



1

Cautions and instructions concerning the land God is giving them.

- The Sabbath Year 15:1-6 (See 2 Chronicles 36:21)
 - All loans to a fellow Israelite were forgiven
 - This is one of the provisions to address poverty in Israel
 - A reminder that God will give them abundant supply if they obey His commands
- God will exalt Israel over other nations
 - Financially
 - Authoritatively

2

Cautions and instructions concerning the land God is giving them.

- Addressing poverty 15:7-18
 - God would provide for His people, but everyone would not be good stewards of that provision.
 - To not harden the heart or shut the hand was a reflection of the mercy and grace of God extended to a people who did not deserve it. This would be a sharp departure from the pagan cultures.

3

Cautions and instructions concerning the land God is giving them.

- Addressing poverty 15:7-18
 - God would provide for His people but everyone would not be good stewards of that provision.
 - Give the needy brother what he needs to get back on his feet.
 - This provision recognized that what the giver had was given to him by God
 - The reality is that there will always be people in this condition. (See John 12:8)

4

Cautions and instructions concerning the land God is giving them.

- Addressing poverty 15:7-18
 - Contracted Servitude 15:12-18
 - A system where a person enters into a binding contract to provide labor for a specified period of time often to work off a debt.
 - In this context this would suggest that this is a person who has proven over and again that he or she has not practiced good stewardship of the blessings of God and therefore must place himself or herself in the service of a person who will care for them in return for their work.

5

Cautions and instructions concerning the land God is giving them.

- Addressing poverty 15:7-18
 - Contracted Servitude 15:12-18
 - Six years was the limit a person could require one to be under such a contract.
 - At the end of the six years the person would again be given all they needed to get back on his feet hopefully after learning how be a good steward of these things.

6

Cautions and instructions concerning the land God is giving them.

- Addressing poverty 15:7-18
 - Contracted Servitude 15:12-18
 - The person himself or herself could choose to stay permanently bound in this arrangement with the person or family for whom they had worked for the six years. This was perhaps a realization that he or she would likely fall back into their old patterns if released.
 - The master had benefited from the six years of labor at the cost of room and board that was roughly half of what a regular laborer would be paid and was therefore not to grudgingly release the person.

7

Cautions and instructions concerning the land God is giving them.

- Addressing poverty 15:7-18
 - Lessons
 - The main responsibility for the people in the church body is care for the church family. This does not alleviate our responsibility to address poverty as a whole.
 - Our first thought when it comes to helping a brother or sister in Christ is to reflect on God's mercy, grace and blessings given to us.
 - The help given should be in such a manner and amount as to help the person get back to the point of economic viability.

8

Cautions and instructions concerning the land God is giving them.

- Addressing poverty 15:7-18
 - Lessons
 - It is appropriate to provide structures for accountability and growth for those who habitually practice poor stewardship of God's provisions.
 - Those who prove they are not capable or willing to practice good stewardship must realize that it may be necessary to surrender freedoms in order to live responsibly.

9

Cautions and instructions concerning the land God is giving them.

- Further instructions on firstborn male animals
 - Shall be dedicated to Yahweh
 - Work with it or profit from it was forbidden
 - Sacrificed and consumed at the place of the central sanctuary.
 - Exception is made for an animal that had any blemish.
 - Could not be sacrificed to Yahweh
 - Must be properly prepared and consumed by anyone in the town of residence.
