

Joshua 20:1-9

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“Be sober, be diligent; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”

I Peter 5:8

Joshua 20:1-9

Refuge -

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“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble. Therefore, will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof.”

Psalms 46:1-3

Christ – A sure refuge for sinners (Joshua 20:1-9)

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Murder vs Manslaughter

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“Then ye shall appoint you cities of refuge for you; that the slayer may flee thither, which killeth any person at unawares.” Exodus 35:11

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I. The promise of refuge (vs 1-2)

“And this is the case of the slayer, which shall flee thither, that he may live: Whoso killeth his neighbor ignorantly, whom he hated not in time past;

As when a man goeth into the wood with his neighbor to hew wood, and his hand fetcheth a stroke with the axe to cut down the tree, and the head slippeth from the handle, and lighteth upon his neighbor, that he die; he shall flee unto one of those cities, and live:

Lest the avenger of the blood pursue the slayer, while his heart is hot, and overtake him, because the way is long, and slay him; whereas he was not worthy of death, inasmuch as he hated him not in time past.”

Deuteronomy 19:4-6

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Regarding Christ's birth:

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“Therefore, the Lord himself shall give you a sign;
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call his name Immanuel.” Isaiah 7:14

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Regarding Christ's birth:

“Therefore, the Lord himself shall give you a sign; behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” Isaiah 7:14

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”

Isaiah 9:6

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Regarding Christ's death:

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Regarding Christ's death:

“For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet. I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me. They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture (clothing).” Psalms 22:16-18

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Regarding Christ's death:

"He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."

Isaiah 53:3-6

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Regarding Christ's promise of eternal life:

“And this is the promise that he had promised us, even eternal life.”

I John 2:25

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Vs 3: “unawares and unwittingly”

or

“accidentally and unintentionally”

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Vs 4: When the slayer arrived at the city of refuge, he would stand at the gate and declare or state his case to the elders of the city as to what happened.

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Vs 5: If the avenger of blood came to the city where the manslayer was taking refuge, the people would not hand over the slayer to him.

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Vs 6: He would dwell in that city until the trial, which the purpose of the trial was to bring justice and mercy together.

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I grew up and learned in Sunday School that the six cities of refuge were a place of safety and protection. In Bible College I learned that the cities of refuge were place of safety and protection. I learned in seminary that the cities of refuge were a place of safety and protection. Then I studied Jewish literature and discovered that the cities of refuge were more than a place of refuge. Yes, someone who killed another person could find asylum and protection at the city of refuge but the city of refuge served another purpose. It was called a place of atonement. The fugitive was required to go through a number of things to atone for the death he caused. The first thing was that he was put on trial to determine if the cause was accidental or premeditated. If premeditated, he was turned over the relatives of the deceased who could now seek revenge. If it was an accident, they then determined if it was manslaughter or self-defense. If either one of these he was kept at the city of refuge and allowed to go through a process of atonement without fear of harm from the relatives. Once fully atoned for with the death of the priest, he was allowed to go free with a guarantee that he would not be harmed. If anyone should seek to harm him over this incident, they would pay with their own blood.”

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The cities of refuge only helped the “innocent”, but even the “guilty” saint can humbly come to Christ and find eternal refuge.

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“And you hath he quickened (made alive) who were dead in trespasses and sins.” Ephesians 2:1

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Rom 6:23

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“He’s in the doghouse”



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“For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:23

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Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man. Genesis 9:6

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For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. Psalms 139:13-14

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44% of respondents said they believe the Bible

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“The findings on opinions about abortion are becoming part of a broader departure from “biblical truth” by self-identified American Christians. The irony of the reshaping of the spiritual landscape in America is that it represents a post-Christian reformation driven by people seeking to retain a Christian identity. Unfortunately, the theology of this reformation is being driven by American culture rather than biblical truth.”

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Golan – means rejoicing – implying there is joy for finding safety in the refuge

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5) We see refuge was guaranteed as long as the fugitives remained in the city.

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The cities of refuge are a shadow of the only sure refuge we have in this world and that is Christ himself.

"I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." John 11:25-26

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“I am the door, by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved.”

John 10:9

