



1

Cautions and instructions concerning the land God is giving them.

- Prohibition of extreme measures of mourning for the dead. 14:1
 - Self-harm in the face of death reflects an inner pain arising from hopelessness.
 - God's people are His treasured possession and therefore their trust is placed in Him for the care of those who have died and the comfort of those who remain. (See 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)
 - This is another example of the opportunity the people of Israel would have to, by their actions, show the difference in a people who serve the one true and living God.

2

Cautions and instructions concerning the land God is giving them.

- Prohibition against eating unclean creatures 14:2-20
 - Mammals must pass two criteria to be eaten, they must have split hooves and chew cud.
 - Fish had to have both scales and fins. This generally prohibits the consumption of scavengers.
 - Forbidden birds also generally fall into the scavenger category.

3

Cautions and instructions concerning the land God is giving them.

- Prohibition against eating unclean creatures 14:2-20
 - Winged insects are forbidden for food (Leviticus 11:21 makes an exception for those that have jointed legs above their feet and hop on the ground.)
 - Again these were practices that would do two things:
 - Mitigate disease among God’s people (See 7:15)
 - Set God’s people apart by this distinct practice.

4

Cautions and instructions concerning the land God is giving them.

- Prohibition against eating anything that dies naturally. 14:21
 - A living thing killed for food was to be completely drained of blood. This would not be feasible for “roadkill”.
 - There is also the food safety issue of not knowing what the animal died from or how long it had been dead.

5

Cautions and instructions concerning the land God is giving them.

- Prohibition against cooking a young goat in its mother’s milk.
 - This was possibly a ritual practiced by the Canaanites and therefore prohibited for the Israelites. Exodus 23:19 and 34:26 had this same prohibition in the context of bringing offerings to Yahweh.
 - To this day, practicing Jews will not serve dairy products and meat at the same time. (Genesis 18:8 records milk and meat served at the same time during the divine visitation to Abraham)

6

Cautions and instructions concerning the land God is giving them.

- Laws concerning tithes 14:22-29
 - Each year to be brought to the central place of worship
 - If the distance made travel with the tithe of crops and animals impractical, the tithe could be sold, and the money used to purchase food and animals upon arrival at the central place of worship. (This accounts for those who were buying and selling in the temple courts in Jesus' day. What they were doing was not necessarily wrong but where they were doing it was the issue.)
 - Every three years the tithe was to be stored up in each town and shared with the Levites and the disadvantaged.

7

Cautions and instructions concerning the land God is giving them.

- Laws concerning tithes 14:22-29
 - The tithe
 - The first mention in Genesis when Abraham paid a tenth of the spoils from the rescue of Lot to Melchizedek. Genesis 14:17-20
 - Hebrews 7:1-10 makes the case that this was an expression of Abraham recognizing Melchizedek superior to him and therefore worthy of the tithe.

8

Cautions and instructions concerning the land God is giving them.

- Laws concerning tithes 14:22-29
 - The tithe
 - Jacob pledges a tenth to God of all God will give Him. Genesis 28:20-22
 - This sets the precedent for the tithe as acknowledgement of God's provision.
 - The tithe of the animals and flocks is set as every tenth animal in Leviticus 27:32
 - This sets the tithe as an act of obedience to God's command.

9

Cautions and instructions concerning the land God is giving them.

- Laws concerning tithes 14:22-29
 - The tithe
 - Malachi 3:6-12 charges that withholding the tithe is theft from God.
 - The parallel passages of Matthew 23:23 and Luke 11:42 contains Jesus' only mention of the tithe. He rebukes the Pharisees for neglecting justice and the love of God while meticulously practicing tithing. The point of this is expressed in these words, "These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others."
