

Joshua 20-21 : Jesus Our Refuge

A four-year-old was in church when the wine & communion wafers were passed out. He was very interested in this just as he was about to get up and get his share His mother leaned over and told him he was not old enough to partake in the Communion...

A little while later the collection plate came by, and he ignored it. His mother leaned in encouraging him to drop in the nickel he brought. But he steadfastly refused, saying, "If I can't eat, I'm ain't paying!"

Welcome to Fellowship! Today is communion Sunday!!!

I Pray for GOD to PREPARE US through HIS WORD!

Being Mindful of these things :

- *He is the WORD who was Made flesh...*
- *He came not to abolish the the Law, but to fulfill it!*

Turn to Joshua 20 as We Continue Living Victorious:

Today's Message : Jesus Our Refuge

May We:

- **RUN to JESUS**
- **REDEEM the Time**
- **REMEMBER His Faithfulness**

Run to Jesus

20:1 The Lord also spoke to Joshua, saying, **2** “Speak to the children of Israel, saying: ‘Appoint for yourselves cities of refuge, of which I spoke to you through Moses, **3** that the slayer who kills a person accidentally *or* unintentionally may flee there; and they shall be your refuge from the avenger of blood.

'Cities of Refuge' : Places of Protection for Unintended Deaths...

- **THE LAW PROHIBITS MURDER** - Exodus 20:13 You shall Not Murder.
- **MURDER FUELED BY HATE** - Exodus 21:14 “But if a man acts with premeditation against his neighbor, to kill him by treachery, you shall take him from My altar, that he may die. (Mt 5:21-22)
- **NOT ALL DEATHS ARE MURDER** - Exodus 21:13 However, if he did not lie in wait, but God delivered *him* into his hand, then I will appoint for you a place where he may flee...
- **GOD DESIRES MERCY** - Numbers 35:9-12 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, **10** “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘When you cross the Jordan into the land of Canaan, **11** then you shall **appoint cities to be cities of refuge** for you, **that the manslayer who kills any person accidentally may flee there.** **12** They shall be cities of refuge for you from the avenger, that the manslayer may not die until he stands before the congregation in judgment.

2 “Speak to the children of Israel, saying: ‘Appoint for yourselves cities of refuge, of which I spoke to you through Moses, **3** that the slayer who kills a person accidentally *or* unintentionally may flee there; and they shall be your refuge from the avenger of blood.

“Appoint for Yourselves” : My Command is ***FOR YOU...***

- YOUR Benefit | YOUR Order | YOUR Protection... All God’s commands are for our good!

I SPOKE TO YOU “THROUGH MOSES”

- *It is YOU I was addressing back then!*
- **WHEN GOD WROTE HIS WORD YOU WERE IN MIND!!!**

A Study in 2012: Less Than 20% of Churchgoers Read the Bible Daily!

- **God wants to SPEAK TO YOU through Moses** | Gospels | Paul | Prophets | Apostles!!!!

4 And when he (the manslayer) flees to one of those cities, and stands at the entrance of the gate of the city, and declares his case in the hearing of the elders of that city, they shall take him into the city as one of them, and give him a place, that he may dwell among them.

God’s Command is **HEAR** | **TAKE IN** | **GIVE A PLACE**

- ***HEARING*** requires ***LISTENING***
- ***TAKING IN*** requires ***HUMILITY***
- ***GIVING PLACE*** requires ***GRACE***

“They shall take him in” the PEOPLE Shall be a Refuge

- It's Not the Doors | Not the Walls | Not the Things... THE PEOPLE!

Don't Just Drop people off at Church!!! Be the Church and Help others!

- **GOD IS CHARGING THE PEOPLE TO CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER!!!**

God is Relational - It's Not Religion its Relationship!

God's Call is to **HIS People to Love** their neighbors, **to take in & to protect even a stranger!** (Verse 9)

Timothy Keller (Generous Justice)

“We instinctively tend to limit for whom we exert ourselves. We do it for people like us, and for people whom we like. Jesus will have none of that. By depicting a Samaritan helping a Jew, Jesus could not have found a more forceful way to say that anyone at all in need - regardless of race, politics, class, and religion - is your neighbor. Not everyone is your brother or sister in faith, but everyone is your neighbor, and you must love your neighbor.”

5 Then if the avenger of blood pursues him, they shall not deliver the slayer into his hand, because he struck his neighbor unintentionally, but did not hate him beforehand.

