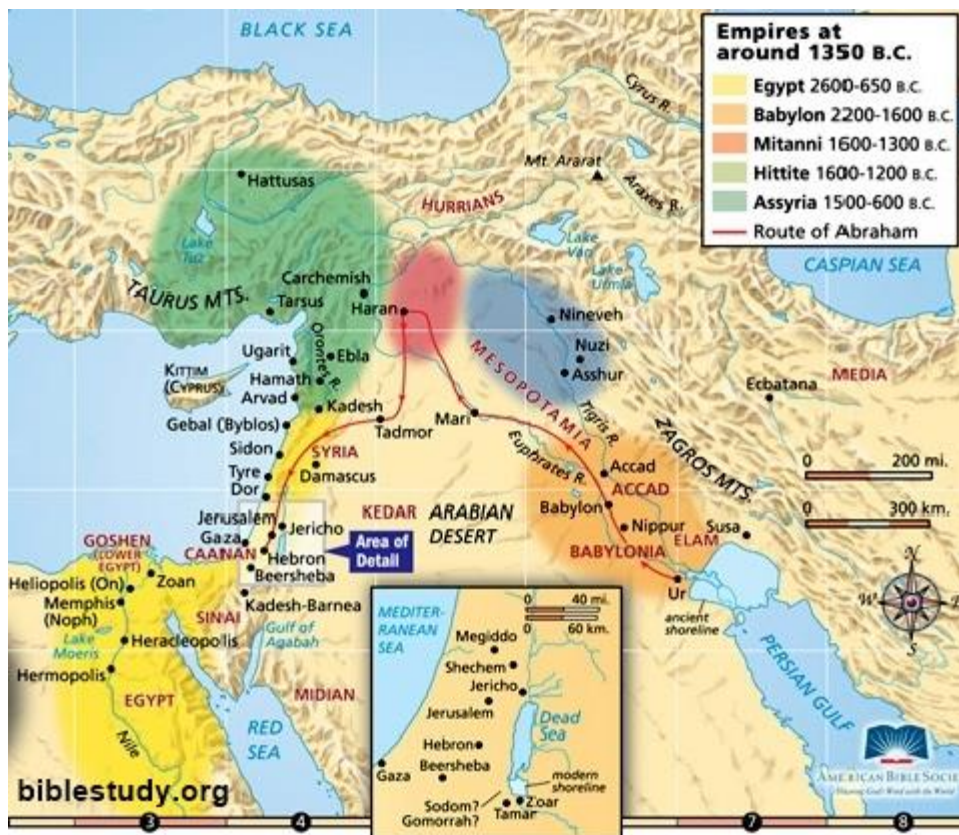


# The End of *Sefer Devarim* as a Window into the Theology of Moshe's Farewell Speech

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## 1. Historical prologue (Deuteronomy 1:6–3:29; 5)

### Treaty between Shattiwaza of Mittanni and Suppiluliuma I of Hatti

Thus says Shattiwaza, son of King Tushratta ... He would have killed me ... but I escaped from his hands ... The gods of the King of Hatti and the gods of the king of Mitanni caused me to reach his majesty, Suppiluliuma ... I fell at the feet of His Majesty, Suppiluliuma ... **The Great King took me by the hand and rejoiced over me ... the Great King and Hero spoke as follows: "If I conquer Shuttarna and the troops of the land of Mitanni, I will not reject you but will adopt you as my son. I will stand by you and place you on the throne of your father. And the gods know My Majesty, Suppiluliuma ... never goes back on the words which issue from his mouth."** Thus says Shattiwaza, son of Tushratta: I rejoiced at the words of the King, my lord, which I heard. ... And the gods of the Great King, King of Hatti, protected us, and the Hurrians whom Shuttarna had sent as protection to Irrite, as well as the chariotry and troops and chariotry which had sat within the city came out before us. We captured and destroyed all the...

