



Introduction

A wise provision is made for life in the promised land.



Questions

1. Why did God tell Joshua to assign the cities of refuge?
2. How long did the man slayer have to stay in the city of refuge?
3. Which cities were set apart as cities of refuge?



Summary Points

- **v 1 to 3** Cities of refuge (see information) are to be set aside where anyone who accidentally kills someone can go to and avoid a revenge killing
- **v 4 to 6** If the man slayer is believed by the elders of the city they will protect him from those who want to kill him
- **v 7 to 9** Cities of refuge are selected on both sides of the Jordan (see map)

Timeline 1400 BC (see below)



Information

Cities of refuge

The law of Moses specified the death sentence for murder. However, not all killings are murder. All cases of suspected murder needed to be considered by the appointed judges before sentence was carried out. To avoid relatives taking revenge for the death of a family member a place of sanctuary was provided for the one deemed to be the cause of the fatality. These were cities of refuge.

These cities of refuge were selected from those cities that God allotted to the tribe of Levi:

Numbers 35 verse 6

The cities of refuge gave sanctuary for the man slayer until his case was assessed:

Numbers 35 verses 9 to 12

Criteria for assessing whether the killer was guilty of murder or accidental killing are detailed in verses 16 to 24:

Numbers 35 verses 16 to 24

The man slayer had to remain in the city of refuge, until the death of the high priest:

Numbers 35 verse 25

Six cities were allocated as cities of refuge; three on the east of the Jordan and three on the west of the Jordan:

Joshua 20 verses 7 and 8



The cities of refuge

Map showing the cities of refuge mentioned in Joshua 20. Question marks indicate that the exact location is uncertain.



? Answers to questions

Verses which answer the questions:

Q 1: v 2 and 3, Q 2: v 6, Q 3: v 7 and 8



Bible timeline

