

Christ Is Our Refuge

Introduction:

- A. Numbers 35– God commanded that 6 cities be set aside as cities of refuge.
 - 1. v.16-21– These cities of refuge are not for the one who intentionally kills someone.
 - 2. v.22-28– These cities are, however, for the one who accidentally kill another.
- B. An example of the type of person who could flee to the city of refuge – Deut.19:4-6.
- C. The 6 cities of refuge listed – Josh.20:7-9.
- D. Spiritually speaking, you and I today also need to flee for refuge – Heb.6:17-19.
- E. Today there is only one city for us to flee to for spiritual refuge – The New Jerusalem.
 - 1. It's the city Abraham looked for – Heb.11:10.
 - 2. God prepared this city for them – Heb.11:16.
 - 3. WE are come unto it – Heb.12:22-24.
 - a. The New Jerusalem is the Church we are members of today.
 - 4. John saw it coming down out of heaven – Rev.21:1,2.
- F. In this lesson we want to compare the 6 cities of refuge to our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - 1. Specifically, we want to look at the definition to each of the city names and see how they describe Jesus Christ.

I. KEDESH.

- A. The most northern city on the west side of the Jordan river.
- B. The name Kedesh means:
 - 1. “a sanctuary”– Smith’s Bible Dictionary.
 - 2. “sacred place, sanctuary”– Davis Bible Dictionary.
 - 3. “from the name holy”– ISBE.
 - 4. So the concept of holy.
- C. But what makes something holy?
- D. For sacrifices in the O.T. to be holy they had to be without blemishes – Deut.15:19-21; Lev.22:19-22; cf.Deut.17:1.
- E. Jesus Christ is without blemishes, spiritually speaking – 1 Pet.2:21,22; Heb.4:15.
- F. So like Kedesh, Jesus is “Holy”.
- G. The same is true of New Jerusalem – Eph.5:27.

II. SHECHEM.

- A. The central city on the west side of the Jordan river.
- B. The name Sheckem means:
 - 1. “back or shoulder”– Smith’s Bible Dictionary.
 - 2. “the neck (between the shoulders) as the place of burdens”– Strongs Concordance.
- C. Jesus would bear the burden – Isaiah 9:6.
- D. Jesus invites us to let Him bear our burden – Matt.11:28-30.
- E. It matters not what kind of burdens we may have, He is able to bear them and is eager to do so.
- F. He has already bore the burden of our sins on the cross of Calvary – 2 Cor.5:21.
- G. Christ is our burden bearer.
- H. There is help in bearing our burdens in New Jerusalem as well – Gal.6:2.

III. HEBRON.

- A. The southern most city on the west side of the Jordan river.
- B. The name Hebron means:
 - 1. “union”– Davis Bible Dictionary.
 - 2. “alliance”– Smith’s Bible Dictionary.

- C. To have this spiritual refuge we must be united, or allied, together with Christ.
- D. How does one become united together with Christ? Gal.3:27; Rom.6:3-7.
- E. What are the benefits of being united with Him? 1 John 1:6,7; Heb.2:11; Rom.8:16,17.
- F. Have you found refuge by being united with Christ?
- G. Remember that to leave the city is to lose the safety and security found there.
- H. Unity is to characterize the church, New Jerusalem – 1 Cor.1:10.

IV. BEZER.

- A. The southern most city on the east side of the Jordan river.
- B. The name Bezer means:
 - 1. “strong”– Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary.
- C. Certainly Christ is strong – Phil.4:13; 2 Tim.4:14-17.
- D. He will bear our burdens for us and give us strength to live the Christian life – 1 Cor.10:13.
- E. Strength and encouragement are found in New Jerusalem as well – Heb.10:24; 3:13.

V. RAMOTH-GILEAD.

- A. The central city on the east side of the Jordan river.
- B. The name Ramoth means:
 - 1. “high places, height”– Davis Bible Dictionary.
 - 2. “heights of Gilead”– Smith’s Bible Dictionary.
- C. Christ has been highly exalted – Phil.2:9; Eph.4:9,10.
- D. He has been given the high place of authority in the church – Eph.1:20-23; Matt.28:18.
- E. We need to make certain, therefore, that whatever we say or do is by His authority.
- F. New Jerusalem is a high place as well, having come down from above – Rev.21:1,2.

VI. GOLAN.

- A. The northern most city on the east side of the Jordan river.
- B. The name Golan means:
 - 1. “circle”– Smith’s Bible Dictionary.
- C. Just as a circle is both perfect and endless, Jesus is both perfect and endless.
 - 1. Christ is perfect – 1 Pet.2:21,22.
 - 2. Christ is endless – Heb.1:10-12; 13:8; Psa.90:1,2.
 - a. Remember that Jesus is God--cf.Jn.1:1,2,14.
- D. New Jerusalem as well is endless – 1 Cor.15:24.

Conclusion:

- A. No refuge outside of the city of refuge.
 - 1. No refuge outside of Jesus Christ and His city--New Jerusalem.
- B. One might need directions to the city of refuge (a map).
 - 1. One needs directions to Christ (the Bible).
- C. The cities of refuge were for the innocent only.
 - 1. Christ is for the guilty if they will repent and be baptized.
- D. As long as the High Priest lived, they could have refuge.
 - 1. Christ is our High Priest for ever (Heb.6:20), thus we can have an eternal refuge in Christ.
- E. Won't you obey the gospel now and enter into His city of refuge?