2. Allegiance of בני ישראל to the covenant

Vassal Treaty of Esarhaddon	Deuteronomy 6:4-9	דברים ו:ד-ט
<p><b>You shall love Assurbanipal, the great crown prince designate, son of Esarhaddon, king of Assyria, your lord, like yourselves.</b> This treaty which Esarhaddon, king of Assyria, has confirmed and concluded with you on behalf of Assurbanipal, the great crown prince designate and his brothers, sons by the same mother as Assurbanipal, the great crown prince designate, <b>by making you take an oath, you shall speak to your sons and grandsons, your seed and your seed's seed which shall be born in the future, and give them orders as follows:</b> “Guard this treaty. <b>Do not sin against your treaty and annihilate yourselves, do not turn your land over to destruction and your people to deportation.</b> May this matter which is acceptable to god and mankind, be acceptable to you too, may it be good to you. May Assurbanipal, the great crown prince designate, be protected for (his) lordship over the land and the people, (and) may his name later be proclaimed for the kingship. <b>Do not place any other king or any other lord over you.”</b></p>	<p>Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. <b>You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.</b> Take to heart these instructions with which I charge you this day. <b>Impress them upon your children.</b> Recite them when you stay at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you get up. Bind them as a sign on your hand and let them serve as a symbol on your forehead; inscribe them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. When the LORD your God brings you into the land that He swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to assign to you—great and flourishing cities that you did not build ... take heed that you do not forget the LORD who freed you from the land of Egypt, the house of bondage. <b>Revere only the LORD your God and worship Him alone, and swear only by His name. Do not follow other gods, any gods of the peoples about you—for the LORD your God in your midst is an impassioned God—lest the anger of the LORD your God blaze forth against you and He wipe you off the face of the earth.</b> Be sure to keep the commandments, decrees, and laws that the LORD your God has enjoined upon you. Do what is right and good in the sight of the LORD, that it may go well with you and that you may be able to possess the good land that the LORD your God promised on oath to your fathers,</p>	<p>שָׁמַע, יִשְׂרָאֵל: יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ, יְהוָה אֶחָד. ה וְאֵהָבָת, אֵת יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ, כְּכֹל-לְבָבְךָ וּכְכֹל-נַפְשְׁךָ, וּכְכֹל-מְאֹדְךָ. ו יְהוָה הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה, אֲשֶׁר אָנֹכִי מְצַוְךָ הַיּוֹם--עַל-לְבָבְךָ. ז וּשְׁנֹתָם לְבָנֶיךָ, וְדַבַּרְתָּ בָם, בְּשִׁבְתְּךָ בְּבֵיתְךָ וּבְלֻכְתְּךָ בְּדֶרֶךְ, וּבְשֹׁכְבְךָ וּבְקוּמְךָ. ח וְקִשְׁרָתָם לְאוֹת, עַל-יָדְךָ; וְהָיוּ לְטֹטְפֹת, בֵּין עֵינֶיךָ. ט וְכָתַבְתָּם עַל-מְזוֹזֹת בֵּיתְךָ, וּבְשַׁעְרֶיךָ. {ס} י וְהָיָה כִּי יְבִיאֲךָ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ, אֶל-הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּע לְאַבְרָמָה--לְאַבְרָהָם לְיִצְחָק וּלְיַעֲקֹב--לְתֹת לָךְ: עָרִים גְּדֹלוֹת וְטֹבֹת, אֲשֶׁר לֹא-בָנִיתָ. ... יב הַשָּׁמַר לָךְ, פֶּן-תִּשְׂכַּח אֶת-יְהוָה, אֲשֶׁר הוֹצִיאֲךָ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם, מִמִּידַת עַבְדִּים. יג אֶת-יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ תִּשְׁבַּע. יד לֹא תִלְכוּן, אַחֲרֵי אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים--מֵאֱלֹהֵי, הָעַמִּים, אֲשֶׁר, סָבִיבוֹתֶיכֶם. טו כִּי אֵל קָנָא יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ, בְּקִרְבְּךָ: פֶּן-יִחַרָה אֵף-יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ, בְּךָ, וְהִשְׁמִידֲךָ, מֵעַל פְּנֵי הָאָדָמָה. ... יז שְׁמֹר תִּשְׁמְרוּן, אֶת-מִצְוֹת יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם, וְעֲדֹתָיו וְחֻקָּיו, אֲשֶׁר צִוְּךָ. יח וְעָשִׂיתָ הַיָּשָׁר וְהַטּוֹב, בְּעֵינֵי יְהוָה--לְמַעַן, יֵיטֵב לָךְ, וּבְאֵת וְיָרֵשֶׁת אֶת-הָאָרֶץ הַטּוֹבָה, אֲשֶׁר-נִשְׁבַּע יְהוָה לְאַבְרָמָה. יט לְהַדּוֹף אֶת-כָּל-אֱבֹתֶיךָ, מִפְּנֶיךָ, כַּאֲשֶׁר, דִּבֶּר יְהוָה.</p>

