

Deuteronomy:  
Blueprint of  
the Covenant

# Leaving Egypt Behind

It was fun... but more importantly,

hopefully having some practical application to today, and

Hopefully relevant to your understanding of your family history in the Covenantal family

# On Covenants

Mother

Family

“a female parent”

-Merriam Webster

“a group of people who are related to each other”

-Merriam Webster

# Unity of Covenants

Continuity of the Covenant with Abraham  
God remembered his Covenant with Abraham

Exodus 2:24

“And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.”

The Mosaic Covenant is part of a unified structure with God’s Covenant with Abraham

All of the “Covenants” are part of a unified whole structure

# Unity of Covenants

Exodus 6:4-8

2 God spoke to Moses and said to him, “I am the Lord. 3 I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by my name the Lord I did not make myself known to them. 4 I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they lived as sojourners. 5 Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the people of Israel whom the Egyptians hold as slaves, and **I have remembered my covenant**. 6 Say **therefore** to the people of Israel, ‘I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment. 7 **I will take you to be my people**, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the Lord your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. 8 I will bring you into the land that **I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob**. I will give it to you for a possession. I am the Lord.’”

# Insight from Hittite Covenants

We have over 30 Hittite treaties written in 7 languages

Sumerian, Akkadian, Hattic (pre-Hittite), Hittite, Luwian, Palaic, Hurrian

Provide insights into late 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium Covenant treaties  
Parity treaties, Vassal-suzerainty treaties, land grant treaties



# Two Hittite Covenants

- 1) Treaty Covenant between King Mursilis and Duppi-Tessub Of Amurru

<http://jewishchristianlit.com/Topics/Contracts/treato1.html#MnD1>

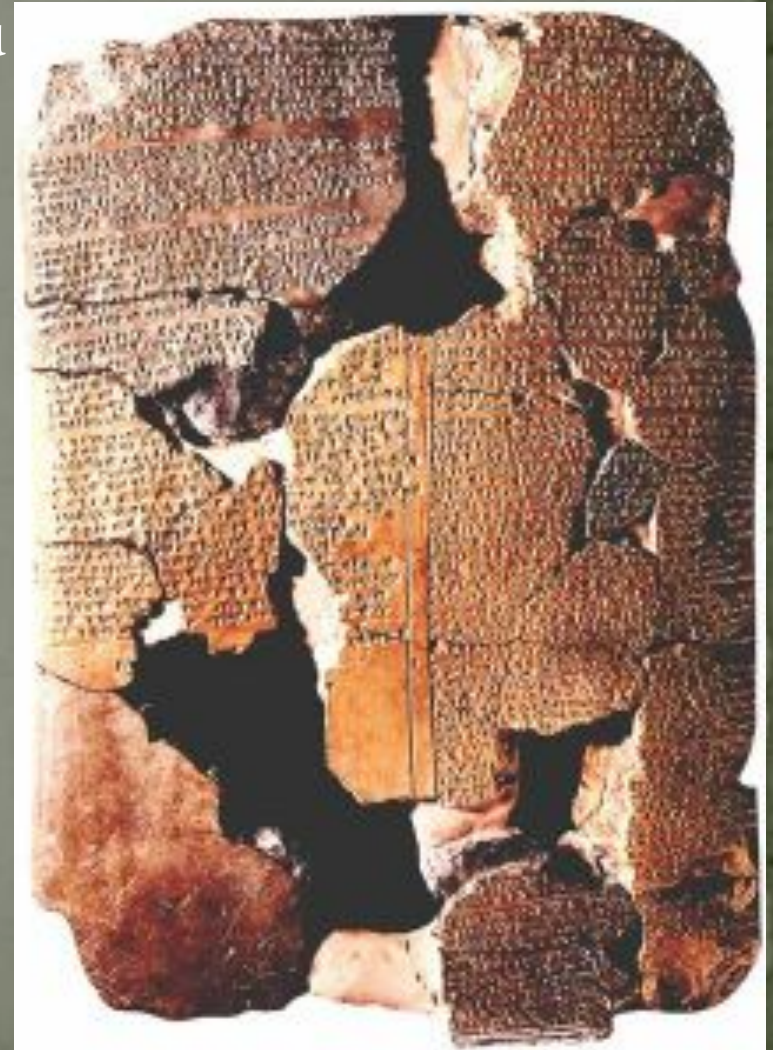
- 2) Treaty Covenant between:  
Muwattalli II, King of Hatti  
(Hatti = Hittites)  
and  
Alakshandu, ruler of Wilusa  
*Treaty found at Bogaz-koy, Turkey*

Where is Wilusa?

