

Veritas Class
The Privilege of Mission
January 24, 2016
Deuteronomy 26:16–19

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¹⁶ This very day YHWH your God commands you to observe these ordinances and judgments; so observe them diligently with all your heart and with all your being.

¹⁷ Today you have obtained the YHWH's commitment to be your God—and [you have promised] to walk in his ways, to keep his ordinances, his commands, and his judgments, and to listen to his voice.

¹⁸ Today YHWH has obtained your commitment to be his people, to be his treasured people, as he promised you, and to keep his commandments—¹⁹ and to set you high above all nations that he has made, for praise and for fame and for honor—and [you have promised] to be a people holy belonging to YHWH your God, just as he promised.

A. The Climactic Location of 26:16–19

B. The Structure of 26:16–19

1. The Opening Charge (v. 16)
2. The Covenantal Significance (vv. 17–19)
 - a. The Divine Commitment (v. 17)
 - b. The People's Commitment (vv. 18–19)

C. Interpretation of 26:16–19

17	Today you have had YHWH declare <u>to be</u> your God,	18	Today YHWH has had you declare <u>to be</u> his as a treasured people— just as he promised you,
	and <u>to walk</u> in his ways, and <u>to keep</u> his decrees, laws, and commands, and <u>to listen</u> to his voice.	19	and <u>to keep</u> all his commands, and <u>to set</u> you high above all the nations that he has made —for praise, and renown and honor— and <u>to be</u> a holy people belonging to YHWH your God— just as he promised.

Ancient Treaty Making Procedures:

1. Diplomats representing both states settled upon the terms of the agreement.
2. Representatives of each side produced a version styled as the words of the respective monarchs.
3. These versions were inscribed in cuneiform in the Akkadian language (the language of international diplomacy) on tablets of precious metal (silver in this case).
4. These tablets were exchanged and taken home.
5. The texts were translated into the native language, providing the Egyptians and Hittites respectively with constant reminders of the obligations to which the other party had bound himself.

Note the Context:

Interpretation:

1. What does it mean to be YHWH's people?
2. What does it mean to be YHWH's treasured people?
3. What does it mean to be set high above the nations?
4. What does it mean to be YHWH's holy people?

D. The Significance of 26:16–19 for Biblical Theology and for Us

1. We have been called to be the people of YHWH.
2. We have been called to be YHWH's "special treasure."
3. We have been called to be a light of God's grace to the nations.
4. We have been called to be a holy people.

