

# Covenant Treaty Form

## A Comparison of Two Hittite Treaties and the Exodus Covenant

Covenant Element	Treaty of Mursilis II of Hatti and Niqmepa of Ugarit	Treaty of Muwatallis and Alaksandus of Wilusa	Exodus
<b>1. Parties to Covenant:</b> parties identified, speaker introduced	Thus says the Sun, Mursilis, [Great King], King of Hatti. (RS 17.353, + RS 17.338, RS 17.407)	These are the words of the Sun, Muwatallis, the Great King, King of the land of Hatti, Beloved of the Weather-God... (§1.I.B 1-2)	I, the Lord, am your God ... (20:2a)
<b>2. Historical prologue:</b> list of past favors	As for you, Niqmepa, [ <i>I brought you back</i> to your country] and made you sit as king on the throne of your father. . (source as above)	When, in former times Labarnas, my grandfather, <i>attacked</i> the land of Wilusa, he conquered (it)... The Land of Wilusa never after fell away from the land of Hatti, but ... remained friends with the king of Hatti. (§2.I.B 2-8)	... who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery (20:2b)
<b>3. Stipulations:</b> obligations of vassal	<p>The country to <i>which</i> [<i>I brought you back</i>] and you, Niqmepa, along with your country, you are my servants, [and you, Niqmepa, from] now on into the days of the future shall be faithful to the king of Hatti, [your Lord, and the land of Hatti,] and as you, Niqmepa, hold your person, [your wi]fe, your ar[my] and your country dear, [so shall the person of] the king, the sons of the king and the land of Hatti be forever [dear to you.] In days to come keep this [pact] of friendship with the king of Hatti, the sons of the king, [the grandsons of the king] and with Hatti!</p> <p>Now [...] come before the king at the appointed time! When I summon you to the court, [come!] And if you keep not the appointed time of your coming, [report to me what] hindered you!</p> <p>[To my friend] you are fr[iend and] to my enemy you are enemy. [If the king of Hatti is engaged with] Hanigalbat or [Egypt or the border of your country, which] are enemies of the king of Hatti, [or any of the countries which are near the border of your country which are friends] of the king of Hatti, (<i>Mukish</i> , Aleppo, Nuhassi, tur)n about and [make war on the king of Hatti as the king of Hatti is setting out] on campaign, [then, if you, Niqmepa, with your army (and) your chariots be not faithful with] all your heart [and if you do not] do battle [with all your heart, and if the son of the king or the chief general with his army and his chariots], Niqmepa, [...against another country I send] you [in a campaign...].</p> <p><i>Fragments of various stipulations follow. (source as above, + RS 17.374)</i></p>	<p>You, Alaksandus, shall protect the Sun as a friend! (§6.I.A 65-7)</p> <p>...If anyone says an unfriendly word about the Sun and you keep it secret from the Sun ... then you, Alaksandus, sin before the oath of the gods; let the oath of the gods harry you! (§16.III.26-30)</p>	<p>You shall not have other gods besides me. You shall no carve idols for yourselves in the shape of anything in the sky above or on the earth below or in the waters beneath the earth; you shall not bow down before them or worship them....</p> <p>You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain. For the Lord will not leave unpunished him who takes his name in vain.</p> <p>Remember to keep holy the sabbath day. Six days you may labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord, your God. No work may be done then either by you, or your son or daughter, or your male or female slave, or your beast, or by the alien who lives with you. In six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the Lord has blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.</p> <p>Honor your father and your mother, that you may have a long life in the land which the Lord, your God, is giving you.</p> <p>You shall not kill. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male or female slave, nor his ox or ass, nor anything else that belongs to him. (20:3-17; cf. 20:23–23:17)</p>
<b>4. Document:</b> directive for preservation & public reading of treaty	-----	Moreover, let someone read you this tablet which I have made for you three times every year. (§19.III.73-4)	-----
<b>5. Witnesses</b> (deities in Hittite treaties; none specified in early Isr a-elite covenant treaty)	<p><i>Fragmentary lists of gods, naming among other divinities the Sea, the Heavens, the gods of the Habiru, Telepinus.</i> (RS 17.338, 449B, 353, 450)</p> <p>(The gods listed) are wit[nesses to] this [sworn] treaty, every word of the sworn treaty which this tablet records.</p>	The Sun God of heaven, lord of the lands, Shepherd of men, the Sun Goddess of Arinna, the Queen of the lands, the Weather-God... (§20.IV.1-30)	-----
<b>6. Curses &amp; Blessings</b>	<p>If Niq[mepa does] not [keep the words of this sworn trea]ty, [may these divine oaths destroy] Niqmepa himself utterly together with his wife, his sons, his city, his country and all his possessions.</p> <p>But if Niqmepa keeps the words of the sworn [treaty] which this tablet [records, then may the divine oaths] keep him together with his wife, his sons, [his city, his country and] all his possessions. (source as above)</p>	<p>If you, Alaksandus, break the words of this document which are placed on this document, then may these oaths wipe you out... and wipe your seed from the face of the earth.</p> <p>But if you keep these words, then may the thousand gods...keep you, your wife, your sons...with friendly hand. (§21.IV.31.46)</p>	For I, the Lord, your God, am a jealous God, inflicting punishment for their fathers' wickedness on the children of those who hate me, down to the third and fourth generation; but bestowing mercy down to the thousandth generation, on the children of those who love me and keep my commandments. (20:5-6 general; 23:20-31 specific)
<b>7. Ratification Ceremony</b> (#4 in narrative)			<i>Reading of covenant, acclamation of people, sacrifice, ritual meal (24:3-12)</i>

The Treaty of Mursilis II of Hatti and Niqmepa of Ugarit was originally published by J. Nougayrol et al., *Mission de Ras Shamra IX. Le Palais royal d'Ugarit* (Paris, 1956) IV. 84ff; reprinted in Dennis J. McCarthy, *Treaty and Covenant* (AnBib 21A; Rome: Biblical Institute Press, 1981) 301-302. The Treaty of Muwatallis and Alaksandus of Wilusa was originally published by J. Friedrich, *Staatsverträge des Hatti-Reiches in hethitischer Sprache*, MVAG 31 (1926) 1-181, 34 (1930) 1-22884ff; reprinted in McCarthy, 1-2. For both Hittite treaties, restorations are usually based on other Hittite treaties with Syrian states. The translation of Exodus is from the *Catholic Study Bible* (NAB translation).