

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

Filling in the Gaps

Lesson 13A

"City of Refuge: Run to Jesus"

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Numbers 35 God gave rules and preparation for the children of Israel entering the Promised Land. In this passage we read about what are cities of refuge, a place where someone who cannot stay where they have been living can go and take up residence. Here's why... Verse 9. *And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 10 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come over Jordan into the land of Canaan; 11 Then ye shall appoint you cities to be cities of refuge for you; that the slayer may flee thither, which killeth any person at unawares.* We call this manslaughter. This is the accidental taking of another human life. *12 And they shall be unto you cities for refuge from the avenger; that the manslayer die not, until he stand before the congregation in judgment 13 And of these cities which ye shall give six cities shall ye have for refuge. 14 Ye shall give three cities on this side Jordan, and three cities shall ye give in the land of Canaan, which shall be cities of refuge 15 These six cities shall be a refuge, both for the children of Israel, and for the stranger, and for the sojourner among them: that every one that killeth any person unawares may flee thither. 16 And if he smite him with an instrument of iron, so that he die, he is a murderer: the murderer shall surely be put to death. 17 And if he smite him with throwing a stone, wherewith he may die, and he die, he is a murderer: the murderer shall surely be put to death. 18 Or if he smite him with an hand weapon of wood, wherewith he may die, and he die, he is a murderer: the murderer shall surely be put to death. 19 The revenger of blood himself shall slay the murderer: when he meeteth him, he shall slay him. 20 But if he thrust him of hatred, or hurl at him by laying of wait, that he die; 21 Or in enmity smite him with his hand, that he die: he that smote him shall surely be put to death; for he is a murderer: the revenger of blood shall slay the murderer, when he meeteth him.*

There is premeditated taking of a life. A human who lost their life by the intent of another human being. The man who commits that murder is not to be spared. No life sentence. No insinuating circumstances. No sympathy because of your upbringing. Their life was to be taken. God said if not murder will become prevalent in the land. You must have a serious enough punishment that any person would never want to commit this crime. The execution was not carried out by the government but by the family of the person who lost a loved one. Our subject in this lesson is concerned with the manslayer.

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Verse 22. *But if he thrust him suddenly without enmity, or have cast upon him any thing without laying of wait, 23 Or with any stone, wherewith a man may die, seeing him not, and cast it upon him, that he die, and was not his enemy, neither sought his harm: 24 Then the congregation shall judge between the slayer and the revenger of blood according to these judgments: 25 And the congregation shall deliver the slayer out of the hand of the revenger of blood, and the congregation shall restore him to the city of his refuge, whither he was fled: and he shall abide in it unto the death of the high priest, which was anointed with the holy oil. 26 But if the slayer shall at any time come without the border of the city of his refuge, whither he was fled; 27 And the revenger of blood find him without the borders of the city of his refuge, and the revenger of blood kill the slayer; he shall not be guilty of blood: 28 Because he should have remained in the city of his refuge until the death of the high priest: but after the death of the high priest the slayer shall return into the land of his possession.*

This manslayer might have some excuse for his actions - but he has committed an action which costs someone their life. While he is not as we read guilty of murder, there certainly must be some degree of consequence for his crime; God being a righteous merciful judge makes provision. The guilty will lose his freedom, and ties to his homeland. He must dwell in this city of refuge. God provides a place where someone who is guilty can live and not die... where someone who is marked for death may escape that death and live out their days.

In reading through this chapter it took me years before knowing the commandments of God. It was never my intent to be a thief – As a selfish child seeing a toy in the hands of another child, taking it for myself. All of us have sinned against God. All of us continue to sin against God in ways we are not even aware of. Each time you read your Bible God reveals another particular area in our lives of disobedience, where we need altering to be right with Him. There is some insight into transgression that all of us are lacking which means from the chief sinner to the least of sinners every one of us is guilty of crimes against God and man of which we are often not even aware.

The Bible says *The wages of (ANY) sin is death*. Every one of us is marked for death by the sins that we have committed whether we intended to do so or not...the wages of our sin is death. Yet happy to announce to all us manslaughter, God has provided a place of refuge that we may run to for refuge; when you get there, you abide there, and the avenger of blood (Satan) cannot touch you. He can stand outside the gates of that city demanding justice hurling insults, stating all the reasons why the person inside should die. But God said as long as that person abides in that city they may live.

THERE IS A PLACE OF REFUGE IN JESUS CHRIST

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You know the Bible speaks of Jesus Christ as being a refuge for our souls. (Psalm 46:1) As you awoke this morning you sinned you may not be aware yet, but you have. You have an option. Die under the justice wrath of God **or** flee to the place of refuge which God has provided.

Suppose a man quite by accident... is clearing his property, being full of large stones, living on high ground decides to toss one over his property line that stone begins to roll picking up momentum heads down that hill striking a man standing on his property in the head and killing him. That was a terrible accident, it was not his intent to kill his neighbor, just turned out that way. The neighbor is dead, his wife widow, his children must live out their lives without a father. The uncles, brothers, and the older sons get together demanding to know who caused this death and determine it was the man on top of the hill. They begin to chase him down, thinking the whole time he deserves to die.

