

The Cities Of Refuge

(Numbers 35:9-34; Deuteronomy 19:1-13; Joshua 20:1-9)

- Introduction:
1. The above passages describe for us the cities of refuge as well as point out the reason for their existence.
 2. Like many things in the Old Testament, these cities teach us some practical lessons (Romans 15:4).
 3. In fact, these cities are typical of the church and our refuge in Christ (Hebrews 6:18).
 4. In this lesson, we will attempt to examine several similarities between these Old Testament cities of refuge and the church of the New Testament.

I. The Cities Of Refuge Were A Provision Of Mercy

- A. Death is the penalty for sin (Romans 6:23).
- B. Since all have sinned, we all need a place of refuge (Romans 3:23).
- C. Just as salvation was found in the cities of refuge, today salvation is found in the church of Christ today (Acts 2:47; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Ephesians 2:11-22).

II. These Cities Of Refuge Were Within Reach And Accessible To All

- A. The gospel is to be preached to all men (Mark 16:15).
- B. God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34-35).
- C. The gospel is the power to save both Jew and Gentile (Romans 1:16).
- D. The grace of God has appeared to all men (Titus 2:11).

III. These Cities Of Refuge Were Designated, And The Roads To Them Well Marked

- A. (John 14:6) Jesus is the way...
- B. The way into the church is also well marked (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; 1 Cor.12:13).

IV. The Slayer Was Safe Only In The City Of Refuge

- A. "One city was not as good as another."
- B. They couldn't pick the "city of your choice."
- C. Salvation is only found in the church that Jesus built (Matthew 16:18).

V. The Slayer's Safety Was Assured, Only When He Remained In The City

- A. Today, one must remain in or abide in Christ and His church (John 15:6-7).
- B. Note the condition of the one who leaves the refuge of Christ and His church (2 Peter 2:20-22).

- Conclusion:
1. Are you in the city of Refuge - the church of Christ?
 2. If not, then flee to it and never leave it.