

## EMBRACING CHANGE

*"Jesus our Refuge"*

Joshua 20:1-9

### INTRODUCTION:

1. Numbers 35:9-15

2. Joshua 20 (It now all becomes a reality)

3. Exodus 21:12

4. Exodus 21:13-14

5. Deuteronomy 19:1-6

6. Joshua 20:1-3

a) *"They shall be for you a refuge from the avenger of blood."*

1) The **"Avenger of Blood"** - was usually the next of kin - kinsman redeemer - or "blood redeemer."

### THREE IMPORTANT FACT ABOUT THE CITIES OF REFUGE

#### I. THE INITIATION OF THE CITIES OF REFUGE

1. Notice Joshua 20:1

a) *"Then the LORD said to Joshua.."*

2. Only in Christianity do we have a **"refuge"** - where we can run to.

3. God established 6 **"Cities of Refuge"** for those in Canaan Land. For the case of accidental deaths.

4. Vs 4-5

5. Exodus 21:14

6. Vs 6

7. The city of refuge was set up in such a way that you just didn't run into one and you were **"safe"**.

a) No...there were 2 Court Style situations set up to determine guilt or innocence.

8. These "**Cities of Refuge**" were established so that an innocent man could run into a place of refuge and be protected from the "**Avenger of Blood.**"

9. So what does this have to do with us?

a) You and I are guilty of murder!!!!

b) You and I have sinned against a Holy God and it was and is intentional!!!

c) **OUR SIN SENT AN INNOCENT MAN TO HIS EXECUTION!!!**

10. **IN THE OLD TESTAMENT ONLY THE INNOCENT COULD RUN TO THE CITY OF REFUGE AND FIND SAFETY.**

11. **BUT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT JESUS MY REFUGE GOES FURTHER**

12. *Ephesians 1:4*

## II. THE INCLUSION OF THE CITIES OF REFUGE

### A. THE ACCESSIBILITY OF THE CITIES OF REFUGE

1. Vs 9

a) "*The people of Israel*"

b) "*AND for the stranger sojourning among them*"

2. *Romans 10:13*

### B. THE AVAILABILITY OF THE CITIES OF REFUGE

1. Every city had walls and gates for protection and to keep the enemy out.

2. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, they were available.

### C. THE APPLICABILITY OF THE CITIES OF REFUGE

1. Vs 7 (On the west side of the Jordan)

a) "*Kadesh*" - means "holy"

1) *2 Corinthians 5:21*

b) "*Sheckim*" - means *shoulder*

1) *2 Corinthians 12:8-10*

c) "*Kiriath-arba*" - (Hebron) = *fellowship*

1) *Psalm 122:1*

2. Vs 8 (Now on the east side of the Jordan they designated:)

a) "*Bezer*" - which means "*fortification*"

1) *Psalm 18:1-3*

b) "*Ramoth*" - means "*to be lifted up*"

1) *Psalm 40:1-3*

c) "*Golan*" - means separation

1) *2 Corinthians 6:17*

2) *1 Corinthians 6:20*

### III. THE INSTRUCTIONS GETTING TO THE CITIES OF REFUGE Vs 3-6

#### A. THE ROADS TO THE CITIES WERE TO BE CLEARLY MARKED

1. The roads had to be clearly marked "Refuge"

2. Jewish writers say that the roads leading to these cities were always kept in good repair - and that guide posts were placed at every crossroad with "Refuge".

#### B. THE ROADS TO THE CITIES WERE TO BE CLEARED OF DEBRIS

1. There had to be smooth passage to these cities.

2. When there was an "**Avenger of Blood**" in hot pursuit...the innocent party had to get to "**Refuge**" without hindrance.

#### C. THE ROADS TO THESE CITIES WERE AIDED BY RUNNERS

1. These "Runners" were 2 students of the Law who were stationed at certain places on the road to make sure the innocent party would get to the "**City of Refuge**."