*u-i-lu-sa* (as written in Hittite)  
many scholars identify as...

*Ilios*, as in *The Iliad*

= Troy, as in Trojan War



*Tablet of Hatti-Walusa Treaty*

# Hatti and Troy





# Covenantal Structure

Normal sections of a covenant treaty, as in Hittite treaties

- Preamble
  - Historical introduction
  - Provisions (Obligations)
    - e.g. military support when needed
    - extradition of fugitives, etc.
  - Blessings for keeping the treaty
  - Curses for violating
  - Public Proclamation: Often but not always
  - Deposition of a master copy in the temple of the vassal's god
  - Witnesses: List of divine witnesses
- (Sealing by oath and ritual sacrifices)

*(Bible in the British Museum, 40)*

# Structure of Deuteronomy

Deuteronomy gives an account of the Covenant Treaty between God and Israel.

Preamble: Deut. 1:1-5

Historical introduction: 1:6-3:29

Provisions (Obligations): 4:5-11; 12:1-26:19

Blessings: 28:1-14

Curses: 28:15-68

Public Proclamation: 31:10-13, see also Joshua 8:34-35

Deposition: 31:9, 24-26

Witnesses: 31:16 – 32:47

# Preamble

## 1) Mursilis of Hatti - Duppi-Tessub of Amurru Covenant

These are the words of the Sun Mursilis, the great king, the king of the Hatti land, the valiant, the favorite of the Storm-god, the son of Suppiluliumas, the great king, the king of the Hatti land, the valiant:

## 2) Muwattalli of Hatti – Alakshandu of Wilusa Covenant

As follows his Majesty Muwattalli, Great King, [King] of the land of Hattusa, Favourite of the Weather God of Lightning, Son of Mursilis [II], the Great King, the Hero:

# Preamble

**Deut. 1:1-5**

**Where:**

*beyond the Jordan in the wilderness, in the Arabah opposite Suph, between Paran and Tophel, Laban, Hazeroth, and Dizahab. It is eleven days' journey from Horeb by the way of Mount Seir to Kadesh-barnea.*

**When:**

*In the fortieth year, on the first day of the eleventh month*

**What:**

*Moses spoke to the people of Israel according to all that the Lord had given him in commandment to them*

**Circumstance:**

*after he had defeated Sihon the king of the Amorites, who lived in Heshbon, and Og the king of Bashan, who lived in Ashtaroth and in Edrei.*

# Historical Introduction

## 1) Mursilis of Hatti - Duppi-Tessub of Amurru Covenant

Aziras was the grandfather of you, Duppi- Tessub. He rebelled against my father, but submitted again to my father... When my father became god and I seated myself on the throne of my father, Aziras behaved toward me just as he had behaved toward my father... When your father died, in accordance with your father's word I did not drop you. Since your father had mentioned to me your name with great praise, I sought after you. To be sure, you were sick and ailing, but although you were ailing, I, the Sun, put you in the place of your father and took your brothers (and) sisters and the Amurru land in oath for you.

# Historical Introduction

## 2) Muwattalli of Hatti – Alakshandu of Wilusa Covenant

Once upon a time, the labarna, my forebear, had subdued the entire land of Arzawa and the entire land of Wilussa. Later the land of Arzawa waged war for that reason; however, I know, since the event lies far back in the past, no king of the land of Hattusa from which the land of Wilussa has seceded. Yet even if the land of Wilussa has seceded from the land of Hattusa, close ties of friendship were maintained from a distance with the kings of the land of Hattusa and envoys sent regularly to them.

