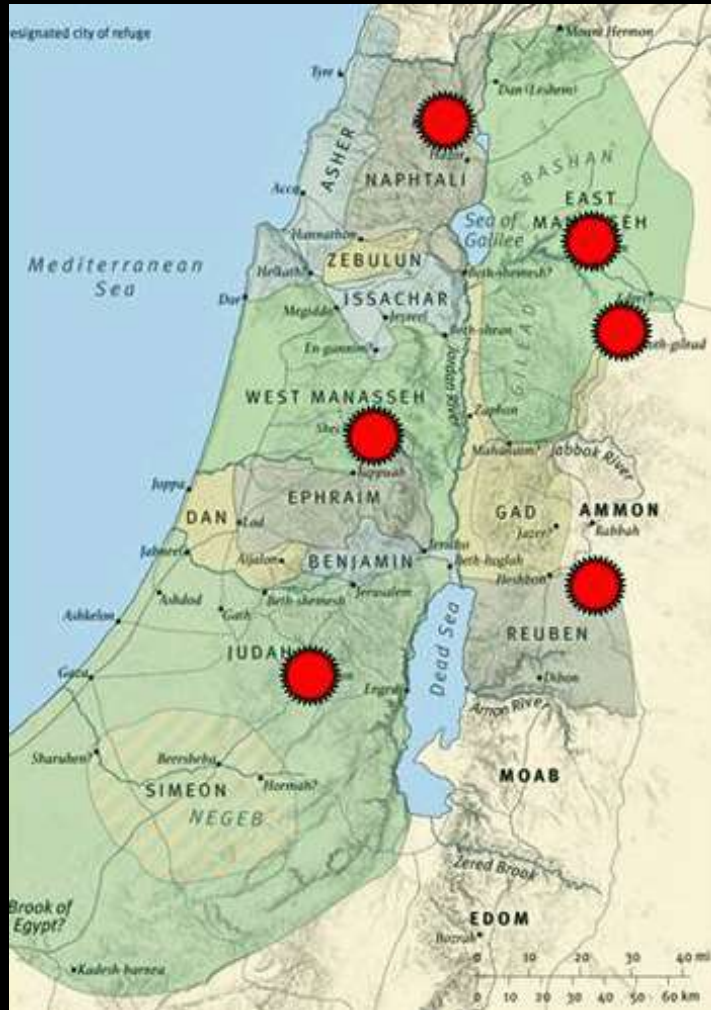


Sanctuary Cities



Joshua 20



Washington
Journal
Dec. 29, 2016



What is a Sanctuary City in the U.S.?

“...a locality that won't hold suspects for Immigration and Customs Enforcement or allow their police officers or sheriffs' deputies to do the work of federal immigration agents.”

Berkeley, near San Francisco, is **reportedly the original** sanctuary city. It passed a resolution in 1971 that protected sailors who wanted to resist the Vietnam War.

More than 90,000 immigrants traveling as part of a family have been arrested crossing the U.S. border illegally in the last 11 months.

September 15, 2018

“There are no consequences to being apprehended, in fact they are seeking to be apprehended to start their processing of being allowed into the country and start their court process. ... It is a crisis of significant proportion.”

**Sanctuary
City
Welcome all**

Joshua 20:1-6

¹ The LORD also spoke to Joshua, saying, ² “Speak to the children of Israel, saying: ‘Appoint for yourselves cities of refuge, of which I spoke to you through Moses, ³ that the slayer who kills a person accidentally *or* unintentionally may flee there; and they shall be your refuge from the avenger of blood.

Joshua 20:1-6

⁴ And when he flees to one of those cities, and stands at the entrance of the gate of the city, and declares his case in the hearing of the elders of that city, they shall take him into the city as one of them, and give him a place, that he may dwell among them.

⁵ Then if the avenger of blood pursues him, they shall not deliver the slayer into his hand,

Joshua 20:1-6

^{5b} because he struck his neighbor unintentionally, but did not hate him beforehand. ⁶ And he shall dwell in that city until he stands before the congregation for judgment, *and* until the death of the one who is high priest in those days. Then the slayer may return and come to his own city and his own house, to the city from which he fled.’ ”

WHAT IS A SANCTUARY CITY?

Joshua 20:1–2 The LORD also spoke to Joshua, saying, ² “Speak to the children of Israel, saying: ‘Appoint for yourselves cities of refuge, of which I spoke to you through Moses,

- Exodus 21:12–14
- Numbers 35:9–29
- Deuteronomy 19:10



Fleeing to the City of Refuge (Num. 35:11-28). From Charles Foster, *The Story of the Bible*, 1884.

WHAT IS A SANCTUARY CITY?

Genesis 9:6 “Whoever sheds man’s blood, by man his blood shall be shed; for in the image of God He made man.

