Annotated Bibliography for
Wendt Faculty Seminar, Spring 2007

A ROYAL SETTING FOR THE GOLDEN RULE(S)


The Fifth Edition of the most well-known introductory text in English for the last half-century for college, university, and seminary courses in Old Testament. This is a brand new, lavishly illustrated edition in paperback (cost ca. $72). Its complete bibliography has 713 numbered and annotated entries, fifteen of which (#’s 296—310) are on Covenant and Law by recognized scholars dating from 1954 through 1997 but mostly from the 1960’s. It treats Mendenhall’s work briefly and highlights the bibliography and issues in the presentation for this Wendt paper outline.


A fine summary of mainline Ancient Near Eastern studies in relation to the Exodus from Egypt and the Covenant (Suzerainty Treaty basics) and law and ethics of ancient Israel at the foundation of the Judeo-Christian tradition. See especially chs. 8 & 9, “The Exodus from Egypt” and “The Covenant and Journey to Canaan,” pp. 155—194. This inexpensive (ca. $17) paperback can be used for college and seminary introductory courses as well as for adult education in the church.


Usually considered the first, best and most authoritative work on the Dead Sea Scrolls (1947 and following years), here the renowned scholar of the “Albright School,” Professor Cross of Harvard, chronicles the community’s literature and way of life from ca. 175 B.C. to ca. 69 A.D. when it fell in Rome. This is important to section IV in the Wendt outline paper.


By a highly acclaimed Professor of Near Eastern Studies at Hopkins, “home” of the “Albright School,” and a Holy Land archaeologist, this paperback gives easy access to the history of Covenant in its many legal forms in the Ancient Near East. He presents “the influence of the ancient treaty forms on the concept of covenant and the varying forms that underlie the history of the idea from the Old
Testament periods to the time of the Essenes [Dead Sea Scrolls] and early Christians” [from the back cover], a comprehensive study.


Boadt recommends this book as a “good overview of the elements in ancient covenant thinking.” Written by a Roman Catholic scholar and published by the main Presbyterian textbook press, this is a helpful resource for ecumenical presentations.


By a highly acclaimed scholar at the University of Michigan, of the “Albright School,” published as first and most outstanding article on the Hittite Suzerainty Treaty, its form and implications for the biblical covenant at the time of Moses.

In Mendenhall’s own words, “the covenant between Israel and Yahweh…was an event which had a definite historical setting.” Scholars can confirm the issue of “the origin of that sense of law, justice, morality and ethic which is so inseparable from the religion.” “This is the suzerainty treaty by which a great king bound his vassals to faithfulness and obedience to himself.” [Quotes from p. 25 of the pamphlet.]

These are “international covenants…from the Hittite Empire, 1450—1200 B.C.” [p.27.]

Mendenhall gives the covenant form with sections and the biblical parallels.


Mendenhall’s more publicly known, classic presentation of the various kinds of covenants in the Bible now with Ancient Near Eastern archaeological and historical background. Here he deals with terminology in the O.T., N.T., LXX, “secular,” “parity,” patron, promissory, Mosaic, Joshua, Josiah, Ezra, post-biblical Judaism and New Testament. The relationship of Covenant to the massive field of law and ethics in the Bible is presented in clear and uncomplicated discussion.

A summary article essentially by Mendenhall deftly encapsulating fifty years of scholarship on the theme of the Suzerainty Treaty in the biblical research with the theological implications. This article has a fine bibliography at the conclusion.

The Mendenhall studies are the essential foundation for my Wendt Faculty Seminar outline paper, especially sections I & II.


A supplementary article to the 1986-7 year-long women’s Bible study on Covenant entitled “Remember and Go Forth: God’s Covenant with the Community of Faith.” This is a brief introduction to the Suzerainty Treaty with its theological implications. The magazine is published by United Presbyterian Women and used in their yearly Bible studies in congregational circles.


An article on God’s forgiveness of repentant David and the question of succession among heirs in the section of the Bible sometimes designated “The Court History of David” (II Samuel 9—10 and I Kings 1 & 2). See section III in the Wendt outline paper.


For adult education in the church, this set of helps deals with issues of law and covenant especially in Matthew, as well as Luke’s purpose of mission as mentioned in the Introduction to the Wendt outline paper. It also provides basic background for section V concerning Jesus’ baptism, the theme of the Kingdom of God, Davidic Messiah, Son of Man, Passover and crucifixion & resurrection passages. The Appendix contains a history of biblical interpretation and a number of book reviews about the life of Jesus, plus archaeologically influenced interpretations of the churches for whom the gospel were written.


For the full translation in English of the treaties, see this classic resource. Section I in the Wendt outline paper.

Two great biblical scholars publish their Old & New Testament Introduction course material. Note especially G.E. Wright’s “God Makes the People a Nation: The Covenant (Exodus 19—Numbers 26)” pp. 84—98.


The stunning scholarly presentation of the Lawsuit form obviously employed by biblical prophets when the Covenant was broken. Its parts are found in the Suz. Treaty. See section III in Wendt program