

## Deuteronomy 19:1-10 **Cities of Refuge**

### Three Cities of Refuge West of the Jordan River – Divide The Territory Into Three Parts

<sup>1</sup> "When the LORD your God has cut off the nations whose land the LORD your God is giving you, and you dispossess them and dwell in their cities and in their houses, <sup>2</sup> you shall separate three cities for yourself in the midst of your land which the LORD your God is giving you to possess. <sup>3</sup> You shall prepare roads for yourself, and divide into three parts the territory of your land which the LORD your God is giving you to inherit, that any manslayer may flee there.

### Refuge for the one who kills someone unintentionally

<sup>4</sup> "And this is the case of the manslayer who flees there, that he may live: Whoever kills his neighbor unintentionally, not having hated him in time past-- <sup>5</sup> as when a man goes to the woods with his neighbor to cut timber, and his hand swings a stroke with the ax to cut down the tree, and the head slips from the handle and strikes his neighbor so that he dies--he shall flee to one of these cities and live; <sup>6</sup> lest the avenger of blood, while his anger is hot, pursue the manslayer and overtake him, because the way is long, and kill him, though he was not worthy of death, since he had not hated the victim in time past. <sup>7</sup> Therefore I command you, saying, 'You shall separate three cities for yourself.'

### Add Three Cities More if the Land is Enlarged Because of Your Obedience to God

<sup>8</sup> "Now if the LORD your God enlarges your territory, as He swore to your fathers, and gives you the land which He promised to give to your fathers, <sup>9</sup> and if you keep all these commandments and do them, which I command you today, to love the LORD your God and to walk always in His ways, then you shall add three more cities for yourself besides these three, <sup>10</sup> lest innocent blood be shed in the midst of your land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance, and thus guilt of bloodshed be upon you. NKJV

### Facts Revealed:

#### Three Cities of Refuge West of the Jordan River [Deuteronomy 19:1-10]

#### Divide The Territory Into Three Parts - Appoint Three Cities of Refuge

- ✧ When Yehowah Eloheyk has cut off the nations whose land Yehowah Eloheyk is giving you.
- ✧ When you have dispossessed them and you dwell in their cities and houses.
  - ◇ Divide the land into three territories.
  - ◇ Make roads for yourself.
  - ◇ Separate for yourself three cities of Refuge, one for each division of the Land.
  - ◇ Cities to which the manslayer may flee for refuge.

#### Qualifications for Refuge in the Cities of Refuge [Deuteronomy 19:4-7]

- ✧ This is the case of the manslayer who flees there, that he may live:
  - ◇ Whoever kills his neighbor unintentionally, not having hated him in time past.
  - ◇ Example: as when a man goes to the woods with his neighbor to cut timber, and his hand swings a stroke with the ax to cut down the tree, and the head slips from the handle and strikes his neighbor so that he dies.
  - ◇ He shall flee to one of these cities and live.
  - ◇ Lest the avenger of blood, while his anger is hot, pursue the manslayer and overtake him, because the way is long, and kill him.
  - ◇ Accidental killing does not merit the Death Penalty, since he had not hated the victim in time past.
- ✧ 'Therefore I command you, saying, 'You shall separate three cities for yourself.'

### Add Three Cities More if the Land is Enlarged Because of Your Obedience to God

- ✧ It is Yehowah Eloheyk (the Lord your God) Who gives you the Land He promised to give to your fathers.
- ✧ If you keep all God's commandments and do them, to love Yehowah Eloheyk (the LORD your God) and to walk always in His ways.
  - ✧ Yehowah Eloheyk will enlarge your territory as He swore to your fathers.
  - ✧ You shall add three more Cities of Refuge besides these three.
  - ✧ Lest innocent blood be shed in the midst of your land which Yehowah Eloheyk is giving you as an inheritance, which would result in guilt of bloodshed being upon you.

### Cities of Refuge [\[Numbers 35:9-15\]](#)

- ✧ The Cities of Refuge are to provide refuge for the manslayer until he stands before the congregation for judgment. [\[Numbers 35:12\]](#)
- ✧ Three Cities of Refuge shall be appointed east of the Jordan river for the tribes who inherited in Gilead. [\[Numbers 35:14\]](#)
- ✧ Three Cities of Refuge shall be appointed for the tribes west of the Jordan River in the land of Canaan. [\[Numbers 35:14\]](#)
- ✧ The man who has killed a person accidentally shall remain in the City of Refuge until the death of the Priest. [\[Numbers 35:24-28\]](#)
- ✧ Whoever commits deliberate murder shall be put to death at the testimony of two or more witnesses. No one may be put to death at the testimony of only one witness. [\[Numbers 35:29-31, Deuteronomy 17:6-7, 19:15\]](#)
  - ✧ A murderer may not be ransomed, but must be put to death. [\[Numbers 35:31\]](#)
- ✧ An accidental manslayer may not be ransomed and allowed to return to his home until the death of the Priest. [\[Numbers 35:32\]](#)