

**CITIES OF
REFUGE**

JOSHUA 20

Introduction

A. We all seek refuge from something

B. Why were cities of refuge made available?

C. What did one attain in the cities of refuge?

D. What is the application of the cities of refuge?

Joshua 20:1-9

1 The LORD also spake unto Joshua, saying,

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:

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.

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.

Joshua 20:1-9 - continued

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.

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.

7 And they appointed Kedesh in Galilee in mount Naphtali, and Shechem in mount Ephraim, and Kirjatharba, which is Hebron, in the mountain of Judah.

Joshua 20:1-9 - continued

8 And on the other side Jordan by Jericho eastward, they assigned Bezer in the wilderness upon the plain out of the tribe of Reuben, and Ramoth in Gilead out of the tribe of Gad, and Golan in Bashan out of the tribe of Manasseh.

9 These were the cities appointed for all the children of Israel, and for the stranger that sojourneth among them, that whosoever killeth any person at unawares might flee thither, and not die by the hand of the avenger of blood, until he stood before the congregation.

I. The Availability to The Slayer

A. These cities were accessible

Deuteronomy 19:3, 6

3 Thou shalt prepare thee a way, and divide the coasts of thy land, which the LORD thy God giveth thee to inherit, into three parts, that every slayer may flee thither.

6 Lest the avenger of the blood pursue the slayer, while his heart is hot, and overtake him, because the way is long, and slay him; whereas he was not worthy of death, inasmuch as he hated him not in time past.

Cities of Refuge



I. The Availability To The Slayer

B. These cities were all-inclusive

Numbers 35:15

These six cities shall be a refuge, both for the children of Israel, and for the stranger, and for the sojourner among them: that every one that killeth any person unawares may flee thither.

II. Things Attained By The Slayer

A. Salvation from the avenger of blood

Bezer = An inaccessible spot

Psalm 91:9-10

**9 Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge,
even the most High, thy habitation;**

**10 There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague
come nigh thy dwelling.**

B. Security in the presence of God's people

Kadesh = Sanctum (sanctuary)

Psalm 20:1-2

**1 The LORD hear thee in the day of trouble; the name of
the God of Jacob defend thee;**

**2 Send thee help from the sanctuary, and strengthen thee
out of Zion;**

II. Things Attained By The Slayer

C. Strength to continue

Shechem = Shoulder

Isaiah 10:27

And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing.

D. Fellowship with God's people

Hebron = Seat of association

1 Corinthians 6:17

But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.

II. Things Attained By The Slayer

E. Elevation above the distress

Ramoth = Heights

Psalm 18:48

He delivereth me from mine enemies: yea, thou liftest me up above those that rise up against me: thou hast delivered me from the violent man.

F. Joy as a result of deliverance

Golan = Their captivity; Their rejoicing

Psalm 32:2

Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.

III. The Application To The Slayer

A. God's law at work

1. The law drove the slayer to the city of refuge

2. The law drives the sinner to the cross

Galatians 3:24

Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

III. The Application To The Slayer

B. God's salvation at work

1. The death of the high priest brought the slayer freedom

2. The death of Christ brings the sinner freedom

Hebrews 9:11-12

11 But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;

12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

**LET CHRIST
BE YOUR REFUGE**

Psalm 46:1

**God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in
trouble.**