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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)

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Modern expressions of the tassel

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- A high standard of moral purity and human dignity.
 - A wife is protected against false claims by a husband who simply wants to dissolve the marriage.
 - A husband is protected against a false claim of virginity by his wife
 - Violation of the marriage covenant, adultery, is punishable by death

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Cautions and instructions concerning the land God is giving them.

- A high standard of moral purity and human dignity.
 - Violation of the betrothal covenant between two consenting adults is punishable by death
 - Sexual assault of a betrothed woman is punishable by death
 - Sexual assault of an unbetrothed virgin results in the man paying a fine, marrying the woman with no possibility of divorce.
 - Incest forbidden.

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- Exclusions from the assembly of Yahweh
 - An emasculated man
 - This would have been a deliberate act
 - This would violate the foundational command to multiply and fill the earth. (Genesis 1:27-28; 9:1-7) The perpetuation of the nation of Israel was important. God's covenant with Abraham and confirmed with Isaac and Jacob emphasized the command to be fruitful and multiply. (Genesis 17:1-2; 22:17-18; 26:4-5; 35:9-11; 48:3-4)
 - This command helps fill in some of the blanks to the story of the Ethiopian eunuch.

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Cautions and instructions concerning the land God is giving them.

- Exclusions from the assembly of Yahweh
 - Ammonites and Moabites
 - This was a perpetual order.
 - Based on their lack of hospitality when the Israelites requested passage through their land.
 - Based further on the hostility expressed through the attempt of Balak, king of Moab, to have Balaam pronounce a curse on them.
 - God's judgment pronounced on Moab in Isaiah 15-16; Jeremiah 48; Ezekiel 25:8-11; Amos 2:1-3; Zephaniah 2:8-11
 - God's judgment pronounce on Ammon in Jeremiah 49:1-6; Ezekiel 25:1-7; Amos 1:13-15; Zephaniah 2:8-11

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Cautions and instructions concerning the land God is giving them.

- Exclusions from the assembly of Yahweh
 - Ammonites and Moabites
 - Ruth is a notable exception to this exclusion. As the wife of Boaz, she became the great-grandmother of David and is specifically named in the genealogy of Jesus. (see Ruth 4:18-21; Matthew 1:5-6)

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- Those to be specifically accepted into the assembly of Yahweh
 - Edomites since Esau was the brother of Jacob (Israel).
 - Egyptians because the Israelites resided in their land
 - These were accepted in the third generation
 - It may be observed that it is usually the third generation when a person is most fully assimilated into a new culture.

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Cautions and instructions concerning the land God is giving them.

- Matters of hygiene
 - Social distancing is nothing new but here it is the person with the issue that separates from the healthy population.
 - The phrase “cleanliness is next to Godliness” is traced to a sermon by John Wesley in 1778. Although the phrase is not used in the Bible passage like this connect matters of hygiene to holiness.

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- Matters of hygiene
 - The practice of covering human waste was also a reminder that God walked among them and was the One who provided victory over their enemies.
 - Disease born by unsanitary conditions would run rapidly through an encamped army. There is ample historical evidence of dysentery, which is brought on by unsanitary conditions, plaguing armies during long sieges and sometimes affecting the outcome of the campaign.

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- People are to be treated as people, not property. 23:15-16
 - Note the stark contrast to 22:1-4 as to the treatment of a lost animal or other piece of property.
 - The escaped slave was to be welcomed and protected.

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Cautions and instructions concerning the land God is giving them.

- Any aspect of sexual immorality related to worship in Israel is abhorrent to God 23:17-18
 - Immoral sexual practices connected to worship
 - Proceeds from sexual immorality used as an offering
- The land of Canaan was rife with religions of fertility cults. The actual function of a cult prostitute is not well documented but there is a clear connection between their activity and the rituals of the fertility cults.
- The bottom line is that no inkling of these practices were to be a part of the practice of God's people.

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Cautions and instructions concerning the land God is giving them.

- Guidelines for ministry and business 23:19-20
 - Making a profit from helping a fellow Israelite was forbidden
 - Making a profit from a business transaction with a non-Israelite was permitted.

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Cautions and instructions concerning the land God is giving them.

- Making and fulfilling promises to God (vows). 23:21-23
 - Promises of offerings or service to God were required to be fulfilled
 - Vows were made by a person of his or her own free will and were not required.

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- Respect and responsibility 23:24-25
 - A landowner with crops accepted the responsibility to support the people of his community by allowing people to eat their fill from his crops.
 - The people of the community were to respect the property of the landowner by not taking more than they could eat at one time.
