

JOSHUA

City of Refuge

God is a protector, preserver and promoter of life. – *“The Lord will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.” (Psalm 121:7-8)*

Then the Lord said to Joshua: “Tell the Israelites to designate the cities of refuge, as I instructed you through Moses, so that anyone who kills a person accidentally and unintentionally may flee there and find protection from the avenger of blood.” (Joshua 20:1-3)

Preserving the life of the avenger.

Preserving the life of the killer.

- **A people to do the judging.** – *“When he flees to one of these cities, he is to stand in the entrance of the city gate and state his case before the elders of that city. Then they are to admit him into their city...” (Joshua 20:4a)*
- **A place to go for rescue.** – *“...and give him a place to live with them.” ...Kadesh, ...Shechem, ...Hebron, ...Bezer, ...Ramoth, ...Golan... Any of the Israelites or any alien living among them who killed someone accidentally could flee to these designated cities and not be killed by the avenger of blood prior to standing trial before the assembly.” (Joshua 20:4b, 7-9)*
- **A period of time for restoration.** – *“If the avenger of blood pursues him, they must not surrender the one accused, because he killed his neighbor unintentionally and without malice aforethought. He is to stay in that city until he has stood trial before the assembly and until the death of the high priest who is serving at that time. Then he may go back to his own home in the town from which he fled.” (Joshua 20:5-6)*

Preserving the life of _____.

...we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. (Hebrews 6:18-20 NAS)

- **We have a City of refuge.**
- **We have One who runs ahead of us.**
- **We have a High Priest who never dies.**