### 3. God's affection for His people

Deuteronomy 7:5–11	דברים ז:ה-יא
<p>(5) Instead, this is what you shall do to them: you shall tear down their altars, smash their pillars, cut down their sacred posts, and consign their images to the fire.</p> <p>(6) For you are a people consecrated to the LORD your God: of all the peoples on earth the LORD your God chose you to be His <b>treasured people</b>.</p> <p>(7) It is not because you are the most numerous of peoples that the LORD set His heart on you and chose you—indeed, you are the smallest of peoples;</p> <p>(8) but it was because the LORD <b>loved</b> you and kept the oath He made to your fathers that the LORD freed you with a mighty hand and rescued you from the house of bondage, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt.</p> <p>(9) <b>Know</b>, therefore, that only the LORD your God is God, the steadfast God who keeps His covenant faithfully to the thousandth generation of those who <b>love</b> Him and keep His commandments,</p> <p>(10) but who instantly requites with destruction those who <b>hate</b> Him—never slow with those who reject Him, but requiting them instantly.</p>	<p>(ה) כִּי־אִם־כֹּה תַעֲשׂוּ לָהֶם מִזְבְּחֹתֵיהֶם תִּתְּצוּ וּמִצְבָּתָם תִּשְׁבְּרוּ וְאֲשִׁירֵיהֶם תִּגְדְּעוּ וּפְסִילֵיהֶם תִּשְׂרֹפוּן בְּאֵשׁ:</p> <p>(ו) כִּי עַם קָדוֹשׁ אַתָּה לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ בְּךָ בָחַר   יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ לְהַיְתוֹת לֹא לְעַם סִגְלָה מְכַלֵּה עַמִּים אֲשֶׁר עַל־פְּנֵי הָאָדָמָה: (ס)</p> <p>(ז) לֹא מִרְבֹּכְכֶם מִפְּלֹהַעַמִּים חֶשֶׁק יְתוּהָ בְּכֶם וַיִּבְחַר בְּכֶם כִּי־אַתֶּם הַמֵּעֵט מִפְּלֹהַעַמִּים:</p> <p>(ח) כִּי מֵאַהֲבַת יְהוָה אֶתְכֶם וּמִשְׁמְרוֹ אֶת־הַשְּׂבִעָה אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּע לְאַבְרָהָם הַזֶּה הוֹצִיא יְהוָה אֶתְכֶם מִבְּרִית עֲבָדִים מִיַּד פַּרְעֹה מֶלֶךְ־מִצְרָיִם:</p> <p>(ט) וַיִּדְעַתְּ כִּי־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ הוּא הָאֱלֹהִים הָאֵל הַנְּאֻמָּן שֹׁמֵר הַבְּרִית וְהַחֶסֶד לְאַהֲבָיו וְלִשְׁמֹרֵי מִצְוֹתוֹ [מִצְוֹתָיו] לְאֵלֶיךָ דָּוָר:</p> <p>(י) וּמִשְׁלֵם לְשׂוֹנְאָיו אֶל־פְּנֵיו לְהַאֲבִידוֹ לֹא יֵאָחַר לְשׂוֹנְאוֹ אֶל־פְּנֵיו יִשְׁלֵם־לוֹ:</p>

#### Treaty between Suppiluliuma I of Hatti and Huqqana of Hayasa

You, Huqqana, benevolently protect My Majesty, and stand behind only My Majesty. You shall not recognize anyone else beyond that. And I, My Majesty, will benevolently protect you. Later, I will protect your sons, and my son will protect your sons. And if you always behave well and benevolently protect My Majesty, then I, My Majesty, will later act favorably in regard to your sons, and my son will benevolently protect your sons. I, My Majesty, will protect you.

#### Opening salutation of a letter from Suppiluliumas II to Ammurapi

No[w you belong] to the Sun, your lord; You are [his serva]nt, his treasure (*sglth.at*). Now, [how is it that] you do not acknowledge (*yd'm.lyd't*) the Sun, your lord? Why have you not come to me, the Sun, your lord, for one year, for two years?

Exodus 19:3–6	שמות יט:ג-ו
<p>And Moses went up to God. The LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, “Thus shall you say to the house of Jacob and declare to the children of Israel: ‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Me. Now then, if you will obey Me faithfully and keep My covenant, <b>you shall be My treasured possession among all the peoples.</b> Indeed, all the earth is Mine, but <b>you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests</b> and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the children of Israel.”</p>	<p>ג ומנשה עלה, אל-האלהים; ויקרא אליו יהוה, מן-ההר לאמר, כה תאמר לבית יעקב, ותגיד לבני ישראל. ד אתם ראיתם, אשר עשיתי למצרים; ואשא אתכם על-כנפי נשרים, ואבא אתכם אלי. ה ועתה, אם-שמוע תשמעו בקלי, ושמרתם, את-בריתי--נהייתם לי סגולה מכל-העמים, כי-לי כל-הארץ. ו נאתם תהיו-לי ממלכת כהנים, וגוי קדוש: אלה, הדברים, אשר תדבר, אל-בני ישראל.</p>

