

Jesus said... **“Search the scriptures...they are they which testify of me.”** (John 5:39)



INTRODUCTION

According to Jesus Christ, if we search the Old Testament Scriptures, we will find Him. So far, in this series, we have seen Abel’s lamb as the acceptable sacrifice, the door of the ark, the three things in the ark of the covenant, and the brazen serpent – all point to Jesus Christ. Tonight, we will study the cities of **REFUGE**. In the wilderness, God had appointed six cities of refuge. As we will learn, they were intended to provide a haven of safety for any person who killed another **ACCIDENTALLY** or unawares. Now imagine running 30-40 miles for your life from an avenger of blood – someone trying to kill you. As we learn of God’s plan for these cities, we will be blessed to learn of how good Jesus Christ is to us!

1. The historical application. **Numbers 35:6-28; Deut 19:1-13; Joshua 20:1-9**

✓ Remember – this was God’s **IDEA** – *Appoint out for you cities of refuge...*

1) *Six cities in total*

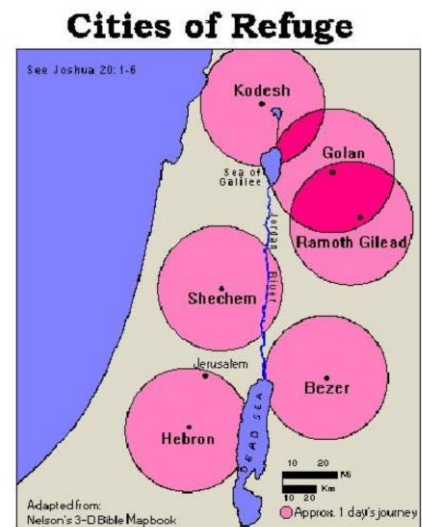
- Three on the west of Jordan
 - **Kadesh, Shechem, Hebron**
- Three on the east of Jordan
 - **Bezer, Ramoth in Gilead, Golan**
- *What do you notice about the placement?*

2) *A manslayer by accident or unawares*

- If you murdered, you were to be killed!
- Run for your life from the avenger of blood.
 - **The avenger could lawfully kill the slayer.**
 - **A fair trial would be offered to all.**
- Run to the city to be heard by the elders.
 - **A fair trial would be offered to all.**
- Stay in the city until the high priest died.
 - **When the high priest died, they could return to their home with no harm.**

3) *Characteristics of the cities of refuge*

- The cities were available to **EVERYONE** – Jews, Gentiles, and strangers.
- The cities were never **LOCKED**.
- The way to the cities had to be open and free of obstacles for ease of **ACCESS**.
- The cities were within or close to a day’s journey from anywhere in Israel.
- Once inside the gates of the city, no harm could come to the innocent refugee.



W1828 “Avenger”
One who avenges or vindicates, a revenger.

...they shall take him into the city unto them, and give him a place, that he may dwell among them.

Imagine what that city must have been like for the person on the run for fear of their life. It would have been a haven of rest – safety from the storm – a true hospital for those in need of refuge.

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2. The prophetic (or doctrinal) application.

✓ Jesus Christ is the city of **REFUGE** for all condemned sinners running from God’s justice.

1) The law was a ministration of **DEATH**.

- **2 Corinth 3:7** – the law does not help you, it leaves you helpless!
- **Galatians 3:24** – the law was our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ!

2) Jesus Christ welcomes all repentant sinners who need **REFUGE**.

- **Matt 11:28** – Jesus Christ invites all to come to Him for rest.
- **Hebrews 6:18** – all who **flee for refuge in Christ** find eternal Hope.

3) Jesus Christ, our great High Priest, **DIED** and was gloriously resurrected!

- **Hebrews 4:14** – the death, burial and resurrection of Christ makes us free!

3. Some practical applications.

✓ God’s implementation of these cities has very interesting applications to your life.

1) God understands that **MISTAKES** and accidents happen.

- **You are a flawed person; the word of God was designed to help you.**

2) God did not criminalize the avenger who killed **INNOCENT** blood.

- **Human life is valuable to God; Jesus Christ got what He did not deserve.**

3) God has intended the way of salvation to be simple and **FREE** of obstacles!

- **2 Cor 11:3** – **Satan is always adding obstacles and trying to corrupt simple obedience.**

4) God provided a means for everyone to get a **JUST** and fair process.

- **Micah 6:8** – **Follow His example: do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with thy God**

5) God has provided an eternal refuge of **REST** for all people.

- **Jesus Christ wants to be your refuge; choose to truly rest in Him!**

John 14:1 – Let not your heart be troubled:
ye believe in God,
believe also in me.

John 14:27 – **Peace I leave with you,**
my peace I give unto you:
not as the world giveth,
give I unto you.
Let not your heart be troubled,
neither let it be afraid.

Important Note
The law can chase a
man to Calvary and
no further! Amen.