

RUN TO THE CITY

Jos 20:1 The LORD also spake unto Joshua, saying,

Jos 20:2 Speak to the children of Israel, saying, **Appoint out for you cities of refuge, whereof I spake unto you by the hand of Moses:**

Jos 20:3 That the slayer that killeth *any* person unawares *and* unwittingly may flee thither: and they shall be your refuge from the avenger of blood.

Jos 20:4 And when he that doth flee unto one of those cities shall stand at the entering of the gate of the city, and shall declare his cause in the ears of the elders of that city, they shall take him into the city unto them, and give him a place, that he may dwell among them.

Jos 20:5 And if the avenger of blood pursue after him, then they shall not deliver the slayer up into his hand; because he smote his neighbour unwittingly, and hated him not beforetime.

Jos 20:6 And he shall dwell in that city, until he stand before the congregation for judgment, *and* until the death of the high priest that shall be in those days: then shall the slayer return, and come unto his own city, and unto his own house, unto the city from whence he fled.

ref·uge

1. Protection or shelter, as from danger or hardship.
2. A place providing protection or shelter.
3. A source of help, relief, or comfort in times of trouble.

REASON FOR THESE CITIES

1. All these cities were Levitical cities, therefore is a special sense of divine protection was provided for the manslayer.
2. In the Old Testament it makes a clear distinction between premeditated murder and unintentional manslaughter.

3. When a murder was committed, it was the responsibility of the nearest kinsman or the “**avenger of blood**”. To punish the guilty party (Deut. 19:12).
4. The man who unintentionally killed another, there was divine protection and a trial. He was permitted to flee to one of these six cities. There he would be presented at the gate before the ancient law court.
5. Later he was brought to stand trial before the congregation of the community nearest the scene of the crime. If he was deemed innocent of premeditated murder, he was returned to the city of refuge until the death of the high priest. Then he could return home.
6. These six cities were set aside for such protection and were located in places that were easy to find and had easy access.

THE SIX CITIES OF REFUGE

1. **Kadish**: This city refuge was located in Galilee in the mountains of Naphtali (nap-ca-li), north of Jerusalem.
2. **Shechem** in Mount Ephraim: This is the city where the Lord appeared to Abraham with promise. “To your descendants I will give this land.” After Joshua led the Israelites to victory in Canaan, an altar was built at Shechem. Some scholars identify the New Testament town Sychar (John 4:5) with Shechem. If correct, then this is where Jesus spoke with the Samaritan women at Jacobs Well promising living water (John 4:14).
3. **Hebron**: Is in the Mountain of Judah, 20 miles south of Jerusalem, It was King David’s capital as he ruled Judah (2 Samuel 2:1-4).

On the other side of Jordan:

4. **Bezer**: Located in the wilderness of Moab, Bezer was a walled city with the territory of Reuben.
5. **Ramoth**: Also known as Ramoth Gilead, Ramoth was an important walled city in the territory of Gad. It was located about 25 miles east of the Jordan river near the border of .

6. **Golan:** Located in the area of Bashan, Golan wa 17 miles east of the Sea of Galilee. This is the area we often call the Golan Heights area.

MEANING OF THESE CITIES

1. **Kedish:** Means to be Holy
2. **Schechem:** Means Shoulder (Jesus our burden bearer)
3. **Hebron:** Means Fellowship (“If we walk in the light...”)
4. **Bezer:** Means a fortification (“Name of the Lord is...”)
5. **Ramoth:** Means High or exalted, it also means a precious stone or uncertain variety)
6. **Golan:** Means Joy or exultation.

CITES OF REFUGE A TYPE OF THE SALVATION FOUND IN JESUS

The Church is the place to run to:

Pro 18:10 The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.

Heb 6:18 That by two immutable things, in which *it was* impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

Mat 5:13 Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

Mat 5:14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

Heb 12:22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

Heb 12:23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

Heb 12:24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than *that of* Abel.

1. **We all need a city to run to:** “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God”
2. **We came broken and wounded by sin,** and we were so happy about our refuge! “In his presence there is fullness of Joy”
3. **When a sinner flees into the arms of our God,** he is a refuge from the avenger of blood (Satan) the accuser of the brethren.
4. Regardless of his sin, the sinner may find protection and an sanctuary in Christ; **“The one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.”** (John 6:37).

THE ETERNAL CITY OF REFUGE

Heb 11:10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God.

Rev 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

Rev 21:2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Rev 21:3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, *and be* their God.

Rev 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Rev 21:5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

Rev 21:6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

Rev 21:7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

Rev 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.