דברים טז:ז	שמות כג:יז
<p>שלוש פעמים בשנה יראה כל-זכורך את-פני יהוה אלהיך, במקום אשר יבחר--בחג המצות ובחג השבועות, ובחג הסוכות; ולא יראה את-פני יהוה, ריקם</p> <p>Three times a year—on the Feast of Unleavened Bread, on the Feast of Weeks, and on the Feast of Booths—all your males shall appear before the LORD your God in the place that He will choose. They shall not appear before the LORD empty-handed,</p>	<p>שלוש פעמים, בשנה--יראה, כל-זכורך, אל-פני, האדון יהוה</p> <p>Three times a year all your males shall appear before the Sovereign, the Lord.</p>

4. Covenantal stipulation: A vassal's betrayal of his sovereign

Treaty between Arnuwanda I of Hatti and the Men of Ismerika	דברים יג:א-יט
<p>If anyone [ut]ters a malicious word before you [whether it is a border lord,] or a commoner, or a Hitt[ite o]r a Kizzuwatner, or his people, his own father, his mother, his brother, his sister or his son, [his] relative by marriage. Whoever says such a word, no one is to h[i]de him, but shall rather seize him and expose him! If in the midst of my country any city sins, then you people of Ismerika shall enter it, and strike [that city] including the men. You shall bring the conquered civil folk before His Majesty; however, [you take] the cattle and the sheep. If, however, in the midst of a city any house s[ins, th]is house including the men is to die; the servants you shall bring [to His Majesty], you take, however, the cattle and sheep. [If] any individual person sins, [he alone shall die.]</p>	<p>כִּי יִסִּיתָ אֶחֱיד בְּרֵאמָה אֹרְבִנָּה אֹרְבִתָּה אוֹ אִשֶׁת חֵיקָה אוֹ רַעַת אֲשֶׁר כִּנְפֹשָׁה בְּסִתֵּר לֵאמֹר גִּלְכָּה וְנִעְבְּדָה אֱלֹהִים אַחֲרָיִם אֲשֶׁר לֹא יָדַעְתָּ אֹתָהּ וְאַבְתִּיד: מֵאֵלֵהי הָעַמִּים אֲשֶׁר סְבִיבֹתֶיכֶם הַקְּרָבִים אֵלֶיךָ אוֹ הַרְחֻקִים מִמֶּנֶּה מִקְצֵה הָאָרֶץ וְעַד קְצֵה הָאָרֶץ: לֹא־תֵאבֹה לוֹ וְלֹא תִשְׁמַע אֵלָיו וְלֹא־תַחֲוֶס עֵינֶיךָ עָלָיו וְלֹא־תִכְסֶה עָלָיו: כִּי הֵרַג תִּהְרַגְנִי וְיָדָךְ תִּהְיֶה־בּוֹ בְּרֵאשׁוּנָה לְהַמִּיתוֹ וְגַד כְּלֵהֶעָם בְּאַחֲרָנָה: וְיִסְקֹלְתוּ בְּאֲבָנִים וּמָת כִּי בִקֵּשׁ לְהַדְיִיחַ מֵעַל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ הַמוֹצִיאֶךָ מֵאָרֶץ מִצְרַיִם מִבֵּית עַבְדִּים: וְכֹל־יִשְׂרָאֵל יִשְׁמְעוּ וְיִרְאוּ וְלֹא־יֹסִפוּ לַעֲשׂוֹת כַּדָּבָר הַזֶּה בְּקִרְבֶּךָ: (ס) כִּי־תִשְׁמַע בְּאַחַת עָרֵיד אֲשֶׁר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ נָתַן לְךָ לְשֶׁבֶת שָׁם לֵאמֹר: יֵצְאוּ אַנְשִׁים בְּנִיבְלִילַעַל מִקְרָבֶךָ וַיִּדְיִחוּ אֶת־יִשְׁבֵי עִירֶם לֵאמֹר גִּלְכָּה וְנִעְבְּדָה אֱלֹהִים אַחֲרָיִם אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יָדַעְתֶּם: וְדַרְשֵׁת וְחִקְרַת וְשָׁאַלְתָּ הֵיטֵב וְהִנֵּה אָמַת נָכוֹן הַדָּבָר נַעֲשֵׂתָה הַתּוֹעֵבָה הַזֹּאת בְּקִרְבֶּךָ: הִכָּה תִכֶּה אֶת־יִשְׁבֵי הָעִיר הַזֹּאת [הַהִיא] לְפִי־חַרְבְּ הַחֶרֶם אֹתָהּ וְאֶת־כָּל־אֲשֶׁר־בָּהּ וְאֶת־בְּהֵמָתָהּ לְפִי־חַרְב: וְאֶת־כָּל־שְׁלָלָהּ תִּקְבֹץ אֶל־תּוֹךְ רַחְבָּהּ וְשִׂרְפֹתָ בְּאֵשׁ אֶת־הָעִיר וְאֶת־כָּל־שְׁלָלָהּ כָּלִיל לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ וְהִיתָה תֵּל עוֹלָם לֹא תִבְנֶה עוֹד: וְלֹא־יִדְבַק בְּיָדְךָ מְאֻמָּה מִן־הַחֶרֶם לְמַעַן יָשׁוּב יְהוָה מִחֲרוֹן אַפָּו וְנִתְּרֹלְךָ רַחֲמִים וְרַחֲמֶךָ וְהִרְבֶּה בְּאֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּע לְאַבְתִּיד: כִּי תִשְׁמַע בְּקוֹל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ לְשׁוֹמֵר אֶת־כָּל־מִצְוֹתָיו אֲשֶׁר אָנֹכִי מְצַוֶּה הַיּוֹם לַעֲשׂוֹת הִיָּשֵׁר בְּעֵינֵי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ: (ס)</p> <p>6 If anyone secretly entices you—even if it is your brother, your father’s son or your mother’s son, or your own son or daughter, or the wife you embrace, or your most intimate friend—saying, “Let us go worship other gods,” whom neither you nor your ancestors have known, 7 any of the gods of the peoples that are around you, whether near you or far away from you, from one end of the earth to the other, 8 you must not yield to or heed any such persons. Show them no pity or compassion and do not shield them. 9 But you shall surely kill them; your own hand shall be first against them to execute them, and afterwards the hand of all the people. 10 Stone them to death for trying to turn you away from the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. 11 Then all Israel shall hear and be afraid, and never again do any such wickedness. 12 If you hear it said about one of the towns that the Lord your God is giving you to live in, 13 that scoundrels from among you have gone out and led the inhabitants of the town astray, saying, “Let us go and worship other gods,” whom you have not known, 14 then you shall inquire and make a thorough investigation. If the charge is established that such an abhorrent thing has been done among you, 15 you shall put the inhabitants of that town to the sword, utterly destroying it and everything in it—even putting its livestock to the sword. 16 All of its spoil you shall gather into its public square; then burn the town and all its spoil with fire, as a whole burnt offering to the Lord your God. It shall remain a perpetual ruin, never to be rebuilt. 17 Do not let</p>

