

Text: **Deuteronomy 4**

**CITIES OF REFUGE**

1. The concept

Numbers 35:9-34

- a) Unheard of before
- b) Special provision
- c) Cities to be especially built (Numbers 35:11)
- d) Six cities of refuge to be built (Numbers 35:13)
  - i) Three cities this side of Jordan
  - ii) Three cities in Canaan itself (Numbers 35:14)
- e) The beneficiaries (Numbers 35:15)
  - i) The stranger
  - ii) The sojourner
  - iii) Citizen

2. Significance

- a) For the “accidental manslayer” (Numbers 35:11)
- b) Protection from the avenger (Numbers 35:12)
- c) Till the accused is given a fair trial (Numbers 35:12)
- d) Reveals the mercy of God

3. The murderer

- a) He is to be put to death (Numbers 35:16)
  - i) With Weapons (Iron, stone, wood) (Numbers 35:17-18)
  - ii) Without Weapons

iii) Motive to be established (e.g. Out of hatred) (Numbers 35:20)

iv) Death penalty (Numbers 35:17-18)

b) The avenger will be allowed to execute the murderer (Numbers 35:19, 21)

#### 4. Accidental manslayer

a) Without enmity (Numbers 35:22)

b) Not seeking his enemy (Numbers 35:23)

c) Not lying in wait (Numbers 35:23)

d) Not seeking to harm (Numbers 35:23)

#### 5. The congregation shall judge

a) Jury (Numbers 35:24)

b) To decide (Numbers 35:25)

c) Testimony of witnesses (Numbers 35:30)

#### 6. Acquitted

a) To be escorted to the city of refuge (Numbers 35:25)

b) To remain there till the death of the high priest (Numbers 35:25)

#### 7. Outside of the city of refuge

a) The manslayer may be killed (Numbers 35:26)

b) The avenger of blood would not be guilty (Numbers 35:27)

#### 8. A statute of judgment

a) Added to the Ten Commandments (Numbers 35:29)

b) Application of the Law

9. No ransom for the murderer (Numbers 35:32)
- a) Blood defiles the land (Numbers 35:33)
  - b) The land cannot be defiled because of God's Presence (Numbers 35:34)

10. Fulfilling this plan for the Cities of Refuge

- a) Cities to be set apart (Deuteronomy 4:41)
- b) Cities named (Deuteronomy 4:43)
- c) This side of Jordan (Not in Canaan)
  - i) Bezer in the wilderness for the Reubenites
  - ii) Ramoth in Gilead for the Gadites
  - iii) Golan in Bashan for the Manassites
- d) These three tribes chose to stay here rather than in Canaan itself