Exodus 21:12–13 “He who strikes a man so that he dies shall surely be put to death.¹³ However, if he did not lie in wait, but God delivered *him* into his hand, then I will appoint for you a place where he may flee.

WHAT IS A SANCTUARY CITY?

Joshua 20:1–2 The LORD also spoke to Joshua, saying, ² “Speak to the children of Israel, saying: ‘Appoint for yourselves (the) cities of refuge, of which I spoke to you through Moses,

נָתַן (*nā·tăn*) = give, place or sanctify, i.e., set apart for sacred use



Fleeing to the City of Refuge (Num. 35:11-28). From Charles Foster, *The Story of the Bible*, 1884.

WHAT IS THEIR PURPOSE?

Joshua 20:3 that the slayer who kills a person...



רָצַח (*rā·ṣāḥ*) = murderer, one who takes
the life of another



נָכַח (*nā·kāḥ*) = to strike, destroy, kill

WHAT IS THEIR PURPOSE?

Joshua 20:3 that the slayer who kills a person accidentally *or* unintentionally may flee there;

שְׁגָגָה (šēgā·gāh) = inadvertent sin,
unintentional wrong, accident

נִבְלִי (bēlî) = neglect, ignorance

Luke 23:34 Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.” And they divided His garments and cast lots.

1 Timothy 1:13 although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did *it* ignorantly in unbelief.

WHAT IS THEIR PURPOSE?

Numbers 15:30–31 ‘But the person who does *anything* presumptuously, *whether he is* native-born or a stranger, that one brings reproach on the LORD, and he shall be cut off from among his people. ³¹ Because he has despised the word of the LORD, and has broken His commandment, that person shall be completely cut off; his guilt *shall be* upon him.’ ”

WHAT IS THEIR PURPOSE?

Joshua 20:3 that the slayer who kills a person accidentally *or* unintentionally may flee there; and they shall be your refuge from the avenger of blood.

גֹּֽׁ֫־עַל הַדָּם (gō'ēl haddām) = deliverer, redeemer;
gō'ēl >50x refers to a “close relative”

Genesis 4:14–15 ...I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond on the earth, and it will happen *that* anyone who finds me will kill me.”¹⁵ And the LORD said to him, “Therefore, whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold.”

WHAT IS THEIR PURPOSE?

Genesis 4:23–24 Then Lamech said to his wives:

*“Adah and Zillah, hear my voice;
Wives of Lamech, listen to my speech!
For I have killed a man for wounding me,
Even a young man for hurting me.
If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold,
Then Lamech seventy-sevenfold.”*

Exodus 21:24 “eye for eye, tooth for tooth,
hand for hand, foot for foot,”

HOW WERE THEY CHOSEN?

Exodus 21:12-13 “He who strikes a man so that he dies shall surely be put to death. ¹³ However, if he did not lie in wait, but God delivered *him* into his hand, then I will appoint for you a place where he may flee.”

