

“We Who Have Fled For Refuge”

Introduction:

- A. *Hebrews 6* contains powerful assurances about the promises of God.
- B. Our appreciation of *Hebrews 6:18* is dramatically enhanced when we appreciate the ancient Jewish context of “*fleeing for refuge*.”

I. The Old Testament Cities of Refuge

- A. The LORD instructs Moses concerning the cities of refuge (*Num 35:9-34*).
- B. Joshua obeys the LORD and sets apart the cities of refuge (*Josh 20*).
 - 1. **Kedesh** in Galilee, in the hill country of Naphtali —
 - 2. **Shechem**, in the hill country of Ephraim —
 - 3. **Kiriath-arba (Hebron)**, in the hill country of Judah —
 - 4. **Bezer** in the wilderness on the tableland, from the tribe of Reuben —
 - 5. **Ramoth** in Gilead, from the tribe of Gad —
 - 6. **Golan** in Bashan, from the tribe of Manasseh —
- C. Qualities of the cities of refuge:
 - 1. They were easily _____ (*Num 35:14*).
 - 2. The way was made readily _____ (*Deut 19:3*).
 - 3. They were available to every _____ of the land (*Josh 20:9*).
 - 4. They were well supplied with _____ for survival (*Num 35:15*).
 - 5. The gates were always _____ (*Josh 20:4*).
 - 6. The boundaries of the city had to be _____ (*Num 35:26-28*).
 - 7. The death of the high priest brought _____ (*Num 35:28*).

II. The New Testament Good News

- A. Christians are those who have “*fled for refuge*” (*Heb 6:18*).
- B. The death of our high priest brought freedom (*Heb 6:20*).
- C. There is “*hope set before us*” (*Heb 6:18-19*).
- D. We must be consistently and strongly encouraged to “*hold fast*” to that hope (*Heb 6:18*).