

**LEVITICAL CITIES AND CITIES OF REFUGE**

JOSH. 20-21

- Levitical city
- Levitical city (uncertain location)
- City of refuge
- Other city
- ▲ Mountain peak





# Cities of Refuge

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*"Ye shall give three cities on this side Jordan, and three cities shall ye give in the land of Canaan, which shall be cities of refuge" (Numbers 35:14).*

When the Israelites entered the promised land, God told Joshua to provide six "cities of refuge" into which those who had slain someone could flee for refuge until a trial could ascertain the facts and render a proper verdict. As such, these cities are a type of Christ through whom "we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us" (Hebrews 6:18).

The names of the six cities are given in Joshua 20:7-8 as Kedesh, Shechem, Hebron, Bezer, Ramoth, and Golan. The meanings of these names seem planned especially to foreshadow this spiritual application.

*Kedesh* means "holy place," and Christ in the New Jerusalem is the ultimate refuge, for "the Lamb [is] the temple of it" (Revelation 21:22). *Shechem* means "strong shoulder" which answers to the "strong consolation" we have in Christ when we flee to Him for refuge.

*Hebron* means "fellowship," and we who have come to Christ have been "called unto the fellowship of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord" (1 Corinthians 1:9). *Bezer* means "strong hiding place." The Scripture assures the believer that "your life is hid with Christ in God" (Colossians 3:3).

*Ramoth* means "high place," and when we are hidden in Christ, God also has "made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:6).

Finally, *Golan* apparently means "enclosure for captives," and this would speak of our being set free from sin and death to become captive to Christ. "When He ascended up on high, He led captivity captive" (Ephesians 4:8).

Thus, the cities are appropriately named, both for their immediate purpose, and as a picture of Christ as the Savior of sinners. HMM