	<p>anything devoted to destruction stick to your hand, so that the Lord may turn from his fierce anger and show you compassion, and in his compassion multiply you, as he swore to your ancestors, 18 if you obey the voice of the Lord your God by keeping all his commandments that I am commanding you today, doing what is right in the sight of the Lord your God.</p>
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## 5. Oath and call for witnesses

### Treaty between Suppiluliuma I of Hatti and Huqqana of Hayasa

You, Huqqana, benevolently protect My Majesty, and stand behind only My Majesty. You shall not recognize anyone else beyond that. And I, My Majesty, will benevolently protect you. Later, I will protect your sons, and my son will protect your sons. And if you always behave well and benevolently protect My Majesty, then I, My Majesty, will later act favorably in regard to your sons, and my son will benevolently protect your sons. I, My Majesty, will protect you.

**I have now placed these words under oath for you, and we have now summoned the Thousand Gods to assembly in this matter.**

The Sun-god of Heaven, the Sun-goddess of Arinna, the Storm-god of Heaven, the Storm-god of Hatti, the Storm-god of Aleppo, the Storm-god of Arinna, the Storm-god of Zippalanda, the Storm-god of Sapin- uwa, the Storm-god of Nerik, the Storm-god of Hisashapa, the Storm-god of Sahpina, the Storm-god of the Army, the Storm-god of the Market(?), the Storm-god of Uda, the Storm-god of Kizzuwatna, the Storm-god of Pitti- yarik, the Storm-god of Samuha, [the Storm-god] of Sarissa, the Storm-god of Hurma, the Storm-god of Lihzina, the Storm-god of the Ruin Mound, the Storm-god [of ... ], the Storm-god of Hulasa, Hebat of Uda, Hebat of Kizzuwatna, the Tutelary Deity, the Tutelary Deity of Hatti, Zithariya, Karzi, Hapantaliya, the Tutelary Deity of Karahna, the Tutelary Deity [of the Countryside], the Tutelary Deity of the Hunting Bag, Aya, Ishtar, Ishtar of the Countryside, Ishtar of Nineveh, [Ishtar] of Hattarina, Ishtar, Queen of Heaven, Ninatta, Kulitta, the War-god, the War-god of Illaya, the War-god [of Arziya], all the deities of the army, Marduk, Allatu, [the Sun-goddess] of the Earth, Huwassanna of Hupisna, Ayabara of Samuha, Hantitassu [of Hurma], Katahha of Ankuwa, [Ammamma] of Tahurpa, the Queen of Katapa, Hallara of Dunna, the [mountain-dweller] gods, the [mercenary] gods, all the deities of Hatti, the deities [ ... ] of the land, the deities of heaven, the deities of the earth, the mountains, [the rivers, the springs, the clouds], heaven, the earth, the great sea - they [shall be witnesses].