- **If the Avenger comes You shall Protect! *Because the Death was an accident and not motivated by hate.***

6 And he shall dwell in that city until he stands before the congregation for judgment, and until the death of the one who is high priest in those days. Then the slayer may return and come to his own city and his own , to the city from which he fled.’ ”

He shall Dwell until 1. Judgment & 2. Death of the High Priest

- Hebrews 5-7 Author of Hebrews establishes the truth Jesus is our High Priest
- Jesus: The Word made Flesh (John 1:14) The Fulfillment of the Law (Matt 5:17)

We see Jesus is our Refuge (Hebrews 6:18)

- **Judged for our Sin | Our high Priest who died | Our Resurrected Hope**

EVERYTHING IN GOD'S WORD POINT US TO JESUS

7 So they appointed ***Kedesh*** in Galilee, in the mountains of Naphtali, ***Shechem*** in the mountains of Ephraim, and Kirjath Arba (which is ***Hebron***) in the mountains of Judah. **8** And on the other side of the Jordan, by Jericho eastward, they assigned ***Bezer*** in the wilderness on the plain, from the tribe of Reuben, ***Ramoth*** in Gilead, from the tribe of Gad, and ***Golan*** in Bashan, from the tribe of Manasseh. **9 These were the cities appointed for** all the **children of Israel and for the stranger who dwelt among them**, that whoever killed a person accidentally might flee there, and not die by the hand of the avenger of blood until he stood before the congregation.

Show Map : Cities of Refuge

- **West of the Jordan** : Kedesh | Shechem | Hebron
- **East of the Jordan** : Bezer | Ramoth | Golan

Even the Names of These Cities POINT US to JESUS!

- **Kedesh = Holy Place** - Jesus is OUR HOLY PLACE | Our HOLINESS | OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS
- **Shechem = To Shoulder/Back** - Jesus shouldered our sin, His Back took the stripes we deserve!
- **Hebron = Friend of the Merciful God** - Where Abraham dwelled. - **John 15:13,15** Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends....No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.
- **Bezer = Fortress / Gold** = Jesus is our Fortress our everlasting hope of heaven!
- **Ramoth = Lifted upon the Heights** - Jesus was lifted up and raised, He is the Hope of our resurrection!
- **Golan = Rejoice** - Jesus is our Joy, Jesus is our Hope, Jesus is our Praise

1. Run to Jesus Our Refuge!

2. Redeem the Time!

Ch. 21 - Is the Lot for the Levites... Their Place | Their Position | Their Post

21:1 Then the heads of the fathers' houses of the Levites came near to Eleazar the priest, to Joshua the son of Nun, and to the heads of the fathers' houses of the tribes of the children of Israel. **2** And they spoke to them at Shiloh in the land of Canaan, saying, "The Lord commanded through Moses to give us cities to dwell in, with their common-lands for our livestock."

Their Place : Ministers of God & Servants to the People

3 So the children of Israel gave to the Levites from their inheritance, at the commandment of the Lord, these cities and their common-lands: **4** Now the lot came out for the families of the Kohathites. And the children of Aaron the priest, *who were* of the Levites, had thirteen cities by lot from the tribe of Judah, from the tribe of Simeon, and from the tribe of Benjamin. **5** The rest of the children of Kohath had ten cities by lot from the families of the tribe of Ephraim, from the tribe of Dan, and from the half-tribe of Manasseh.

6 And the children of Gershon had thirteen cities by lot from the families of the tribe of Issachar, from the tribe of Asher, from the tribe of Naphtali, and from the half-tribe of Manasseh in Bashan.

7 The children of Merari according to their families had twelve cities from the tribe of Reuben, from the tribe of Gad, and from the tribe of Zebulun.

Their Position : 1 Tribe 3 Divisions

Numbers 3 Reveals God's Appointing for tabernacle duties...

- **Kohath - Furniture** : Everything in the Holy Place & Holy of Holies
- **Gershon - Fabrics** : Veils, Coverings and Fabric Fencing
- **Merari - Framing** : Tabernacle structure, walls, bars, fence posts etc

Every Part was Important : Where God has YOU matters!

- *We are all kingdom citizens assigned to our places for God's purpose and glory!*
- *Don't Despise Your Place! (Numbers 16 - Korah)*

8 And the children of Israel gave these cities with their common-lands by lot to the Levites, as the Lord had commanded by the hand of Moses.

Their Post : Verse 9-40 are Detailed Description of where they were posted by city... Let's Reference the Map.

Look at the Map - Verses 9-19

What Judah Gave 2xs This is Emphasized Hebron

9 So they gave from the tribe of the children of Judah and from the tribe of the children of Simeon these cities which are designated by name, 10 which were for the children of Aaron, **one of the families of the Kohathites, who were of the children of Levi; for the lot was theirs first.** 11 And they gave them Kirjath Arba (*Arba was the father of Anak*), which *is Hebron (a city of refuge)*, in the mountains of Judah, with the common-land surrounding it. 12 But the fields of the city and its villages they gave to Caleb the son of Jephunneh as his possession. 13 **Thus to the children of Aaron the priest they gave Hebron with its common-land (a city of refuge for the slayer)**, Libnah with its common-land, 14 Jattir with its common-land, Eshtemoa with its common-land, 15 Holon with its common-land, Debir with its common-land, 16 Ain with its common-land, Juttah with its common-land, and Beth Shemesh with its common-land: nine cities from those two tribes; 17 and from the tribe of Benjamin, Gibeon with its common-land, Geba with its common-land, 18 Anathoth with its common-land, and Almon with its common-land: four cities. 19 All the cities of the children of Aaron, the priests, were thirteen cities with their common-lands.