# Historical Introduction

Deut. 1:6-3:29

God's command to enter Canaan

Leaders appointed

Spies sent into Canaan

The people refuse to obey and enter Canaan

The penalty for Israel's rebellion

The wilderness years

Defeat of King Sihon

Defeat of King Og

Israel prepares to cross over into Canaan

Moses forbidden to cross over into Canaan

# Provisions (Obligations)

## 1) Mursilis of Hatti - Duppi-Tessub of Amurru Covenant

When I, the Sun, sought after you in accordance with your father's word and put you in your father's place, I took you in oath for the king of the Hatti land, the Hatti land, and for my sons and grandsons. So honor the oath (of loyalty) to the king and the king's king and I, the king, will be loyal toward you, Duppi- Tessub. When you take a wife, and when you beget an heir, he shall be king in the Amurru land likewise. And just as I shall be loyal toward you, even so shall I be loyal toward your son. But you, Duppi-Tessub, remain loyal toward the king of the Hatti land, the Hatti land, my sons (and) my grandsons forever! The tribute which was imposed upon your grandfather and your father— they presented 300 shekels of good, refined first-class gold weighed with standard weights— you shall present them likewise. Do not turn your eyes to anyone else! Your fathers presented tribute to Egypt; you [shall not do that!]



# Provisions (Obligations)

## 1) Mursilis of Hatti - Duppi-Tessub of Amurru Covenant

Military Alliance Clauses: Loyalty, military service clauses, Mutual military assistance and defense, Arrest and extradition of enemies and fugitives, Mutual aid to travelers / traders

### Examples:

As I, the Sun, am loyal toward you, do you extend military help to the Sun and the Hatti land. If an evil rumor originates in the Hatti land that someone is to rise in revolt against the Sun and you hear it, leave with your foot soldiers and your charioteers and go immediately to the aid of the king of the Hatti land! But if you are not able to leave yourself, dispatch either your son or your brother together with your foot soldiers (and) your charioteers to the aid of the king of the Hatti land! If you do not dispatch your son (or) your brother with your foot soldiers (and) your charioteers to the aid of the king of the Hatti land, you act in disregard of the gods of the oath.

If anyone utters words unfriendly toward the king of the Hatti land before you, Duppi-Tessub, you shall not withhold his name from the king.

# Provisions (Obligations)

Deut. 4:5-11

Deut. 12:1-26:19

See, I have taught you statutes and rules, as the Lord my God commanded me, that you should do them in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples... **Deut. 4:5-6**

These are the statutes and rules that you shall be careful to do in the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, has given you to possess, all the days that you live on the earth...

Deut. 12:1

# Witnesses

## 1) Mursilis of Hatti - Duppi-Tessub of Amurru Covenant

[The Sun-god of Heaven, the Sun-goddess of Arinna, the Storm-god of Heaven, the Hattian Storm-god, Seris (and) Hurris Mount Nanni (and) Mount Hazzi, the Storm-god of [ . . . ], the Storm-god of Halab, the Storm-god of Zippalanda, the Storm-god of Nerik, the Storm-god of Lihzina, the Storm-god of Hissashapa, the Storm-god of Sabina, the Storm-god of Tahaya, the Storm-god of Bettiyarik, the Storm-god of Samuha, the Storm-god of Hurma, the Storm-god of Saressa, the Storm-god of . . . , the Storm-god of Uda, the Storm-god of Kizzuwatna, the Storm-god of Ishupitta, the Storm-god of Nuhassi; the Patron-god, the Hattian Patron-god, Zithariyas, Hapantalliyas, the Patron-god of Karahna, the Patron-god of the shield, Ea, Allatum, Telepinus of Durmitta, Telepinus of Tawiniya, Telepinus of Hanhana, Ishtar the Mighty, Askasepas;

...

