Find Refuge in Jesus

God had told Moses to set up "cities of refuge" when they entered the Promised Land — cities where one who had accidentally killed another could flee for safety.

God's Purpose for Cities of Refuge — (Joshua 20:1-4)

"Then the LORD said to Joshua: [2] "Tell the Israelites to designate the cities of refuge, as I instructed you through Moses, [3] so that anyone who kills a person accidentally and unintentionally may flee there and find protection from the avenger of blood." - Joshua 20:1-3

• These cities were symbols of God's mercy.

God's Plan for the Placement of These Cities — (Deut. 19:1-8)

"When the LORD your God has destroyed the nations whose land He is giving you, and when you have driven them out and settled in their towns and houses, [2] then set aside for yourselves three cities centrally located in the land the LORD your God is giving you to possess. [3] Build roads to them and divide into three parts the land the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance, so anyone who kills a man may flee there.
[4] This is the rule concerning anyone who kills a person and flees there for safety— anyone who kills a neighbour unintentionally, without malice aforethought. [5] For instance, a man may go into the forest with his neighbour to cut wood, and as he swings his ax to fell a tree, the head may fly off and hit his neighbour and kill him. That man may flee to one of these cities and save his life. [6] Otherwise, the avenger of blood might pursue him in a rage, overtake him if the distance is too great, and kill him even though he is not deserving of death, since he did it to his neighbour without malice aforethought. [7] This is why I command you to set aside for yourselves three cities.
[8] If the LORD your God enlarges your territory, as he promised on oath to your ancestors, and gives you the whole land He promised them..." - Deuteronomy 19:1-8

1. Centrally located.
   "...three cities centrally located in the land..." - Joshua 20:2
2. Accessible, with good roads.
   "Build roads to them..." - Joshua 20:3
3. Visible, clearly marked signs.
4. A shelter from avengers.
5. Available to all people.
   "Any of the Israelites or any foreigner residing among them who killed someone accidentally could flee to these designated cities..." - Joshua 20:9

Procedure for Entering a City of Refuge — (Joshua 20:4-6)

1. Stand at the entrance.
   "When they flee to one of these cities, they are to stand in the entrance of the city gate..." - Joshua 20:4
2. State your case to the Elders.
   "... and state their case before the elders of that city." - Joshua 20:4
3. Supplied a place to live.
   "Then the elders are to admit the fugitive into their city and provide a place to live among them." - Joshua 20:4
4. Safety from the avenger.
   "If the avenger of blood comes in pursuit, the elders must not surrender the fugitive, because the fugitive killed their neighbour unintentionally and without malice aforethought." - Joshua 20:5
5. Stay there for security until your trial or the death of the current High Priest.
   "They are to stay in that city until they have stood trial before the assembly and until the death of the high priest who is serving at that time. Then they may go back to their own home in the town from which they fled." - Joshua 20:6

Places of Refuge — (Joshua 20:7-9). An illustration of Christ, our refuge!

*"So they set apart **Kedesh** in Galilee in the hill country of Naphtali, **Shechem** in the hill country of Ephraim, and Kiriath Arba (that is, **Hebron**) in the hill country of Judah. [8] East of the Jordan (on the other side from Jericho) they designated **Bezer** in the wilderness on the plateau in the tribe of Reuben, **Ramoth** in Gilead in the tribe of Gad, and **Golan** in Bashan in the tribe of Manasseh. [9] Any of the Israelites or any foreigner residing among them who killed someone accidentally could flee to these designated cities and not be killed by the avenger of blood prior to standing trial before the assembly."* - Joshua 20:7-9

• Kedesh (Holiness)	• Jesus makes us holy (Hebrews 2:11)
• Shechem (Shoulder)	• Jesus carries us on His shoulders (Luke 15)
• Hebron (Union/Friend)	• Jesus lays down His life for His friends.
• Bezer (Fortress)	• Jesus is our strength and our fortress.
• Ramoth (Exalted)	• Jesus lifts us up! (James 4:10)
• Golan (Rejoicing)	• Jesus wants our joy to be full! (John 15:11)

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