

## The Special Cities Point us to Christ!

December 29, 2019  
Joshua 20-21

Pastor Mark Turner  
Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

### I. The Priestly Cities

48 cities distributed around the promised land.

Simeon & Levi cursed by dividing & scattering Jacob in Gen 49:5

Simeon - disbursed amid Judah Josh 19:1

Levi - God made Levites His priests, no land for Levi was heritage Josh 18:7

Levites produced many great leaders for Israel:

- Moses & Aaron was Levite - 1 Ch 23:13
- Phineas - Numb 25:1-9; 12-13 - jealous for his God
- Eli - judge of Israel 1 Sam 4:12
- Ezra - distinguished scribe served Nehemiah
- John the Baptist - Mal 4:5-6; Mt 3:1;11:11

What an encouragement for us - God is just, but merciful

Remember God's character - He is merciful and gracious

Ex 20:5-6 - Ex 32:14; Jer 18:8;26:3,13

Seek His mercy - He is gracious to those who seek Him!

Joel 2:12-13

### II. The Cities of Refuge

Among 48 cities of the Levites, 6 are designated as cities of refuge

Justice in ANE was family appointed 'avenger of blood' for relative Gen 9:6

God gave His law which forbid murder - provided protection for accident

Deut 19

What we learn:

- Cities of Refuge remind us of value of man made in God's image  
Law requires justice - Gen 9:6; Ex 20:13; 21:12  
God provides for reality - Ex 21:13 - covers manslaughter
- God cares about ALL men - Jews and foreigners  
Josh 20:9 - and for the stranger sojourning among them  
God provides justice for ALL men  
Government to be God's servant Rm 13:1 Tim 2:2
- Cities of Refuge show us Christ!  
Cities provided protection for those not guilty of murder  
We are not innocent, we are woefully guilty except for Christ's work  
Clear paths to the Cities of Refuge Deut 19:3 (NAS, NIV)  
Refuge found in the City of Refuge - protection from consequences  
Complete freedom when the High Priest died - Josh 20:6  
Jesus is our High Priest: He has died and risen again - we are free!  
Heb 2:16-18; 1Jn 2:1-6

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