**...And if you do not tell me about him, but even [hide] him, or go over to him, abandoning My Majesty—if you act thus, these oath deities will not leave you alone, nor on your account will they leave alone that man to whom you go over. They shall destroy him. And the oath gods shall not neglect this matter in regard to both of you, and they shall not make it permissible for both of you. They shall destroy both of you together and thereby fulfill the wishes of My Majesty. But if you, Huqqana, protect only My Majesty and take a stand only behind My Majesty, then these oath gods shall benevolently protect you, and you shall thrive in the hand of My Majesty.**

Deuteronomy 29–30	דברים כט–ל
<p>You stand this day, all of you, before the LORD your God—your tribal heads, your elders and your officials, all the men of Israel, ...</p>	<p>אתם נצבים היום כלכם לפני יהוה אלהיכם ראשיכם שבטיכם זקניכם ושוטריכם כל איש ישראל: ...</p>
<p><b>to enter into the covenant of the LORD your God and its sanctions</b>, which the LORD your God is concluding with you this day, with its sanctions;</p>	<p>לעברך בבחית יהוה אלהיך ובאלתו אשר יהוה אלהיך כרת עמך היום: ...</p>
<p><b>to the end that He may establish you this day as His people and be your God</b>, as He promised you and as He swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. ...</p>	<p>למען הקים אתך היום   לו לעם והוא יהיה לך לאלהים כאשר דבר לך וכאשר נשבע לאבותיך לאברהם ליצחק וליעקב: ...</p>
<p>Perchance there is among you some man or woman, or some clan or tribe, whose heart is even now turning away from the LORD our God to go and worship the gods of those nations—perchance there is among you a stock sprouting poison weed and wormwood. ...</p>	<p>פריש בכם איש או אשה או משפחה או שבט אשר לבבו פנה היום מעם יהוה אלהינו ללכת לעבד את אלהי הגוים שהם פריש בכם שרש פרה ראש ולענה: ...</p>
<p><b>The LORD will single them out from all the tribes of Israel for misfortune, in accordance with all the sanctions of the covenant</b> recorded in this book of Teaching. ...</p>	<p>יהבדילו יהוה לרעה מכל שבטי ישראל ככל אלות הבחית הכתובה בספר התורה הזה: ...</p>
<p>See, I set before you this day life and prosperity, death and adversity. ...</p>	<p>ראה נתתי לפניך היום את החיים ואת הטוב ואת המות ואת הרע: ...</p>
<p>But if your heart turns away and you give no heed, and are lured into the worship and service of other gods, I declare to you this day that you shall certainly perish; you shall not long endure on the soil that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.</p>	<p>ואם יפנה לבבך ולא תשמע ונדחת והשתחית לאלהים אחרים ועבדתם: הגדתי לכם היום כי אבד תאבדון לא תאריכו גמים על האדמה אשר אתה עבר את הירדן לבא שמה לרשתה: ...</p>
<p><b>I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day: I have put before you life and death, blessing and curse. Choose life—if you and your offspring would live—by loving the LORD your God, heeding His commands, and holding fast to Him.</b></p>	<p>העידתי בכם היום את השמים ואת הארץ החיים והמות נתתי לפניך הברכה והקללה ובחרת בחיים למען תחיה אתה וזרעך: לאהבה את יהוה אלהיך לשמע בקלו ולדבקה בו</p>

## 6. Curses and blessings

### Treaty between Suppiluliuma I of Hatti and Shattiwaza of Mittanni

They shall stand and listen and be witnesses to these words of the treaty. If you, Prince Shattiwaza, and you Hurrians do not observe the words of this treaty, the gods, lords of the oath, shall destroy you [and] you Hurrians, together with your land, your wives, and your possessions. They will draw you out like malt from its husk. As one does not get a plant from the midst of ... so you, together with any other wife whom you might take (in place of my daughter), and you Hurrians, together with your wives, your sons, and your land, shall thus have no progeny. And these gods, who are lords of the oath, shall allot you poverty and destitution. And you, Shattiwaza—they shall overthrow your throne. And you, Shattiwaza—these oath gods shall snap you off like a reed, together with your land. Your name and your progeny by another wife whom you might take shall be eradicated from the earth. And you, Shattiwaza, together with your land, because of not delivering goodness and recovery among the Hurrians—you shall be eradicated. The ground shall be ice, so that you will slip. The ground of your land shall be a marsh of ..., so that you will certainly sink and be unable to cross. You, Shattiwaza, and the Hurrians shall be the enemies of the Thousand Gods. They shall defeat you.

