

The Six Cities of Refuge

“And of the cities which you give, you shall have six cities of refuge. You shall appoint three cities on this side of the Jordan, and three cities you shall appoint in the land of Canaan, which will be cities of refuge. These six cities shall be for refuge for the children of Israel, for the stranger, and for the sojourner among them, that anyone who kills a person accidentally may flee there.

Numbers 35:13-15

PURPOSE OF THE CITIES OF REFUGE

■ For those who had committed accidental man slaughter.

■ Could remain in the city until released from banishment by the death of the high priest.

■ City was a refuge for the “avenger of blood.” The “avenger of blood” was the victim’s nearest male relative, and was obligated to avenge his relative’s death.

■ In the event he refugee ventured outside the borders of the city of refuge and was encountered by the avenger, the avenger could avenge his relative’s death without being guilty of blood. Numbers 35:26-27

■ The refuge had to declare his cause to the elders at the gate of the city.



SIX CITIES OF REFUGE

WESTERN SIDE OF JORDAN

1. **KEDESH** in Galilee
2. **SHECHEM** in Ephraim
3. **HEBRON** in Judah

Joshua 20:7

EASTERN SIDE OF JORDAN

1. **BEZER** (Bozrah) of Reuben
2. **RAMOTH-GILDEAD** of Gad
3. **GOLAN** in Bashan of Manasseh

Joshua 20:8

