

Gearing Up for Greater Effectiveness *The Uniqueness of People Who Follow His Word*

Introduction

The typical form of a Hittite Suzerain Vassal Treaty

1. Preamble
2. Historical Prologue
3. Stipulations
4. Witnesses and Deposit of Text
5. Curses and Blessings

Three reasons we should honor our covenant with our Great King:

I. Because it is a Covenant of Practicality

A. The principles of God's Word are breathtakingly relevant.

4:1 – *teaching you to perform...*

4:2 – *you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God...*

4:4 – *you who held fast...*

4:5 – *that you should do thus in the land...*

4:6 – *so keep and do them...*

Jeremiah 31:33 – *“...I will put my law within them and upon their heart I will write it...”*

Matthew 28:20 – *“...teaching them to observe all that I commanded...”*

I John 2:3 – *“By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.”*

B. The provision of God's Word is a demonstration of His love.

4:37 – *“Because He loved your fathers, therefore He chose their descendants after them...”*

*“The Assyrian emperor saw himself as king of the universe by appointment of his gods and therefore felt that it would be both unnecessary and humiliating to justify his demand for loyalty by referring to his gracious deeds in the manner of Hittite kings.” (Moshe Weinfeld, “Covenant making in Anatolia and Mesopotamia.” *Journal of the Ancient Near Eastern Society* 22, 1993, p. 136).*

*“Abounding of grace is evidenced even in connection with the function of the stone tablets as witnesses against Israel; for since the divine throne under which the tablets were located was the place of atonement, the witnesses of the tablets against Israel never ascended to Yahweh apart from the witness of the blood advocating mercy.” (Meredith G. Kline, *Treaty of the Great King, The Covenant Structure of Deuteronomy: Studies and Commentary, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1963, p. 22).**

C. The purpose of God's Word is to protect you from judgment.

4:4 – *But you who held fast to the Lord your God are alive today, every one of you.*

Jeremiah 2:13 – *My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.*

II. Covenant of Wisdom

A. The apologetic value of keeping the law.

B. Hindrances to covenant wisdom.

1. Subtraction
2. Addition
3. Multiplication

III. Covenant of Depth

A. Note the emphasis on the heart.

4:29 – *But if from there you seek the LORD your God, you will find him if you look for him with all your heart and with all your soul.*

B. Note the emphasis on carefulness.

4:9 – *Only give heed to yourself and keep your soul diligently...*