THE YAHWIST AUTHOR’S SCHEMA OF THE ABRAHAM SAGA

(Following the outline proposed by Peter Ellis, The Yahwist, Fides Press, Notre Dame)

1. Abram receives God’s Promise. Gen 12:1-3
2. Abram endangers the promise but God overcomes Abram’s lie about Sarah; foreshadows that Abram’s children will receive the land (12:7).
3. Abram endangers the promise by allowing Lot to choose the promised land; foreshadows that all land will be to Abram’s descendants (13:14-17).
5. The covenant with Abram seals the promise; foreshadows the promise of land and descendants (15:18)
6. Abram risks the promise by having a son by Hagar who is not the promised one; foreshadows a hard life for Ishmael (16:11-12).
7. God overcomes Sarah’s old age as a block to the promise; foreshadows the son to come (18:14).
8. Abram proves a powerful intercessor but cannot save idolators; foreshadows all nations bless themselves through Abraham (18:18).
9. Origins of the Moabites and Ammonites in the evil of fertility cults; foreshadows that they are not the children of promise.
10. Isaac’s sacrifice tests Abraham’s faith in the promise; foreshadows God’s further blessings of the promise (22:17-18) which sum up the full promise of Gen 12:1-3.
Reprise: the Sinaitic Covenant
Distinctive provisions of ANE suzerainty treaty: their relation to the Covenant at Sinai

1. Preamble: Identification of the treaty/covenant initiator
   Exodus 20.2a: "I am the LORD your God"

2. Historical Prologue: Description of past benefits/salvific events. Ex 20.2b: "who brought you up out of the land of Egypt..."

3. Stipulations: Obligations imposed upon the vassal/people
   Ex 20.2-17: the Decalogue (Ex 21.1 - 23.19: the Covenant Code)

4. Preservation of treaty and provision for periodic reading;
   Not in the covenant in Exodus; traces of it elsewhere (cf. Deut 10.5)

5. List of [gods as] witnesses: Not in Exodus; cf. Deut 4.26; 30.19; 31.28 (heaven & earth)

6. Cursings and Blessings: Not so explicit in Ex, but see Ex 20.5-6 and 23.20-33 (and the ritual of c & b in Deut27-28)
OUTLINE OF THE PENTATEUCH

I. Genesis
   1. Primeval History (1-11)
   2. Patriarchal History (12-50)
      a. Abraham Cycle (12.1-25.18)
      b. Jacob Cycle (25.19-36.43)
      c. Joseph Story (37-50)

II. Exodus
   1. Release from Egypt (1.1-15.21)
   2. Beginning of the Wilderness Sojourn (15.22-18.27)
      a. The Decalogue (20.1-21)
      b. The Covenant Code (20.22-23.33)
   4. Instructions concerning the Tabernacle and the Cult (25-31)
   5. Apostasy and Covenant Renewal (32-34)
   6. Execution of the Cultic Instructions (35-40)

III. Leviticus
   1. Regulations for the Cult (1-6, 27)
   2. The Holiness Code (17-26)

IV. Numbers
   1. Preparation for Departure (1.1-10.10)
   2. Sojourn at Kadesh-barnea (10.11-20.13)
      a. The Balaam Story (22-24)
      b. Cultic and Legal Matters (28-36)

V. Deuteronomy
   1. Moses' Introductory Addresses (1-11)
   2. The Deuteronomic Law (12-26)
   3. Concluding Discourses (27-30)
   4. Conclusion to the Pentateuch (31-34)
SELECTED LEGAL TEXTS IN OUTLINE

The Ten Commandments (Ex 20.2-17; Deut 5.6-21) [Cf. Ex 34.10-28]

Jewish

RC/Lutheran

Prot Texts (in Ex)

1 I am the LORD your God... (Ex 20.2)
2 You shall have no other gods... (Ex 20.3)
3 You shall not make... a graven image... with #1 (20.4-6)
4 Remember the sabbath day... (20.8-11)
5 Honor your father and your mother... (20.12)
6 You shall not kill (20.13)
7 You shall not commit adultery (20.14)
8 You shall not steal (20.15)
9 You shall not bear false witness... (20.16)
10 You shall not covet... house (20.17a)
10 You shall not covet... wife (20.17b)

The Covenant Code (Ex 20.23-23.19)

I. Law of the Altar (20.23-26)
   A. Slavery (21.2-11)
   B. Capital Crimes (21.12-17)
   C. Injury to Person by Person (21.18-27)
   D. Death of Person or Animal because of Animal (21.28-36)
   E. Theft, Damages and Ownership (22.1-15)
   F. Seduction of an Unbetrothed Woman (22.16-17)
   G. Capital Offenses against Religio-Moral Order (22.18-20)

III. Moral Commandments and Duties (22.21-23.9)

IV. Sabbatical Times and the Festival Calendar (23.10-19)
   A. Sabbatical Times (23.10-13)
   B. Festival Calendar (23.14-19)

The Deuteronomistic Law (Deut 12-26)

I. Cult and Religion (12.1-17.1)
   A. Centralizing Worship (12.2-31)
   B. Prohibiting Idolatry (13.1-18)
   C. Right Conduct of the Congregation (14.1-15.23)
   D. Festivals (16.1-17)
   E. Concerning Cult (16.21-17.1)

II. Offices and Institutions (16.18-20.26)
   A. Judges, Judgements and the King (16.18-20; 17.1-20)
   B. Priests and Right Worship (18.1-14)
   C. Prophets (18.15-22)
   D. Levitical Cities and other juridical matters (19.1-21)
   E. Rules of War (20.1-29)

III. Miscellaneous Laws (21.1-25.19)
   e.g.: unsolved killing [21.1-9]
   disposal of body of condemned criminal [21.22-23]
   restoration of lost animals [22.1-4]
   marriage to suspect virgin [22.13-20]
   escaped slaves [23.15-16]
   divorce [24.1-4]

IV. Conclusion (26.1-19)
Priestly Legislation

Exodus
A. Directions to build the tabernacle and its contents: priesthood and sacrifice (25.1 - 31.18)
B. Fulfillment of Divine Mandate (35.1 - 40.38)

Leviticus
I. Law of Sacrifice (1.1 - 7.38)
   A. Types (1.1 - 5.26)
   B. Priest and sacrifice (6.1 - 7.38)
II. Ordination (8.1 - 10.20)
III. Legal Purity (11.1 - 15.33)
IV. Day of Atonement (16.1-34)
V. Holiness Code (17. -26.46)
   A. Sacredness of Blood (17.1-16)
   B. Sacredness of Sexuality (18.1-30)
   C. Rules of Conduct (19.1-37)
   D. Penalties (20.1-27)
   E. Priestly Sanctity (21.1-24)
   F. Sacrifice (22.1-33)
   C. Liturgical Year (23.1-44)
   H. Additional Legislation (24.1-23)
   I. Holy Years (25.1-55)
   J. Sanctions (26.1-46)

VI. Additions (27)

Numbers
I. Sojourn at Sinai (1.1 - 10.16)
   A. Census of Tribes (1.1 - 4.49)
   B. Miscellaneous Laws and regulations (5.1 - 6.27)
   C. Offerings of Princes and Rules for Levites (7.1 - 8.26)
   D. Preparations for Leaving (9.1 - 10.10)

II. Post Sinai
   A. Priestly Supplements (28 - 36)