Refuge of Hope

Joshua 20

I. The ***Purpose*** of These Cities (vs. 1-6)

"as I instructed you through Moses"

Exodus 21:12-14, Numbers 35, Deuteronomy 4,19

A. To distinguish between manslaughter and murder

B. To provide protection from vigilante justice

"protection from the avenger of blood"

Numbers 35:26-28

The city of refuge allowed a man to live who would have otherwise surely died

C. To allow for due process and investigation

2 trials: 1) state their case at the city gate (vs. 4),
2) stood trial before the assembly (vs. 6)

D. To provide provisional exile

The person had to stay inside the city of refuge and live there safely until the death of the current high priest

II. The ***Placement*** of These Cities (vs. 7-8)

A. 3 cities on the western side of the Jordan (vs. 7)

Kadesh, Shechem, Hebron

B. 3 cities on the eastern side of the Jordan (vs. 8)

Bezer, Ramoth, Golan

III. The ***Position*** of These Cities (vs. 9)

A. Equal access

No matter where one lived, they were no more than a day's journey from one of these cities.

The same thing is true of the Levitical Cities …

Numbers 35:6

B. Equal protection

"any of the Israelites or any foreigner"

Hebrews 6:18

There are many points of similarity between the cities of refuge and the believer's refuge in Jesus Christ.

1. Both Jesus and the cities of refuge are open to all.

Romans 10:11-13

2. Both Jesus and the cities of refuge become a place where the one in need can live.

3. Both Jesus and the cities of refuge are the only alternative for the one in need. **Acts 4:12**

4. Both Jesus and the cities of refuge provide protection only within their boundaries.

5. With both Jesus and the cities of refuge, full freedom comes upon the death of the High Priest. **Hebrews 7:24-25**

6. Both Jesus and the cities of refuge are easy to reach.

The cities of refuge only helped the *innocent*, but the *guilty* can come to Jesus and find refuge. **John 3:17-18**