# Witnesses

## 1) Mursilis of Hatti - Duppi-Tessub of Amurru Covenant

Sin, lord of the oath, Ishara, queen of the oath, Hebat, queen of heaven, Ishtar, Ishtar of the battlefield, Ishtar of Nineveh, Ishtar of Hattarina, Ninatta (and) ] Kulitta, the Hattian Warrior-god, the Warrior-god of Ellaya, the Warrior-god of Arziya, Yarris, Zampanas; Hantidassus of Hurma, Abaras of Samuhas, Katahhas of Ankuwa, the Queen of Katapa, Ammammas of Tahurpa, Hallaras of Dunna, Huwassanas of Hupisna, Tapisuwa of Ishupitta, the "Lady" of Landa, Kunniyawannis of Landa, NIN.PISAN.PISAN of Kinza, Mount Lablana, Mount Sariyana, Mount Pisaisa, the Lulahhi gods (and) the Hapiri gods, Ereskigal, the gods and goddesses of the Hatti land, the gods and goddesses of Amurru land, all the olden gods, Naras, Napsaras, Minki, Tuhusi, Ammunki, Ammizadu, Allalu, Anu, Antu, Apantu, Ellil, Ninlil, the mountains, the rivers, the springs, the great Sea, heaven and earth, the winds (and) the clouds—let these be witnesses to this treaty and to the oath.

# Witnesses, Blessings, Curses

## 1) Mursilis of Hatti - Duppi-Tessub of Amurru Covenant

*A lengthy list of witnessing gods precedes the curses and blessings*

### **Curses**

The words of the treaty and the oath that are inscribed on this tablet—should Duppi-Tessub not honor these words of the treaty and the oath, may these gods of the oath destroy Duppi-Tessub together with his person, his wife, his son, his grandson, his house, his land and together with everything that he owns.

### **Blessings**

But if Duppi-Tessub honors these words of the treaty and the oath that are inscribed on this tablet, may these gods of the oath protect him together with his person, his wife, his son, his grandson, his house (and) his country.

# Blessings

Deut. 28:1-14

“And if you faithfully obey the voice of the Lord your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. 2 And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the Lord your God...”

Deut. 28:1-2

# Curses

Deut. 28:15-68

“But if you will not obey the voice of the Lord your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you...”

**Deut. 28:15**

“All these curses shall come upon you and pursue you and overtake you till you are destroyed, because you did not obey the voice of the Lord your God, to keep his commandments and his statutes that he commanded you...”

Deut. 28:45

“And the Lord will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods of wood and stone, which neither you nor your fathers have known...”

Deut. 28:64

# Public Proclamation

## 2) Muwattalli of Hatti – Alakshandu of Wilusa Covenant

“...this tablet which I have made for you, Alakshandu, shall be read out before you three times a year, and you, Alakshandu, shall know it.”

(column III, lines 73-75;

T.C. Mitchell, *Bible in the British Museum*, 40)



# Public Proclamation

Deut. 31:10-13

10 And Moses commanded them, “At the end of every seven years, at the set time in the year of release, at the Feast of Booths, 11 when all Israel comes to appear before the Lord your God at the place that he will choose, you shall read this law before all Israel in their hearing. 12 Assemble the people, men, women, and little ones, and the sojourner within your towns, that they may hear and learn to fear the Lord your God, and be careful to do all the words of this law, 13 and that their children, who have not known it, may hear and learn to fear the Lord your God, as long as you live in the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess.”

# Public Proclamation

Joshua 8:34-35

And afterward he [Joshua] read all the words of the law, the blessing and the curse, according to all that is written in the Book of the Law. There was not a word of all that Moses commanded that Joshua did not read before all the assembly of Israel, and the women, and the little ones, and the sojourners who lived among them.

See also:

II Kings 23:1-3

King Josiah's public proclamation

Nehemiah 8:1-3

Nehemiah's public proclamation

# Deposition

## 2) Muwattalli of Hatti – Alakshandu of Wilusa Covenant

Master copies, possibly inscribed on bronze or silver

One copy in Hatti, one in Wilusa

Likely deposited in the temples of the cities' principal gods

(T.C. Mitchell, *Bible in the British Museum*, 40)

# Deposition

Deut. 31:9, 24-26

When Moses had finished writing the words of this law in a book to the very end, Moses commanded the Levites who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord, “Take this Book of the Law and put it by the side of the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, that it may be there for a witness against you.

