	Genesis 12:1-3	Royal Grant	Made with Abram conditional that he would leave all his country, kindred, and father's house, and follow the Lord into the land which He would show him.	The promise was a fourfold blessing: 1) Increase into a numerous people; 2) Material and spiritual prosperity; 3) The exaltation of Abram's name; 4) Abraham was not only to be blessed by God, but to be a blessing to others - implicitly by the coming of the Messiah through his descendants.
<b>ABRAHAMIC #1 part two</b>	Genesis 15	Royal (land) Grant	Made with "righteous" Abram (v. 6) and his descendants (v. 16)	Renewal of Abrahamic Covenant with unconditional divine promise to fulfill the grant of the land; a self-maledictory oath symbolically enacted it (v. 17)
<b>ABRAHAMIC #2</b>	Genesis 17	Suzerain-vassal	Made with Abraham as patriarchal head of his household	A conditional divine pledge to be Abraham's God and the God of his descendants (vv. 4,9); the condition: total consecration to the Lord as symbolized by circumcision
<b>SINAITIC</b>	Exodus 19-24	Suzerain-vassal	Made with Israel as the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and as the people the Lord has redeemed from bondage to an earthly power	A conditional divine pledge to be Israel's God (as her protector and the Guarantor of her blessed destiny); the condition: Israel's total consecration to the Lord as His people (His kingdom) who live by His rule and serve His purposes in history
<b>PHINEHAS</b>	Numbers 25:10-13	Royal Grant	Made with the zealous priest Phinehas	An unconditional divine promise to maintain the family of Phinehas in a "perpetual priesthood" (implicitly a pledge to Israel to provide for her forever with a faithful priesthood)
<b>DAVIDIC</b>	2 Samuel 7:4-17	Royal Grant	Made with faithful King David after his devotion to God as Israel's king and the Lord's anointed vassal had come to special expression (v. 2)	An unconditional divine promise to establish and maintain the Davidic dynasty on the throne of Israel (implicitly a pledge to Israel) to provide her forever with a godly king like David and through that dynasty to do for her what He had done through David - bring her into rest in the promised land (1 Kings 4:20-22; 5:3,4)
<b>NEW</b>	Jeremiah 31:31-34	Royal Grant	Promised to rebellious Israel as she is about to be expelled from the promised land in actualization of the most severe covenant curse (Leviticus 26:27-39; Deuteronomy 28:36,37, 45-68)	An unconditional divine promise to unfaithful Israel to forgive her sins and establish His relationship with her on a new basis by writing His law "on their heart" - a covenant of pure grace

### Major types of Royal Covenants / Treaties in the Ancient Near East

#### ROYAL GRANT (UNCONDITIONAL)

A king's grant (of land or some other benefit) to a loyal servant for faithful or exceptional service. The grant was normally perpetual and unconditional, but the servant's heirs continued their father's loyalty and service (cf. 1 Samuel 8:14; 22:7; 27:6; Esther 8:1.)

#### PARITY

A covenant between equals, binding them to mutual friendship or at least to mutual respect for each other's spheres and interests. Participants called each other "brothers." (cf. Genesis 21:27; 26:31; 31:44-54; 1 Kings 5:12; 15:19; 20:32-34; Amos 1:9.)

#### SUZERAIN-VASSAL (CONDITIONAL)

A covenant regulating the relationship between a great king and one of his subject kings. The great king claimed absolute right of sovereignty, demanded total loyalty and service (the vassal must "love" his suzerain) and pledged protection of the subject's realm and dynasty, conditional on the vassal's faithfulness and loyalty to him. The vassal pledged absolute loyalty to his suzerain - whatever service his suzerain demanded - and exclusive reliance on the suzerain's protection. Participants called each other "lord" and "servant" or "father" and "son." (cf. Joshua 9:6,8; Ezekiel 17:13-18; Hosea 12:1.)

Commitments made in these covenants were accompanied by self-maledictory oaths (made orally, ceremonially or both). The gods were called upon to witness the covenants and implement the curses of the oaths if the covenants were violated.

Information in the above chart is adapted in part from the NASB Study Bible (Zondervan Publishing House).