



# JOSHUA

SERMON SERIES

July 7<sup>th</sup>

Cities of Refuge

# Joshua Series: Cities of Refuge

Series on Joshua

Crossing

Conquering

Claiming

- Division of Land
- Settling Up in the Land
- Clear instructions from God

# Joshua Series: Cities of Refuge

Then the LORD said to Joshua, <sup>2</sup> “Say to the people of Israel, ‘Appoint the cities of refuge, of which I spoke to you through Moses, <sup>3</sup> that the manslayer who strikes any person without intent or unknowingly may flee there. They shall be for you a refuge from the avenger of blood. <sup>4</sup> He shall flee to one of these cities and shall stand at the entrance of the gate of the city and explain his case to the elders of that city. Then they shall take him into the city and give him a place, and he shall remain with them.

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<sup>5</sup> And if the avenger of blood pursues him, they shall not give up the manslayer into his hand, because he struck his neighbor unknowingly, and did not hate him in the past. <sup>6</sup> And he shall remain in that city until he has stood before the congregation for judgment, until the death of him who is high priest at the time. Then the manslayer may return to his own town and his own home, to the town from which he fled.” So they set apart Kedesh in Galilee in the hill country of Naphtali, and Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim, and Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron) in the hill country of Judah

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And beyond the Jordan east of Jericho, they appointed Bezer in the wilderness on the tableland, from the tribe of Reuben, and Ramoth in Gilead, from the tribe of Gad, and Golan in Bashan, from the tribe of Manasseh. <sup>9</sup> These were the cities designated for all the people of Israel and for the stranger sojourning among them, that anyone who killed a person without intent could flee there, so that he might not die by the hand of the avenger of blood, till he stood before the congregation.

# Joshua Series: Cities of Refuge

## 1. The Design

- God's Provision for those in trouble
- Numbers 35 – very specific
- Justice – revenge based, kin delivered
- Much needed process for justice
- Protection for person while process delivered

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## 2. The Details

- 6 Cities – 3 east of Jordan, 3 west of Jordan
- 1 day walk from any point in Nation
- Gates never locked, clear passage commanded
- Protection inside the city secured
- Story told before admittance
- Examination of story & judgment detailed
- Truth meant to be uncovered and dealt with

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## 3. The Discovery

- Justice is Important to God
  - Not subverted but served well
- Intent Makes a Difference
  - ‘hated in heart’, ‘premeditation’ all matters
- Available to All
  - Sojourner or from a tribe of Israel
- Heart of God for restoration
  - Desire for their return and restoration



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## So What

### 1. The Design

- Clear in scripture – Eph 2:1-9

“And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— <sup>3</sup> among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

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- Rom. 3:23 “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”
- Rom. 1 – ‘clearly seen so mankind are without excuse’
- can be much better than those around you, but still corrupted by sin.

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## 2. The Details

<sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,

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Romans 3:24-26 “<sup>24</sup> and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup> whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. <sup>26</sup> It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

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## 3. The Discovery

1 John 1:9 “<sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Romans 8:1 “ There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus

Romans 8:31-34 “ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who is to condemn?

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Eph 2:9 “And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.