Deut. 31:24-26

# Deposition

There was no temple in which to deposit the written Covenant [Deuteronomy] during Moses' time, so they kept it with the Ark of the Covenant and put it in the temple when built by Solomon. This deposited Covenant is what was later found and read by Josiah in the 7th Century BC when they found the Book of the Covenant in the temple during renovations.

II Kings 22-23

# Deposition

II Kings 22:8 – 23:3

8 And Hilkiah the high priest said to Shaphan the secretary, “I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the Lord.” ... 10 Then Shaphan the secretary told the king, “Hilkiah the priest has given me a book.” And Shaphan read it before the king. 11 When the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, he tore his clothes...

23:1-3 Then the king sent, and all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem were gathered to him. 2 And the king went up to the house of the Lord, and with him all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem and the priests and the prophets, all the people, both small and great. And he read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant that had been found in the house of the Lord. 3 And the king stood by the pillar and made a covenant before the Lord, to walk after the Lord and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people joined in the covenant.

# Witnesses

## 1) Mursilis of Hatti - Duppi-Tessub of Amurru Covenant

[The Sun-god of Heaven, the Sun-goddess of Arinna, the Storm-god of Heaven, the Hattian Storm-god, Seris (and) Hurris Mount Nanni (and) Mount Hazzi, the Storm-god of [ . . . ], the Storm-god of Halab, the Storm-god of Zippalanda, the Storm-god of Nerik, the Storm-god of Lihzina, the Storm-god of Hissashapa, the Storm-god of Sabina, the Storm-god of Tahaya, the Storm-god of Bettiyarik, the Storm-god of Samuha, the Storm-god of Hurma, the Storm-god of Saressa, the Storm-god of . . . , the Storm-god of Uda, the Storm-god of Kizzuwatna, the Storm-god of Ishupitta, the Storm-god of Nuhassi; the Patron-god, the Hattian Patron-god, Zithariyas, Hapantalliyas, the Patron-god of Karahna, the Patron-god of the shield, Ea, Allatum, Telepinus of Durmitta, Telepinus of Tawiniya, Telepinus of Hanhana, Ishtar the Mighty, Askasepas;

...

# Witnesses

## 1) Mursilis of Hatti - Duppi-Tessub of Amurru Covenant

Sin, lord of the oath, Ishara, queen of the oath, Hebat, queen of heaven, Ishtar, Ishtar of the battlefield, Ishtar of Nineveh, Ishtar of Hattarina, Ninatta (and) ] Kulitta, the Hattian Warrior-god, the Warrior-god of Ellaya, the Warrior-god of Arziya, Yarris, Zampanas; Hantidassus of Hurma, Abaras of Samuhas, Katahhas of Ankuwa, the Queen of Katapa, Ammammas of Tahurpa, Hallaras of Dunna, Huwassanas of Hupisna, Tapisuwa of Ishupitta, the "Lady" of Landa, Kunniyawannis of Landa, NIN.PISAN.PISAN of Kinza, Mount Lablana, Mount Sariyana, Mount Pisaisa, the Lulahhi gods (and) the Hapiri gods, Ereskigal, the gods and goddesses of the Hatti land, the gods and goddesses of Amurru land, all the olden gods, Naras, Napsaras, Minki, Tuhusi, Ammunki, Ammizadu, Allalu, Anu, Antu, Apantu, Ellil, Ninlil, the mountains, the rivers, the springs, the great Sea, heaven and earth, the winds (and) the clouds—let these be witnesses to this treaty and to the oath.



