

CORR = City of Refuge Ranch

The Purpose of the Cities of Refuge

1. God's way of protecting His people from injustice for accidental, unpremeditated murder (Exodus 21:13)
2. Murder was punishable by death according to Jewish law (Exodus 21:14; Exodus 20:13; Genesis 9:6)
3. Israel was changing from a nomadic lifestyle of tribal laws to a community lifestyle of civil laws involving trials and judges
4. The cities were located:
 - a. East of the Jordan River - northern, central, southern
 - b. West of the Jordan River - northern, central, southern
 - c. On well-maintained roads for smooth travel
 - d. Within 1 day's travel from home to city of refuge (Joshua 20:9)
(20-25 miles was average travel miles per day)

The Process of the Cities of Refuge

1. An individual accidentally murders someone.
2. The accused flees to a city of refuge.
3. The accused stands at the city gate & pleads his case to the elders.
4. The city elders are required to admit the accused & offer asylum.
5. If the avenger (relative of victim) followed the accused to the city of refuge, the elders were not allowed to release the accused to him.
6. The accused was required to live within the city of refuge walls until there was a trial.
7. If the high priest ruled in favor of the accused, then the accused was allowed to continue living in the city of refuge until the death of the high priest who ruled his case.
8. When the high priest died, the accused could return home (Num. 35:28).
9. If the accused left the city of refuge before the death of the high priest, the avenger had the right to kill the accused without being guilty of murder (Numbers 35:26-27).

The Application of the Cities of Refuge

1. The cities of refuge picture God's plan for our salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ:
 - a. Jesus shed His blood to avenge our guilt.
 - b. Jesus offered His protection from our death.
 - c. We are to confess our sins & seek refuge in Him (Heb. 6:18).
 - d. Jesus (our high priest) frees us from a life of sin, guilt, and judgment.
(Ps. 34:22)

The Geographical Description of the Cities of Refuge

1. The **East Side** of the Jordan River (Deuteronomy 4:41-43)
 - a. Bezer Wilderness/Desert For the Reubenites
 - b. Ramoth Gilead Mountains For the Gadites
 - c. Golan Agriculture Land For the Manassites
2. The **West Side** of the Jordan River (Joshua 20:7-8)
 - a. Kedesh In the mountains of Naphtali (Galilee)
 - b. Shechem In the mountains of Ephraim
 - c. Hebron In the mountains of Judah

The Hebrew Meanings of the Cities of Refuge

1. "Bezer" Inaccessible spot, fortress
2. "Ramoth" To rise, the heights
3. "Golan" Circle, enclosure
4. "Kedesh" Sanctuary, a sacred place
5. "Shechem" Ridge of a hill, shoulder
6. "Hebron" United alliance, friendship

The Meaning of "Refuge"

1. "Refuge" = "Taking in", "lacking parts", "an asylum receptable" (Heb)
2. "Re + fuge"= "Back" + "flee" (to flee backwards)
3. "Refuge" = To flee away (Gr), to flee toward for protection (Heb)
4. "Refuge" = Shelter, retreat, a cliff, abode (home), tabernacle

Refuge

Verse	For whom	God Described	Will Gain	Will Avoid
Deut. 33:27	Your	Eternal	Everlasting arms	Enemies
2 Sam. 22:3	My	Strength	Shield, salvation	Violence
Psalms 9:9	A	The Lord	Help, comfort	Oppression, trouble
Psalms 14:6	Righteous	The Lord	Truth	Bad counsel
Psalms 46:1	Our	Strength	Help	Trouble
Psalms 46:7	Our	God of Jacob God of hosts	God's presence	
Psalms 59:16	My	Strength	Power, mercy, defense	Trouble
Psalms 62:7	My	Strength	Salvation, glory, rock,	
Psalms 62:8	Our		Trust, heart relationship	
Psalms 71:7	My	Strong	Good reputation	
Psalms 91:2	My	The Lord	Fortress, trust	
Psalms 94:22	My	The Rock	Defense	
Psalms 142:5	My	O Lord	A future	Unanswered crying
Pr. 14:26	Our	The Lord	Strong confidence, "His children", fear of the Lord	

The Places of Safety - The Cities of Refuge

- Kadesh** An old idolatrous, Hittite city, located in the mountains on the west side of the Jordan
Teaches us that Christ is holy
- Shechem** The first capital of the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Abraham received the promise of the land here. Joseph was sold nearby & the Samaritan women met around here in these mountains.
Teaches us that Christ is our strength
- Hebron** Caleb inherited this mountainous land. Abraham & Sarah lived here when they came to Canaan. Abraham & Jacob are both buried here.
Teaches us that Christ is our access to God
- Golan** On the sloping plains & valleys on east side of the Jordan River; very few trees with altitude around 1000 feet; a portion of land belonging to tribe of Manasseh
Teaches us that Christ is our shield
- Ramoth** Desert frontier land on the east side of the Jordan River; land wanted by both Israel & Syria to this day; Kings Ahab & Jehoshaphat both tried to get this land back in their day.
Teaches us that Christ is exalted above all
- Bezer** Wilderness plains and isolated desert occupied by the Reubenites
Teaches us that Christ is our protector