Verses 20-26 >>> Look at the Map

Kohath (Furniture Family) Received Hebron & Shechem

2 Cites to the West

20 And the families of the children of Kohath, the Levites, the rest of the children of Kohath, even they had the cities of their [f]lot from the tribe of Ephraim. 21 For they gave them **Shechem with its common-land in the mountains of Ephraim (a city of refuge for the slayer)**, Gezer with its common-land, 22 Kibzaim with its common-land, and Beth Horon with its common-land: four cities; 23 and from the tribe of Dan, Eltekeh with its common-land, Gibbethon with its common-land, 24 Aijalon with its common-land, and Gath Rimmon with its common-land: four cities; 25 and from the half-tribe of Manasseh, Tanach with its common-land and Gath Rimmon with its common-land: two cities. 26 All the ten cities with their common-lands were for the rest of the families of the children of Kohath.

Verses 27-33 >>> Look at the Map-

Gerson (Fabric Family) Received Golan & Kedesh - 2 Cites to the North

27 Also to the children of Gershon, of the families of the Levites, from the *other* half-tribe of Manasseh, they gave **Golan in Bashan with its common-land (a city of refuge for the slayer)**, and Be Eshterah with its common-land: two cities; 28 and from the tribe of Issachar, Kishion with its common-land, Daberath with its common-land, 29 Jarmuth with its common-land, and En Gannim with its common-land: four cities; 30 and from the tribe of Asher, Mishal with its common-land, Abdon with its common-land, 31 Helkath with its common-land, and Rehob with its common-land: four cities; 32 and from the tribe of Naphtali, **Kedesh in Galilee with its common-land (a city of refuge for the slayer)**, Hammoth Dor with its common-land, and Kartan with its common-land: three cities. 33 All the cities of the Gershonites according to their families were thirteen cities with their common-lands.

Verses 34-40 >>> Look at Map

Merari (Framing Family) Received Ramoth & Bezer - 2 Cites to the East

34 And to the families of the children of Merari, the rest of the Levites, from the tribe of Zebulun, Jokneam with its common-land, Kartah with its common-land, 35 Dimnah with its common-land, and Nahalal with its common-land: four cities; 36 and from the tribe of Reuben, **Bezer (a city of Refuge)** with its common-land, Jahaz with its common-land, 37 Kedemoth with its common-land, and Mephaath with its common-land: four cities; 38 and from the tribe of Gad, **Ramoth in Gilead with its common-land (a city of refuge for the slayer)**, Mahanaim with its common-land, 39 Heshbon with its common-land, and Jazer with its common-land: four cities in all. 40 So all the cities for the children of Merari according to their families, the rest of the families of the Levites, were by their lot twelve cities.

The Posts : Where God Planted Them

21:41 All the cities of the Levites within the possession of the children of Israel *were* forty-eight cities with their common-lands. 42 Every one of these cities had its common-land surrounding it; thus *were* all these cities.

Just as the Levites had so do You :

Your PLACE | Your Positions | Your POST

Consider where you are as Your Mission!

Every One of Us Function on a day to day basis in one of these areas...

- **Civic** : Civic Servants | Local Government | Military | Police | Fire | Education...
 - **Business** : Corporations | Small Business Owners | Franchises | Real Estate...
 - **Churches** : Non-Profits | Para-Church | Pregnancy Centers | Shelters
- **Jeremiah 29:7** And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the Lord for it; for in its peace you will have peace.

**ALWAYS REMEMBER : OUR IDENTITY IS NOT OUR
WHAT WE DO... BUT RATHER WHO WE ARE IN JESUS!**

***Which is why... We RUN to Jesus, Re-
deem the Time and Finally...***

Remember His Faithfulness!

43 So the Lord gave to Israel all the land of which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they took possession of it and dwelt in it. **44** The Lord gave them rest all around, according to all that He had sworn to their fathers. And not a man of all their enemies stood against them; the Lord delivered all their enemies into their hand. **45** Not a word failed of any good thing which the Lord had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass.

NOT A WORD FAILED! ALL CAME TO PASS!

The Lord Gave Land

- Because God Delivers on His Promises

The Lord Gave Rest

- He is Greater than any weapon or enemy

God's Word Promised Jesus

- AND GOD HAS KEPT HIS PROMISE

Jesus Gave us the New Covenant

- **Communion is Our Time When We Reflect on The Work of Jesus - His Death His Resurrection - He is Our Refuge!**

I Would Like To Call Up Servers for Communion

- **1 Corinthians 11:23** For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the *same* night in which He was betrayed took bread; **24** and when He had given thanks, He broke *it* and said, [d]“Take, eat; this is My body which is[e]broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” **25** In the same manner *He* also *took* the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me.”**26** For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.