

ing law cannot enter here, sin cannot punish here. Keep within this Kedesh. It is *within* that there is safety. The manslayer must be within the gates of the Kedesh in Mount Naphtali. He must not venture into the suburbs. He might meet the avenger of blood, and fall under the very shadow of the sacred enclosure. So the sinner must keep within his Kedesh. The atonement saves none, but those who are in it, by faith. "The Lord is my refuge." Any one, may take up this language. It is the language of faith. Any manslayer might betake himself to that Kedesh in Mount Naphtali. The gates were open to the entrance of all such. Sinner, you are fast pursued. The condemning law hangs its curse over you. The sword of justice seeks you as its victim. But there is a holy place. The Lord, the sinner's Righteousness, is ready to welcome you. All sin may be forgiven here. The chief of sinners may be secure here. Some criminal might not be safe from the hand of justice in the ancient Kedesh; but there is no distinction here. This holy place is a refuge for all sinners. Have you fled to it, reader. Do you say, "the Lord is my refuge, and my fortress,"

The next in order is SHECHEM, in Mount Ephraim. Shechem signifies "*shoulder*." The shoulder was the emblem of protection and support. To withdraw the shoulder, was to be guilty of rebellion. So to break the staff of the shoulder, was to take away the power, or authority. We read that the Jews will return to their own land upon the shoulders of the Gentiles. The Gentiles will give them their aid and assistance in this matter. And the Prophet says that, "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder," &c. The shoulder may then be taken as the symbol of support and protection. How significant to the manslayer. He needed support and protection, and Shechem in Mount Ephraim presented the shoulder. No other aid could be of any avail to the unfortunate man. No other city in Mount Ephraim could extend the needed support. The Lord is the shoulder of support for the sinner. How weak the sinner is! And, he is thus weak, through the power of sin. But when he was yet without strength, (*i. e.* to save himself,) in due time Christ died for him; that Christ extends the shoulder. He will bear the man who leans upon him to safety and happiness. Do not lean upon an arm of flesh. It is too weak to sustain you: no creature's support can avail here: the Lord Jehovah is my strength and my song. Take up this language. Make it your