

The Cities of Refuge

Joshua 20

Where did the founding fathers look for the principles of _____ that they established 250 years ago?
Joshua 12-22 is one of the stretches of wilderness in the OT: it details how the tribes _____ the land
The _____ are described in Exodus 21, Numbers 35, Deuteronomy 4 and 19, and Joshua 20

I. A DEMONSTRATION OF THE JUSTICE OF GOD

A. An Explanation of the Laws Regarding the Cities of Refuge

- 1) There were no _____ ; rather justice was the responsibility of the kinsman- _____
- 2) God used this custom to deal with murder, but restrained it in the case of _____
- 3) God set up 6 Cities of Refuge so that no one in Israel was more than a _____ away from refuge
- 4) Before the killer could enter the city there was a _____ hearing at the gate by the city elders
- 5) Later there was a full _____ and the congregation decided if the killer could remain
- 6) The killer was safe from the avenger only within the City of Refuge until the _____ died

B. A Foundation for Elements of the American Criminal Justice System

- 1) The same action—killing—is treated differently based on _____
- 2) Involuntary manslaughter does carry a _____ :the slayer had to remain in the City of Refuge
- 3) Our legal system guarantees justice for _____ : the Cities of Refuge were open even to strangers
- 4) We have the right to trial by a _____ of our peers: the congregation decided the fate of the killer

C. The Relationship between Right and Wrong and the Existence of God

- 1) The only basis for saying that a crime is wrong and must be punished is the fact that God is _____
- 2) If God truly exists, it makes no difference if we FEEL guilty, we are _____ if we break God's law
- 3) Many today view right and wrong as a matter of _____ ; if God doesn't exist, they are right
- 4) When a culture takes his view it has broken up the _____ for law and order

II. AN ILLUSTRATION OF THE WORK OF CHRIST

A. Hebrews 6:16-20 _____ to the Cities of Refuge and Traces a Parallel in Our Hope in Christ

B. 7 Parallels between the Cities of Refuge and our Hope in Christ:

- 1) Every human being is _____ by the penalty of his sin as relentlessly as the kinsman-avenger
- 2) The City of Refuge was never far and Jesus Christ is never far from anyone, just a _____ of faith
- 3) The City of Refuge was open to Israelite or stranger and with Christ, there is no _____
- 4) Ancient history tells us that roads were maintained to the Cities of Refuge with signs, "Refuge!"

These facts suggest the responsibility of the _____ to proclaim the gospel and remove obstacles

- 5) The gates to the Cities of Refuge were never locked and no one needs to _____ upon the door
- 6) Many seek refuge for their souls in religion or works, but _____ is the only refuge for our souls
- 7) The entire scenario teaches us how we ought to feel about _____ to Christ for salvation