# Witnesses

Deut. 31:16 – 32:47

19 “Now therefore write this song and teach it to the people of Israel. Put it in their mouths, **that this song may be a witness for me against the people of Israel.** 20 For when I have brought them into the land flowing with milk and honey, which I swore to give to their fathers, and they have eaten and are full and grown fat, they will turn to other gods and serve them, and despise me and break my covenant. 21 And when many evils and troubles have come upon them, **this song shall confront them as a witness** (for it will live unforgotten in the mouths of their offspring). For I know what they are inclined to do even today, before I have brought them into the land that I swore to give.” 22 So Moses wrote this song the same day and taught it to the people of Israel...

30 Then Moses spoke the words of this song until they were finished, in the ears of all the assembly of Israel:

Deut. 31:19-22, 30

# Witnesses

Deut. 31:16 – 32:47

24 When Moses had finished writing the words of this law in a book to the very end, 25 Moses commanded the Levites who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord, 26 “Take this Book of the Law and put it by the side of the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, that it may be there for a witness against you. 27 For I know how rebellious and stubborn you are. Behold, even today while I am yet alive with you, you have been rebellious against the Lord. How much more after my death! 28 Assemble to me all the elders of your tribes and your officers, that I may speak these words in their ears and call heaven and earth to witness against them. 29 For I know that after my death you will surely act corruptly and turn aside from the way that I have commanded you. And in the days to come evil will befall you, because you will do what is evil in the sight of the Lord, provoking him to anger through the work of your hands.”

Deut. 31:24-29

# God's Unique Covenant

## Deuteronomy 4

32 “For ask now of the days that are past, which were before you, since the day that God created man on the earth, and ask from one end of heaven to the other, whether such a great thing as this has ever happened or was ever heard of. 33 Did any people ever hear the voice of a god speaking out of the midst of the fire, as you have heard, and still live? 34 Or has any god ever attempted to go and take a nation for himself from the midst of another nation, by trials, by signs, by wonders, and by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, and by great deeds of terror, all of which the Lord your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes? 35 To you it was shown, that you might know that the Lord is God; there is no other besides him...

37 And **because he loved your fathers and chose their offspring after them and brought you out of Egypt** with his own presence, by his great power, 38 driving out before you nations greater and mightier than you, to bring you in, to give you their land for an inheritance, as it is this day...

# Broken Covenant Foretold

**Deut. 29:25-29**

‘Why has the Lord done thus to this land? What caused the heat of this great anger?’... ‘It is because they abandoned the covenant of the Lord, the God of their fathers, which he made with them when he brought them out of the land of Egypt, 26 and went and served other gods and worshiped them, gods whom they had not known and whom he had not allotted to them. 27 Therefore the anger of the Lord was kindled against this land, bringing upon it all the curses written in this book, 28 and the Lord uprooted them from their land in anger and fury and great wrath, and cast them into another land, as they are this day.’ 29 “The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.

# Broken Covenant Foretold

Deut. 4:27-28

27 And the Lord will **scatter you among the peoples**, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the Lord will drive you. 28 And there **you will serve gods of wood and stone**, the work of human hands, that neither see, nor hear, nor eat, nor smell.

Deut. 28:64

64 “And the Lord will **scatter you among all peoples**, from one end of the earth to the other, and there **you shall serve other gods of wood and stone**, which neither you nor your fathers have known.

# New Covenant Foretold

## Deuteronomy 4:29-31

29 But from there you will seek the Lord your God and you will find him, if you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul. 30 When you are in tribulation, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, you will return to the Lord your God and obey his voice. 31 For the Lord your God is a merciful God. **He will not leave you or destroy you or forget the covenant with your fathers that he swore to them.**

# New Covenant Foretold

Deut. 30:1-6

30 “And **when** all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the Lord your God has driven you, 2 and return to the Lord your God, you and your children, and obey his voice in all that I command you today, with all your heart and with all your soul, 3 then the Lord your God will restore your fortunes and have mercy on you, and he will **gather you again** from all the peoples where the Lord your God has scattered you. 4 If your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there the Lord your **God will gather you**, and from there he will take you. 5 And the Lord your God will bring you into the land that your fathers possessed, that you may possess it. And he will make you more prosperous and numerous than your fathers. 6 **And the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring**, so that you will love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.