

God's Justice and Faithfulness on Display

Joshua 20 and 21

April 03, 2022

1. The principle (Num. 35: Deut. 19; Josh. 20)

- homicide—against the **image** of God (Gen. 9:6)
- proportional retribution—eye for eye (Exod. 21:23-25)
- vengeance—close relative (restore rights, avenge wrongs)

What if the death was unintentional?

- Designate six cities for temporary asylum
- Hold for trial; witnesses **required** ; safety guaranteed
- If not premeditated, then he must stay inside until the death of the high priest, then he can return home

2. The practice

3. The picture

Easy access *Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord, will be saved* (Rom. 10:13).

Clearly marked *Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world* (John 1:29)

No buy out *For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed . . . but with the precious blood of Christ* (1 Pet. 1:18-19)

Open to all . . . *repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations . . .* (Luke 24:47)

Refuge guaranteed. . . . *and whoever comes to me I will never cast out* (John 6:37b).

4. God's promise **fulfilled** (Gen. 15:18 = Josh. 21:45)

On Your Own (better with others)

1. Discuss from Joshua 20 what's happening in the pictures below Describe the possible emotions of each person portrayed in each picture. How is/isn't our church a place of refuge for all?



2. How is running to a city of refuge similar (or different) from running to Jesus for salvation?
3. COMPARE Deut. 12:10; Josh. 21:44 and Heb. 4:8-11
Rest is not the same as inactivity. Indeed, God rested from the work of creation but He is still at work (John 5:17). Is the Christian life one of rest? Or, of work? Or both? Explain.
4. *agree/disagree*
In Jesus, we fight *from* victory, not for victory.
5. Looking back over our study in Joshua, what has been your favorite faith-lesson? Do you have a favorite chapter? Verse?