

I. What provisions were made for those in need of refuge?

A. The Lord told Joshua to designate **six** cities in the Promised Land as “cities of refuge” (Numbers 35 and Deut. 19).

1. Three on **each side** of the Jordan River which roughly divided the country into sixths (Josh. 20:7-8).
2. There were **clearly marked** roads to these six cities (Deut. 19:2-3).
3. As it worked out, these six cities could be easily accessed from anywhere in the country via approx. a **day's** journey at the most.
4. These cities were set aside for the **unintentional manslayer** to protect him from the **avenger of blood** (Josh. 20:3,5; Deut. 19:5; cf. Num. 35; cf. Gen. 9:6 & Ex. 21:12).

B. What was the process that dealt with the manslayer?

1. First he would flee to a designated city for **refuge**... where no one could touch him.
2. He would then come before the **Levites** to request their assistance (cf. Num. 35).
3. Justice would then be administered as determined via a **trial**.

II. What do the cities of refuge have to do with me?

- A. Am I as **accessible** and **available** as the cities of refuge... the priests/people who lived there? (cf. I Pet. 2:9).
- B. When Divine appointments occur, will I be compassionate and offer **prayer** and the comfort that comes from **God's Word**? (Jam. 5:16b; cf. Ps. 34:8, 46:1b, 62:7-8; Nah. 1:7; I Pet. 3:15b).
- C. When people need the refuge that only Christ can offer will I be **bold** and **guide them home** to Him? (Rom. 3:23, 5:8, 6:23, 10:9-10).

