



20

Cautions and instructions concerning the land God is giving them.

- Protection from the guilt of innocent blood 21:1-9
 - Jurisdiction established by physical proximity by the leaders and judges of the city.
 - Prescribed sacrifice was to be made by the leaders of the city closest to the body.
 - A heifer who had never been worked
 - Sacrifice made in an uncultivated valley with running water.
 - The heifer was killed by breaking its neck.

21

Cautions and instructions concerning the land God is giving them.

- Protection from the guilt of innocent blood 21:1-9
 - The priests were to come to preside over and witness the atonement
 - The elders of the city were to wash their hands over the heifer and declare their innocence in and ignorance of this death.
 - The purpose of these actions was to take away the guilt of innocent blood from their midst.

22

Cautions and instructions concerning the land God is giving them.

- Protection of female war captives 21:10-14
 - Such a woman could be taken as a wife
 - All vestiges of her pagan culture were to be removed
 - Given a full month to mourn those lost in the war
 - She was to be released if the husband no longer delighted in her
 - She was not to be sold as a slave or kept as a slave.
 - This would have been a very compassionate and measured treatment in contrast to the common practices by the other nations and tribes in the world.

23

Cautions and instructions concerning the land God is giving them.

- Protection of the right of the firstborn 21:15-17
 - The firstborn son had the right to receive a double portion of the father's inheritance regardless of the family dynamics.
 - This aligns with the emphasis on practicing justice and rule of law we have already seen
 - This was different from the historical precedent practiced by Jacob in giving Joseph the double portion of his blessing.
 - This is not an endorsement of polygamy but addressing situations as they were.

24

Cautions and instructions concerning the land God is giving them.

- Protection of the family 21:18-21
 - The description of this rebellious son would place him as a young adult.
 - The rebellion of this young man struck at the authority and structure of the home.
 - Due process must be followed.
 - The penalty would serve as a deterrent for others who would so blatantly disregard the family structure.

25

Cautions and instructions concerning the land God is giving them.

- Protection of human dignity 21:22-23
 - Most executions were prescribed to be carried out by stoning and there are later accounts when this is done by the sword.
 - Here and at other places where people are described as being hanged on a tree, the indication is that they are first executed and then their body hanged on a tree. (see also Joshua 10:22-27)
 - Even for those deserving of death and displayed as an example of the curse of sin, the dignity of a timely burial was afforded.

26

Cautions and instructions concerning the land God is giving them.

- Protection of human dignity 21:22-23
 - The Apostle Paul picks up on the fact that a person hanged on a tree is cursed by God in revealing that Jesus took that curse for us by his death on a cross. Galatians 3:10-13 (see also 1 Peter 2:24)
 - The terminology of Jesus "hanging on a tree" is used multiple times in the book of Acts. Acts 5:30; 10:39; 13:29

27

Cautions and instructions concerning the land God is giving them.

- Respect for the property of others 22:1-4
 - Inaction is not an option when one has the opportunity to aid a brother in recovering lost property
 - Inconvenience is not an excuse when helping a brother recover lost property

28

Cautions and instructions concerning the land God is giving them.

- Submission to God’s created order and instruction 22:5-11
 - God’s creation of male and female
 - Realize that when an instruction is given such as with the bird and its young, God is revealing the way something is to be done in the best way even though we may not know the reason behind it.
 - The worth of human life by protection from undue harm.

29

Cautions and instructions concerning the land God is giving them.

- Submission to God’s created order and instruction 22:5-11
 - The nature of God’s created order
 - Human greed would try to grow crops in a vineyard.
 - We are to pay attention to the nature of God’s creation
 - More effective work would be done with either an ox or a donkey because of their difference in strength and nature
 - Wool and linen have diametrically opposed properties and do not work well blended together
 - The teaching here is that we function best in this world when we recognize and submit to the way God has created the world.

30

Cautions and instructions concerning the land God is giving them.

- Needed reminders 22:12
 - This is a reminder of the command given in Numbers 15:
 - ³⁷ The LORD said to Moses, ³⁸ “Speak to the people of Israel, and tell them to make tassels on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and to put a cord of blue on the tassel of each corner. ³⁹ And it shall be a tassel for you to look at and remember all the commandments of the LORD, to do them, not to follow after your own heart and your own eyes, which you are inclined to whore after. ⁴⁰ So you shall remember and do all my commandments, and be holy to your God. ⁴¹ I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt to be your God: I am the LORD your God.” Numbers 15:37-41 (ESV)

31