

City of Refuge

逃城

Joshua 20

Illustration 1:

God created lives. He also values lives. 神是創造生命的神, 也是重視生命的神.

(Luke 11:51)

Blood cries for vengeance 血要求伸冤

(Gen 4:10b)

(Rev 6:10)

A life for a life 以命償命

(Gen 9:6)

(Rom 13:4b)

Otherwise, the land is polluted. 當殺人的案件沒有處理的時候, 我們所住的地就被汙穢了.

(Num 35:33)

Capital punishment is required 所以謀殺需要判處死刑.

God spares the lives of accidental manslaughter offenders 但是神也保護那些不是蓄意殺人的人.

I. Reasonable Accessibility/合理的距離可以到達逃城

(Josh 20:1-3, 7-8)

(Deut 19:3)

גֹּאֵל ga'al = blood avenger/kinsman redeemer = 報血仇的人/至近的親屬.

II. Fair Trial/公平公正的審判

(Josh 20:4-6)

(1King 2:36-38)

Important Principles 重要的幾個原則:

(1). A fair trial requires capital punishment for the murderer. 公平公正的審判必須治死謀殺人的人.

(2). Accidental manslaughter requires punishment of imprisonment. 誤殺人的要在逃城裡面守有期徒刑.

(3). They learn from the teachings of the Levites day in and day out. 這些誤殺人的就是每一天, 在神的話語當中接受教導. 學習利未人的生活方式.

(4). They are responsible for their own living expenses. 誤殺人的要負責自己的生活費用, 不能夠再把自己的生活重擔加添在逃城的負擔上面.

(5). Same Requirement of all 每一個住在以色列國家裡面的人都受到同樣的對待.

(Josh 20:9)

III. It takes a life to pay for the death of a man./終極的要求, 乃是要有生命的付出, 才能贖殺人的罪.

(Josh 20:6)

(Ps 46:1)

(Heb 5:10)

Conclusion

1. God demands a fair trial. 神要求公義公平的審判.

2. God is unwilling to take a man's life. 神極不願意拿掉人的生命.

In OT, God set up cities of refuge to allow the manslaughter offender to live. 在舊約的時候, 神設立逃城, 讓那些不該死的不至於死.

In NT, our souls find eternal refuge in Jesus Christ. 在新約的時候, 我們在耶穌基督裡面, 靈魂可以得到避難所, 得到永遠的拯救.

Reflection 回響

1. Have you had a city of refuge experience in your life? How is that experience affecting your life? 你生命中有逃城的經歷嗎? 這經歷如何影響你的生命?

2. What do you think the prison ministry is going to be in Millennium? Any application for today? 你認為主耶穌治理的千禧年度監獄制度會是如何? 有甚麼可以應用在現在的?