

The Cities of Refuge

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON

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In teaching this Lesson, locate, first of all, the Cities of Refuge (see ^{not} ~~Quarterlies~~). Bring out—(1) that they were so situated that no district was far from one or other of these cities (not more than thirty miles in any case), and (2) that they were Levitical cities, each having a suburb of 2,000 cubits or a little over half a mile, Num. 35 : 5, so that the refugees were not absolutely confined within the city walls.

Dr. Mackie gives the following interesting account of an Oriental city. "The chief feature was its wall. This gave it the right to be called a city (Lev. 25 : 30, &c.). The wall had one or more gates, which were closed from sunset to sunrise. The newspaper office and court of tribunal were found at the city gate by which strangers entered and the habitants went out to their daily occupations in the fields. Domestic news circulated round the fountain while the women waited their turn to fill the water jar. The bank was represented by the seat of the money changer."

Another writer says, "The plan (namely of Cities of Refuge) did not result, as might

be supposed, in giving these places a bad character by filling them with murderers. On the contrary, these six cities were of the highest rank in every way: they were all Levitical cities—Shechem and Hebron being royal cities, and Hebron, in addition, being a priestly city".

ADDED HINTS AND HELPS

In this section will be found further assistance under various headings.

Some Test Questions

[NOTE: These Questions are not intended for use in the class, but as samples of questions by which the teacher may test the thoroughness of his own preparation of the Lesson. He will also find it of great advantage to be familiar with the Questions set for the scholars in the HOME STUDY, INTERMEDIATE, and PRIMARY QUARTERLIES and LEAFLETS.]

1. Describe the method, according to the Jewish rabbis, by which the division of Canaan amongst the tribes of Israel was made.
2. To which tribe was no inheritance given? Why?
3. How many cities were given to this tribe? Where were they situated? What purpose did the arrangement serve?
4. For what purpose had Moses directed

that some of those Levitical cities should be set apart?

5. Who was now commanded to carry out these directions?

6. Who only might be sheltered in the Cities of Refuge? How was the wilful murderer to be punished?

7. Who was the avenger of blood? What was expected of him?

8. What persons must the manslayer satisfy that the killing had been accidental? What were these then required to do for him?

9. Before whom was the manslayer tried? If found innocent of wilful murder, where was he obliged to live? For how long?

10. Where were the Cities of Refuge? What requirements were laid down as to the roads leading to them?