

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-
awares 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 stead-
fast, 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 ⁴ 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'ph-
raim, 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'an
in Ba'shan out of the tribe of Manas'seh.

9 These were the ¹⁸ cities appointed for all the chil-
dren 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 con-
gregation.

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 un-
awares* (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.