

Lesson V

THE CITIES OF REFUGE

November 3, 1907

Joshua 20 : 1-9. Commit to Memory vs. 2, 3. Read Numbers 35 : 6-34.

GOLDEN TEXT—My refuge is in God.—Psalm 62 : 7.

1 ¹ The Lord also spake unto Josh'ua, saying,
2 Speak to the children of Is'rael, saying, ² Appoint out for you cities of refuge whereof I spake unto you by the hand of Mo'ses :

3 That the ³ slayer that killeth any person ⁴ un-
aware and unwittingly may flee thither ; and they shall be ⁵ your refuge from the avenger of blood.

4 And ⁶ when he that doth flee unto one of those cities ⁷ shall stand at the entering of the gate of the city, and ⁸ shall declare his cause in the ears of the elders of that city, ⁷ they shall take him into the city unto them, and give him a place, that he may dwell among them.

5 And if the avenger of blood pursue after him, then they shall not deliver ⁹ the slayer up into his hand ; because he smote his neighbour ¹⁰ unwittingly, and hated him not beforetime.

6 And he shall dwell in that city, until he stand before the congregation for judgment, ¹¹ and until the

Revised Version—¹ And the Lord spake ; ² Assign you the ; ³ manslayer ; ⁴ unwittingly and unawares ; ⁵ unto you for a ; ⁶ he shall flee ; ⁷ and ; ⁸ Omit shall ; ⁹ up the manslayer ; ¹⁰ unawares ; ¹¹ Omit and ; ¹² set apart ; ¹³ the hill country of ; ¹⁴ Kiriath-arba (the same is Hebron) ; ¹⁵ beyond the ; ¹⁶ at ; ¹⁷ in ; ¹⁸ appointed cities ; ¹⁹ unwittingly.

LESSON PLAN

- I. The Manslayer's Peril, 1-3.
- II. The Manslayer's Protection, 4-6a.
- III. The Manslayer's Privilege, 6b-9.

DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association)

M.—The cities of refuge, Joshua 20 : 1-9. T.—The previous command, Deut. 19 : 1-10. W.—Cities of the Levites, Numbers 35 : 1-15. Th.—Refuge in God, Psalm 18 : 1-19. F.—Sure and steadfast, Heb. 6 : 11-20. S.—My Refuge, Psalm 91. S.—My Refuge, Psalm 91. S.—The only Refuge,

death of the high priest that shall be in those days ; then shall the ² slayer return, and come unto his own city, and unto his own house, unto the city from whence he fled.

7 And they ¹² appointed Ke'desh in Gal'ilee in ¹³ mount Naphtali, and She'chem in ¹³ mount E'phraim, and ¹⁴ Kir'jath-ar'ba, which is He'bron, in ¹⁵ the mountain of Ju'dan.

8 And ¹⁶ on the other side Jor'dan ¹⁶ by Jer'icho eastward, they assigned Be'zer in the wilderness ¹⁷ upon the plain out of the tribe of Reu'ben, and Ra'moth in Gil'ead out of the tribe of Gad, and Go'lan in Ba'shan out of the tribe of Manas'seh.

9 These were the ¹⁸ cities appointed for all the children of Is'rael, and for the stranger that sojourneth among them, that whosoever killeth any person ¹⁹ at unawares might flee thither, and not die by the hand of the avenger of blood, until he stood before the congregation.

Psalm 62

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 76. Which is the ninth commandment ? A. The ninth commandment is, Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

The Question on Missions—5. How many Indian missions have we now ? There are 21 in all, with a staff of 60 missionaries, of whom 9 are ordained ministers ; a large number are women, who act as teachers and matrons in schools ; and a few are educated Indians.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, Ps. Sel. 80 (Supplemental Lesson) ; 152 ; 23 (Ps. Sel.) ; 148 ; 34 (Ps. Sel., from PRIMARY QUARTERLY) ; 151.

EXPOSITION

By Rev. Principal John Scrimger, D.D., Montreal

Time and Place—Perhaps about B. C. 1444 ; Shiloh, a town ten miles northwest of Bethel.

Connecting Links—The division of the land amongst the twelve tribes was made by lot, under the direction of Joshua and Eleazar, the high priest, ch. 14 : 1. Two urns, say the Jewish rabbis ; were chosen, in one of which were placed little tablets with the names of the tribes, and in the other similar tablets with the names of districts, and one tablet was drawn from each at the same time. The tribe of Levi, since they had special charge of the tabernacle and its services, and were therefore to be supported by the whole nation, received no separate inheritance by themselves ; but forty-eight cities with lands in the immediate vicinity were assigned to them (Num. 35 : 2, 7), so that they were scattered throughout the tribes and thus enabled to act as instructors

for them all in religious matters. Certain of these Levitical cities, according to Moses' directions (Num. 35 : 6), were to be set apart as Cities of Refuge for the protection of the unintentional manslayer against the hand of the "avenger of blood", until he could obtain a fair trial.

I. The Manslayer's Peril, 1-3.

Vs. 1, 2. *The Lord spake unto Joshua* (Rev. Ver.) ; immediately after the division of the land amongst the tribes. The arrangements for the government of Israel in Canaan were made by divine authority. *Assign you* (Rev. Ver.) ; from among the Levitical cities (see Connecting Links and compare ch. 21 : 1-3, 13, 27, 32, 36, 38). *The cities of refuge* (Rev. Ver.). Detailed instructions regarding the selection of these cities had been given in Num. 35 : 9-15.

V. 3. *Manslayer . . . unwittingly and unawares* (Rev. Ver.) ; literally, "by error, with-

*The Scripture Memory Passages of the Supplemental Lessons are recommended as a substitute for those here given Sabbath by Sabbath. They will be found in the Supplemental Lesson Leaflets.