What if the man who tossed the stone says, there are six cities, but I do not find any to my liking, would much rather go somewhere else. Maybe I'll flee to the City of Baptism, or the City of Church Membership, Baptist, Methodist, Catholic or the City of Islam, Buddha, Confucius or maybe the City of Good works sound like a place of self-satisfaction the manslayer is a dead man.

What if he says I have plenty of time to get to one of God's cities, no rush, there are still some things I want to experience, He is dead. If that man/woman wants to live they must flee (depart with haste) to the city only God has prepared.

The Lord has provided a place of refuge for you in Jesus Christ. Many say I've never killed anybody. You are responsible for God's Son being nailed to a cross. All of us in some way or another have killed someone's hopes, dreams joy, or happiness. All of us have taken away a part of someone's life by our carelessness, by our sins. You must find the place of refuge that God has provided for therein and only therein. Are you safe... from the avenger of blood. (1 Peter 5:8)

THE NAMES OF THESE PLACES OF REFUGE

These cities were set forth in Joshua 20

1. Kedesh 2. Shechem 3. Hebron 4. Bezer 5. Ramoth 6. Golan; those might not mean anything to most of you but we have all heard of the Golan Heights. That for example shows us the truth. These cities were all set on high places. High ground, God puts it way up high where if you are in any proximity you know which way to go. Jesus Christ did not die in a valley, cave or on a far off island in the middle of the sea. He died on a mountain called Calvary.

The center of Earth was a place called Mt. Calvary. Jesus Christ was lifted up upon a cross. He said... John 12:32 *And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.*

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During His ministry the crowds tried to throw Him off the brow of a hill, yet they failed, He was destined for Calvary. They tried one day to take up stones and stone Him in a village. Who even knows what village that was? But everybody in this world knows where Jerusalem is. Everybody in this world knows what happened on a cross there two thousand plus years ago. You need to run... you need to get moving. You just need to realize what great danger you are in and get moving! You need to flee to that city of refuge.

Why six and not one? Why cities and not tents? It's almost as if the Lord knew there would be a great need for these places and that many, many people would need refuge. God not only made them cities large enough to hold all that would seek them out; but six of them so no one would ever be too far from a place of rescue a place of deliverance.

We are blessed to have those cities of refuge so accessible to us, they are as near as church where the gospel is preached, a prison cell, a nursing home, a dorm room at school, driving in your car There is no place in this world where the city of refuge is too far away from the sinner can get there. They are in close proximity to " Whosoever will come." The moment that wealthy man, the poor man, the educated or the uneducated realizes death is out to get him he can run to Jesus. Grandpa, Grandma and grandson can get there with equal access. Praise God! Revelation 22:17 *And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.*

ABOUT THESE CITIES OF REFUGE

We are told in the history books of the Jewish people that great pains were taken to maintain the roads to these cities. The roads to the cities of refuge were fifty-seven feet wide. No cars, trucks in those days. Why were they made fifty-seven feet wide for one man to run for His life? Maybe it was wide enough for all the kinfolk that were chasing him to be able to run side by side, who knows. All stones of obstructions were to be carefully removed so no one fleeing down that road would ever stumble and fall along their way. The priests, elders would inspect the roads. If there were turns in the road or another road crossed that road, sign boards were erected pointing towards the correct road to get you to the city of refuge. The way to Jesus Christ is so plain you cannot take a wrong turn. (John 14:6) The way to Jesus Christ is so plain that if everyone all over the world today that were lost, altogether wanted to be saved all at the same moment they could all get to Jesus.

Notes

KJV

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Filling in the Gaps**Lesson 13A***"City of Refuge: Run to Jesus"*

Name _____

1. How wide were the roads to the city of refuge?
2. Definition of:
 - a. Manslayer
 - b. Avenger of blood
 - c. murderer
3. Why were there 6 cities?
4. Where were the cities located?
5. Who carried out the sentence to the murderer or the manslayer?
6. Why are all of us manslaughterers?
7. What city is in the center of the earth?
8. What happen on a mountain called Calvary?

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9. Why did the priests clean the road of pebbles and debris?
10. If a road crossed the road to the city of refuge, what would the priest do?
11. What happens to a man/woman who seeks refuge in some other place than the one that God has prepared through Jesus Christ?
12. What must the manslayer do to get to the city of refuge?
13. Who is allowed to enter into the city of refuge?
14. What was the purpose of the lesson?

True/false

- A man/woman who is under the influence of intoxication is excused from their crime.
- The city of refuge is Jesus Christ.
- You can reach the city of refuge in your heart.

**Scripture memorization**

Psalm 46:1; Revelation 22:17; John 12:32; John 14:6

Write out these verses on the back on this page: (must be in KJV)

any questions?