If you, Prince Shattiwaza, and you Hurrians observe this treaty and oath, these gods shall protect you, Shattiwaza, together with your wife, [daughter of the King] of Hatti, her sons and grandsons, and you Hurrians, together with your wives and your sons, and [together with your land]. And the land of Mittanni [shall return] to its former state. It shall prosper and expand. And you, Shattiwaza, your sons and grandsons by the daughter of the [Great] King, [King of Hatti]—the Hurrians shall accept you (!) for kingship for eternity. [Prolong the life] of the throne of [your father]; prolong the life of the land of Mittanni.

### Vassal Treaty of Esarhaddon, 472–86

May all the grea[t go]ds of heaven and earth who inhabit the universe and are mentioned by name in this tablet, strike you, look at you in anger and curse you grimly with a painful curse. Above, may they take possession of your life; below, in the netherworld, may they make your ghost thirst for water. May shade and daylight always chase you away, and may you not find refuge in a hidden cor[ner]. May food and water abandon you; may want and famine, hunger and plague never be removed from you. Before your very eyes may dogs and swine drag the breasts of your young women and the penises of your young men to and fro in the squares of Assur; may the earth not receive your corpses but may your burial place be in the belly of a dog or a pig. May your days be dark and your years dim, may darkness which is not to be brightened be declared as your fate. May your life end in exha[ustion and slee]plessness.

## 7. Deposition of Treaty

### Treaty between Suppiluliuma I of Hatti and Shattiwaza of Mittanni

A duplicate of this tablet is deposited before the Sun-goddess of Arinna, since the Sun-goddess of Arinna governs kingship and queenship. And in the land of Mittanni a duplicate is deposited before the Storm-god ... It shall be read repeatedly, for ever and ever, before the king of the land of Mittanni and before the Hurrians. Whoever, before the Storm-god ... alters this tablet, or sets it in a secret location—if he breaks it, if he changes the words of the text of the



tablet—in regard to this treaty we have summoned the gods of secrets and the gods who are guarantors of the oath. They shall stand and listen and be witnesses...

