

THE JOSHUA STUDY

CHAPTER 20:1-9

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SM-337 JUNE 20 1999

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

Our City of Refuge

THE THEME OF THE BOOK:

Joshua 1:6

"Be strong and of good courage"

SUBJECT REFERENCE:

Redemption, Forgiveness, Salvation

**The Purpose of having a City of Refuge
was to provide a place where sinners could be forgiven**

Goel-ism

The Kinsman Redeemer

The Kinsman Avenger

Revenge and the Fury of an Avenger

The Roads That Led to the Cities of Refuge

#1 - had to be maintained and #2 - kept clear of obstacles #3 - and were made as straight as possible

A.) Kedesh, The City of Righteousness:

Kedesh
righteousness
is given to all those who flee to Christ because He

Romans 3:24-26

24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,
25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate
His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that
were previously committed, 26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness,
that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

B.) Shechem, The City of Burden:

Shechem
shoulder
shepherds them upon his shoulders and

Isaiah 53:12

Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with
the strong, because He poured out His soul unto death, and He was numbered with
the transgressors, and He bore (shouldered) the sin of many, and made intercession
for the transgressors.

C.) Hebron, The City of Fellowship:

Hebron
fellowship
brings them into fellowship with God who alone is

Leviticus 26:12

I will walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people.

2 Corinthians 6:16

And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people."

D.) Bezer, The City of Strength:

Bezer
strong/fortress
their strong fortress

Psalm 46:1

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

E.) Ramoth, The City on High:

Ramoth
heights
lifting them high into the heavens even though

Ephesians 2:5-6

5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

**WHEN THE HIGH PRIEST DIED
and was buried, the sin of the manslayer was buried with him
and the accused was now free to go**

2 Corinthians 5:14

14 For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died;

Romans 5:6

For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

Romans 8:33-34

33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

2 Corinthians 5:14

14 For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died;

F.) Golan, The City of Pilgrims: While We Are Exiled

Golan
exile

they are exiles and pilgrims in this world

Hebrews 11:8-10

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Roy Gustafson

tells of an event that happened while he was touring the Middle East where a man had killed his friend during a heated argument. the man fled to the place of refuge and confessed his manslaughter to the city priest. The following day the avengers came and demanded that the slayer be handed over to avengers. but the priest said i have sworn an oath that this man have a fair investigation and trial. but sir this man is a killer and must be put to death, a life for a life. the priest responded again "i have sworn an oath to treat this man fair" but your honor, this man has killed your only son. - - the priest, shocked, dropped to his knees and with tears streaming down his face said "then this man is my son now. all that I have is his, and he is mine" with that the avengers went away.

Hebrews 7:25

Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Acts 2:22-24

22 "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know—23 "Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; 24 "whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.

Jesus Performs the High Priest Office

Luke 23:33-34

33 And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left. 34 Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided

By Jesus (the high priest) Declaring Them Guilty of Manslaughter not Murder, he left open the door of redemption

Killed in Ignorance

1 Corinthians 2:7-8

7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory,
8 which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

Proverbs 18:10

The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.

- 1.) The Slaying had to be accidental, not premeditated
- 2.) The Slayer had to immediately flee to the city
- 3.) The Slayer had no protection if he left the city
- 4.) The Statute of Limitations – the death of the high priest
- 5.) Access was for anyone, as long as they fled there
- 6.) No amount of money could change the situation.