



15

Cautions and instructions concerning the land God is giving them.

- Respect for life 19:1-13
 - Cities of refuge were established as “a refuge from the avenger, that the manslayer may not die until he stands before the congregation for judgment.” (Numbers 35:12)
 - The “blood avenger” was a near kinsman who would exact the sentence of death on one who had caused the death of another.
 - The city of refuge protected the person who had caused the death until a trial would be held by the community in which the person lived.

16

Cautions and instructions concerning the land God is giving them.

- Respect for life 19:1-13
 - Cities of refuge were established as “a refuge from the avenger, that the manslayer may not die until he stands before the congregation for judgment.” (Numbers 35:12)
 - If the person was found guilty of intentionally taking the life of another person, he would be handed over to the “blood avenger” for execution.
 - If the death was ruled as an accident or otherwise unintentional, the person would be returned to the city of refuge and had to live there until the death of the high priest.

17

Cautions and instructions concerning the land God is giving them.

- Respect for life 19:1-13
 - These cities of refuge were to be evenly spaced out in the territories of Israel, with new cities established as their territory increased so that the “manslayer” could reach the city without begin overtaking by the “blood avenger”.
 - Great care was to be taken to avoid the shedding of innocent blood. (Numbers 35:33; Jeremiah 22:1-17; Joel 3:19)
 - Shedding innocent blood is specifically identified as a reason of God’s judgment on Judah. 2 Kings 24:1-4

18

Lessons

- Respect for life 19:1-13
 - Human life is precious as seen in the instruction that inadvertently causing the death of another person carried serious consequences.
 - Even the life of the perpetrator was protected until the due process of law was carried out.
 - The death sentence on the person found guilty of the blatant disregard for human life by maliciously and intentionally killing another person helps establish the importance of human life.

19

Cautions and instructions concerning the land God is giving them.

- Respect for property 19:14 (see also Proverbs 22:28; 23:10; Hosea 5:10)
 - The landmark would be established at the allotment of the land by Joshua. These would be marked usually by a stone or pile of stones at the corners of the property such as we use a metal stake today.
 - Property could be easily “stolen” by incrementally moving these landmark stones over time.
 - This command establishes the right of one to own property and the responsibility of others to respect that ownership.

20

Cautions and instructions concerning the land God is giving them.

- Respect for truth and justice 19:15-21
 - The truth and justice are assured with safeguards
 - A criminal matter must be confirmed by two or more witnesses.
 - A false witness would bear the penalty he or she sought to bring against the person falsely accused.
 - The penalty must be in proportion to the crime.

21

Cautions and instructions concerning the land God is giving them.

- Restraint in warfare 20:1-20
 - These were not campaigns of conquest but response to aggression or threat.
 - The priest addressed the troops first. 20:1-4
 - Do not fear the enemy
 - Trust that God will give the victory

22

Cautions and instructions concerning the land God is giving them.

- Restraint in warfare 20:1-20
 - The officer addressed the troops to relieve anyone of duty who: 20:5-8
 - Would be distracted by unfinished business
 - Would discourage others through their fear and faintheartedness.
 - Commanders put in charge of the troops. 20:9

23

Cautions and instructions concerning the land God is giving them.

- Restraint in warfare 20:1-20
 - Attempts were to be made to render a peaceful solution 20:10-11
 - If military action became necessary restraint is to be exercised in dealing with the people, animals and objects in the city. 20:12-18
 - This was for cities outside the borders of the Promised Land since God had devoted all of these cities to utter destruction as His judgment on them for their unrepentant abominations.
 - They were not to leave the land desolate 20:19-20

24

Lessons

- There will always be the need for defense against aggressors
- That defense can extend as far as necessary to alleviate the threat.
- When faced with a threat the presence and power of God always outweighs the presence and power of the threat.
- Peaceful resolution is always preferable.
- Actions of force must remain remedial and not escalate to vengeance.

25

Lessons

- Military action is to be done under command and control.
 - The *US Department of Defense Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms* defines command and control as: "The exercise of authority and direction by a properly designated commander over assigned and attached forces in the accomplishment of the mission.
- Destruction because someone has the power to do so is never sanctioned by God.

26