OUTLINE OF LATE-2ND-MILLENNIUM B.C. SUZERAINTY TREATY FORMS:

1. **Preamble**: Identifies author of the covenant.
2. **Historical Prologue**: Mentions past relationship between the two parties; past benefactions by suzerain form the basis for vassal’s gratitude and future obedience.
3. **Stipulations**: The obligations laid upon the vassal by the sovereign.
   a. **Deposition**: A copy of the covenant is deposited in the vassal’s sanctuary.
   b. **Public Reading**: The covenant terms are periodically read to the people.
4. **Witnesses**: A list of gods invoked to witness the covenant.
   a. **Curses**: Invoked on the vassal if he breaks the covenant.
   b. **Blessings**: Invoked on the vassal if he keeps the covenant.

SINAI COVENANT & LATE-2ND-MILLENNIUM SUZERAINTY TREATY FORMS:

1. **Preamble**: Exod. 20:1       Deut. 1:1-5
2. **Historical Prologue**: Exod. 20:2       Deut. 1:6-4:49
3. **Stipulations**:
   a. **Basic**: Exod. 20:3-17, 22-26                   Deut. 5-11
   b. **Detailed**: Exod. 21-23, 25-31               Deut. 12-26
      (Lev. 1-25?)
4. a. **Deposition**: Exod. 25:16;     Deut. 31:9, 24-26
6. a. **Curses**: (Lev. 26:14-33)    Deut. 27, 28:15-68
   b. **Blessings**: (Lev. 26:3-13)       Deut. 28:1-14

[The pioneering work here is G. E. Mendenhall’s, based on Hittite treaties, in Biblical Archaeologist 17 (1954): 26-46, 50-76. The above is adapted from Kenneth Kitchen’s analysis, based on expanded parallels, in his Ancient Orient and Old Testament (1966): 90-102. See also P. C. Craigie, Deuteronomy (NICOT) (1976): 20-24, and refs. in each.]