

Joshua Chapter 20 Commentary

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. 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. 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.

God appoints the cities of refuge, in this chapter, and reviews the rules for their use. We would remind the reader, there is a life lesson for us in the cities of refuge. The cities of refuge were for the person, who killed a man by accident to flee to, and have protection from those who may wish to avenge the life of the one slain. The one stipulation was they had to remain in the city of refuge until the High Priest died.

What is the lesson for us today in the cities of refuge? Let's look at some scripture in: **Heb 6:17-20; 17 "Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: 18 That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: 19 Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; 20 Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec."** When you are born-again; you understand that you are responsible for the death of Christ by your sins. You committed those sins while dead to God, without intent, in your heart and mind, to kill the Lord Jesus. Since these former sins were not committed with the intent to cause the death of Christ; Christ has provided us a refuge to flee to, which is himself.

Also, Jesus has established cities of refuge for us to flee to in this world. They are found wherever there are believers, who are living by "**thus saith the Lord**." Failure to flee to the city of refuge when you are born-again, and failure to remain in the city of refuge, gives us no protection from the avenger. It leaves us out in the open for attack by our enemy, the devil. Praise to our Saviour for being our place of refuge, and for providing a city of refuge here on earth, the church established by Jesus Christ. Hallelujah! Amen!