

“We Who Have Fled”
Deuteronomy 4: 41-43
January 23, 2010

“Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.” (1 Corinthians 10: 11)

- God’s Provision Of Refuge For Those Who Are In Danger Of Judgment Is A Picture Of His Mercy In Salvation, (vs. 41 – 43)
 1. God’s provision of refuge coincides with His command for purity, (vs. 41); *“You shall not pollute the land in which you live, for blood pollutes the land, and no atonement can be made for the land for the blood that is shed in it, except by the blood of the one who shed it. You shall not defile the land in which you live, in the midst of which I dwell, for I the LORD dwell in the midst of the people of Israel.” (Numbers 35:33-34)*

“You shall be holy to me, for I the LORD am holy and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be mine.” (Leviticus 20:26)
 2. God’s provision of refuge ensures that no one is wrongly condemned, (vs. 42)
 - There is a need to render judgment upon human actions, (vs. 42a); *“But if he STRUCK him down with an iron object, so that he died, he is a MURDERER. The MURDERER shall be put to DEATH. And if he STRUCK him down with a stone tool that could cause death, and he died, he is a MURDERER. The MURDERER shall be put to DEATH. Or if he STRUCK him down with a wooden tool that could cause death, and he died, he is a MURDERER. The MURDERER shall be put to DEATH. The AVENGER of blood shall himself put the MURDERER to death; when he meets him, he shall put him to death. And if he pushed him out of hatred or HURLED something at him, lying in wait, so that he died, or in enmity STRUCK him down with his hand, so that he died, then he who STRUCK the blow shall be put to DEATH. He is a MURDERER. The AVENGER of blood shall put the MURDERER to death when he meets him. ” (Numbers 35:16-21)*
 - There is a need to render judgment upon human motives, (vs. 42b); *“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ” (Hebrews 4:12)*

“...And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you according to your works.” (Revelation 2:23)
 - There is a need to render “sanctuary” against undue condemnation, (vs. 42c); *“For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God DESIRED to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have FLED for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set BEFORE us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that ENTERS into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having BECOME a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek. ” (Hebrews 6:16-20)*