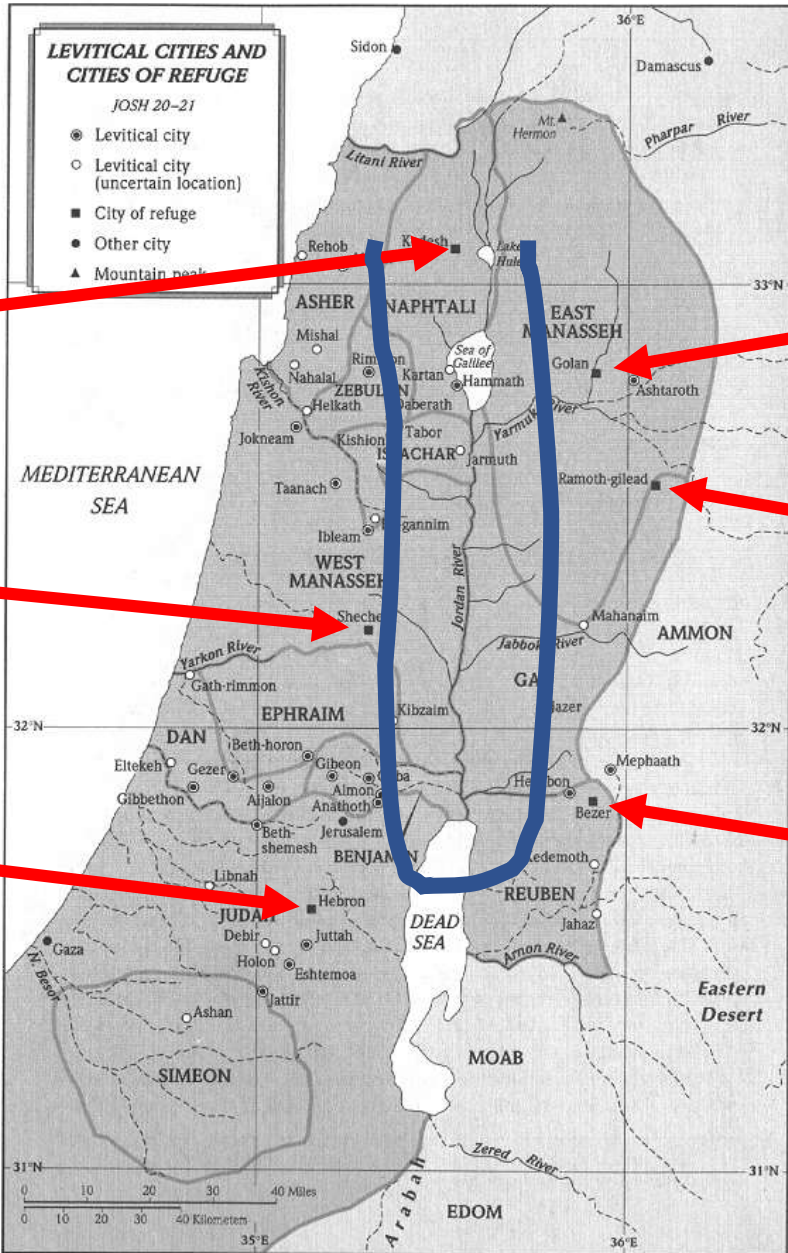


A City of Refuge
a place of divine protection

WHERE WERE THEY LOCATED?

LEVITICAL CITIES AND CITIES OF REFUGE
JOSH 20-21

- Levitical city
- Levitical city (uncertain location)
- City of refuge
- Other city
- ▲ Mountain peak



Kedesh
“holy place”

Shechem
“shoulder”

Hebron
*“association”
or
“fellowship”*

Golan
“exile”

Ramoth
“heights”

Bezer
*“fortress”
or
“strong”*

WHERE WERE THEIR SALIENT FEATURES?

- Located on a height
- Roads plainly marked
- Accessible within a day
- Gates were always open
- Protected by Priests & only while living there
- Provision waiting
- Available to Gentiles as well as to the Jews



WHERE WERE THEIR SALIENT FEATURES?

Joshua 20:6 And he shall dwell in that city until he stands before the congregation for judgment, *and* until the death of the one who is high priest in those days. Then the slayer may return and come to his own city and his own house, to the city from which he fled.' ”

WHERE WERE THEIR SALIENT FEATURES?

Death of the High Priest

This is appropriate for two reasons:

1. The high priest was head of the tribe of Levi. All the cities of refuge were Levitical cities. The activities of the cities of refuge therefore came under his responsibility.
2. Even more importantly, the high priest, as spiritual leader, represented purity and freedom from sin. One of his roles was to expiate innocently shed blood.

WHERE WERE THEIR SALIENT FEATURES?

Death of the High Priest

Hebrews 6:18–20 that by two immutable things, in which it *is* impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before *us*.¹⁹ This *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the *Presence* behind the veil,²⁰ where the forerunner has entered for us, *even* Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

- We have strong consolation
(strength – Bezer)
- For who runs for refuge
(Exile – Golan)
- An anchor of the soul
(fellowship – Hebron)
- Sanctuary within the veil
(Sanctuary – Kedesh)
- In the heavenly place
(High place – Ramoth)
- In his shoulders
(shoulder – Shechem)



Yom Kippur



G'mar Chatimah



To those I may have wronged,
I ask forgiveness.

To those I may have helped,
I wish I had done more.

To those I neglected to help,
I asked for understanding.

To those who helped me,
I thank you with all my

WHO WAS & WAS NOT PROTECTED?

Joshua 20:9 These were the cities appointed for all the children of Israel and for the stranger who dwelt among them, that whoever killed a person accidentally might flee there, and not die by the hand of the avenger of blood until he stood before the congregation.

- Those who intentionally murdered
- Those who did not flee to the city of refuge

Next week's study in the Word:



GOOD INTENTIONS

bad results

Joshua 22

This study was produced by
Harry Morgan, M.A., M.Div., Th.M., Ph.D.,
LMHC, CFMHE, CCSOTS

This lecture is a part of a series of studies on “Victorious Living in an Unbelieving World” based on the book of Joshua. An extensively annotated study guide is available to you by using the contact information below. If you find this study helpful, give God the glory. If you discover an error, it’s my fault.

For more information about this series please contact:

FAITH BIBLE CHURCH
1511 Morgan-Johnson Road
Bradenton, FL 34211



941-729-6600

941-981-5387

<http://faithbiblechurchevc.com>

<http://TRUTHtransforms.com>

sanctitas@aol.com