Deuteronomy 31	דברים ל"א
<p>Moses wrote down this Teaching and gave it to the priests, sons of Levi, who carried the Ark of the LORD's Covenant, and to all the elders of Israel.</p> <p><b>And Moses instructed them as follows: Every seventh year, the year set for remission, at the Feast of Booths, when all Israel comes to appear before the LORD your God in the place that He will choose, you shall read this Teaching aloud in the presence of all Israel.</b></p> <p><b>Gather the people—men, women, children, and the strangers in your communities—that they may hear and so learn to revere the LORD your God and to observe faithfully every word of this Teaching.</b></p> <p><b>Their children, too, who have not had the experience, shall hear and learn to revere the LORD your God as long as they live in the land that you are about to cross the Jordan to possess.</b></p> <p>...</p> <p><b>Therefore, write down this poem and teach it to the people of Israel; put it in their mouths, in order that this poem may be My witness against the people of Israel.</b></p> <p>When I bring them into the land flowing with milk and honey that I promised on oath to their fathers, and they eat their fill and grow fat and turn to other gods and serve them, spurning Me and breaking My covenant, and the many evils and troubles befall them—then this poem shall confront them as a witness, since it will never be lost from the mouth of their offspring. For I know what plans they are devising even now, before I bring them into the land that I promised on oath.</p> <p>...</p> <p>When Moses had put down in writing the words of this Teaching to the very end,  <b>Moses charged the Levites who carried the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD, saying:</b>  <b>Take this book of Teaching and place it beside the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD your God, and let it remain there as a witness against you.</b></p>	<p>וַיִּכְתֹּב מֹשֶׁה אֶת־הַתּוֹרָה הַזֹּאת וַיִּתְּנָהּ אֶל־הַכֹּהֲנִים בְּנֵי לֵוִי הַנְּשָׂאִים אֶת־אֲרוֹן בְּרִית יְהוָה וְאֶל־כָּל־זִקְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: וַיֹּצֵא מֹשֶׁה אוֹתָם לֵאמֹר מִקֶּץ אֶשְׁבַע שָׁנִים בְּמַעַד שְׁנַת הַשְּׁמִטָּה בַּחֹג הַסִּכּוֹת:  <b>בָּבוֹא כָּל־יִשְׂרָאֵל לִרְאוֹת אֶת־פְּנֵי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ בַּמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר יַבְחַר תִּקְרָא אֶת־הַתּוֹרָה הַזֹּאת נֹגֵד כָּל־יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּאָזְנֵיהֶם:  הַקְהֵל אֶת־הָעָם הָאֲנָשִׁים וְהַנְּשִׁים וְהַטָּף וְגֵרְךָ אֲשֶׁר בְּשַׁעֲרֶיךָ לְמַעַן יִשְׁמְעוּ וְלִמְעַן יִרְאוּ אֶת־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיכֶם וְשָׁמְרוּ לְעֹשׂוֹת אֶת־כָּל־דְּבָרֵי הַתּוֹרָה הַזֹּאת: וּבְנֵיהֶם אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יָדְעוּ יִשְׁמְעוּ וְלִמְדוּ לִירְאֶה אֶת־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיכֶם כָּל־הַיָּמִים אֲשֶׁר אַתֶּם חַיִּים עַל־הָאָדָמָה אֲשֶׁר אַתֶּם עֹבְרִים אֶת־הַיַּרְדֵּן שָׁמָּה לְרִשְׁתָּהּ: (פ)</b></p> <p>...  וְעַתָּה כְּתוּבוּ לָכֶם אֶת־הַשִּׁירָה הַזֹּאת וְלַמָּדָה אֶת־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל שִׁמָּה בְּפִיהֶם לְמַעַן תִּהְיֶה־לִּי הַשִּׁירָה הַזֹּאת לְעֵד בְּבִנְיַי יִשְׂרָאֵל:  כִּי־אֲבִיאֲנֹו אֶל־הָאָדָמָה אֲשֶׁר־נִשְׁבַּעְתִּי לְאַבְתָּיו זִבַת חֶלֶב וְדָבָשׁ וְאָכְלוּ וְשָׂבְעוּ וְדָשְׁנוּ וַיִּפְּנֶה אֶל־אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים וַיַּעֲבֹדוּם וַיִּנְאַצּוּנִי וְהִפָּר אֶת־בְּרִיתִי:  וְהָיָה כִּי־תִמְצָאוּ אֹתוֹ רָעוֹת רַבּוֹת וְצָרוֹת וְעָנְתָה הַשִּׁירָה הַזֹּאת לְפָנָיו לְעֵד כִּי לֹא תִשְׁכַּח מִפִּי זִרְעוֹ כִּי יִדְעַתִּי אֶת־יָצְרוֹ אֲשֶׁר הוּא עֹשֶׂה הַיּוֹם בְּטַרְם אֲבִיאֲנֹו אֶל־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּעְתִּי:  ...  וַיְהִי אִ כְּכֹלֹת מֹשֶׁה לְכַתֵּב אֶת־דְּבָרֵי הַתּוֹרָה־הַזֹּאת עַל־סֵפֶר עֵד תְּמִים:  וַיֹּצֵא מֹשֶׁה אֶת־הַלּוּיִם נֹשְׂאֵי אֲרוֹן בְּרִית־יְהוָה לֵאמֹר: לָקַח אֵת סֵפֶר הַתּוֹרָה הַזֶּה וְשַׁמְתֶּם אֹתוֹ מִצַּד אֲרוֹן בְּרִית־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיכֶם וְהָיָה־שָׁם בְּךָ לְעֵד:  כִּי אֲנֹכִי יִדְעַתִּי אֶת־מַרְיָדָה וְאֶת־עֲרֻפָּתָה הַקָּשָׁה הִן בְּעוֹדְנִלְ חַי עִמָּכֶם הַיּוֹם מִמָּרִים הֵיטֶם עִם־יְהוָה וְאִף כִּי־אֲחֲרָי מוֹתִי:  הַקְהִילוּ אֵלַי אֶת־כָּל־זִקְנֵי שְׁבִטֵיכֶם וְשַׁטְרֵיכֶם וְאָדְבָרָה בְּאָזְנֵיהֶם אֵת הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה וְאֶעֱיִדָה בָּם אֶת־הַשְּׁמִים וְאֶת־הָאָרֶץ:</p>

Well I know how defiant and stiffnecked you are: even now, while I am still alive in your midst, you have been defiant toward the LORD; how much more, then, when I am dead!

**Gather to me all the elders of your tribes and your officials, that I may speak all these words to them and that I may call heaven and earth to witness against them.**

### Opening salutation of a letter from Suppiluliumas II to Ammurapi

No[w you belong] to the Sun, your lord; You are [his serva]nt, his treasure (*sglth.at*). Now, [how is it that] you do not acknowledge (*yd'm.lyd't*) the Sun, your lord? Why have you not come to me, the Sun, your lord, for one year, for two years?

