

Deuteronomy 19

Chapter 19 of 34 · 21 Verses · Authorized King James Version

Cities of Refuge

¹ When the LORD thy God hath cut off the nations, whose land the LORD thy God giveth thee, and thou succeedest them, and dwellest in their cities, and in their houses;

² Thou shalt separate three cities for thee in the midst of thy land, which the LORD thy God giveth thee to possess it.

³ Thou shalt prepare thee a way, and divide the coasts of thy land, which the LORD thy God giveth thee to inherit, into three parts, that every slayer may flee thither.

⁴ And this is the case of the slayer, which shall flee thither, that he may live: Whoso killeth his neighbour ignorantly, whom he hated not in time past;

⁵ As when a man goeth into the wood with his neighbour to hew wood, and his hand fetcheth a stroke with the axe to cut down the tree, and the head slippeth from the helve, and lighteth upon his neighbour, that he die; he shall flee unto one of those cities, and live:

⁶ Lest the avenger of the blood pursue the slayer, while his heart is hot, and overtake him, because the way is long, and slay him; whereas he was not worthy of death, inasmuch as he hated him not in time past.

⁷ Wherefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt separate three cities for thee.

⁸ And if the LORD thy God enlarge thy coast, as he hath sworn unto thy fathers, and give thee all the land which he promised to give unto thy fathers;

9 If thou shalt keep all these commandments to do them, which I command thee this day, to love the LORD thy God, and to walk ever in his ways; then shalt thou add three cities more for thee, beside these three:

10 That innocent blood be not shed in thy land, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance, and so blood be upon thee.

11 But if any man hate his neighbour, and lie in wait for him, and rise up against him, and smite him mortally that he die, and fleeth into one of these cities:

12 Then the elders of his city shall send and fetch him thence, and deliver him into the hand of the avenger of blood, that he may die.

13 Thine eye shall not pity him, but thou shalt put away the guilt of innocent blood from Israel, that it may go well with thee.

Property Boundaries

14 Thou shalt not remove thy neighbour's landmark, which they of old time have set in thine inheritance, which thou shalt inherit in the land that the LORD thy God giveth thee to possess it.

Laws Concerning Witnesses

15 One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.

16 If a false witness rise up against any man to testify against him that which is wrong;

17 Then both the men, between whom the controversy is, shall stand before the LORD, before the priests and the judges, which shall be in those days;

18 And the judges shall make diligent inquisition: and, behold, if the witness be a false witness, and hath testified falsely against his brother;

19 Then shall ye do unto him, as he had thought to have done unto his brother: so shalt thou put the evil away from among you.

20 And those which remain shall hear, and fear, and shall henceforth commit no more any such evil among you.

21 And thine eye shall not pity; but life shall go for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.

HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

Blood — דָּם (Dam)

Blood

The Hebrew **dam** (דָּם) means blood—representing life itself. 'The life of the flesh is in the blood' (Leviticus 17:11), and blood was required for atonement, foreshadowing Christ's sacrifice.

God — אֱלֹהִים (Elohim)

God (plural of majesty)

The Hebrew **Elohim** (אֱלֹהִים) is a plural form denoting majesty and fullness of deity. Though grammatically plural, it takes singular verbs when referring to the one true God, suggesting the Trinity's plurality within unity.

Iniquity — אָוֶן (Avon)

Iniquity, guilt, punishment

The Hebrew **avon** (אָוֶן) encompasses iniquity, guilt, and its punishment—the twisted nature of sin. 'The LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all' (Isaiah 53:6), Christ bearing our guilt and penalty.

Lord — אֲדֹנָי / יְהוָה (YHWH / Adonai)

The LORD / Lord

When 'LORD' appears in small capitals, it represents the Tetragrammaton **YHWH** (יְהוָה), God's personal covenant name meaning 'I AM.' When 'Lord' appears normally, it's **Adonai** (אֲדֹנָי), meaning 'my Lord,' emphasizing sovereignty.

Love — אַהֲבָה / חֶסֶד (Ahavah / Chesed)

Love / Loyal-love

Hebrew uses **ahavah** (אַהֲבָה) for love generally, but the covenant term **chesed** (חֶסֶד) describes God's steadfast, loyal love—faithful covenant commitment beyond mere emotion.

Priest — כֹּהֵן (Kohen)

Priest

The Hebrew **kohen** (כֹּהֵן) denotes a priest—one who mediates between God and people through sacrifices and intercession. Aaron and his descendants served as Israel's priests, foreshadowing Christ the Great High Priest.

Sin — חַטָּא (Chatta'ah)

Sin, missing the mark

The Hebrew **chatta'ah** (חַטָּא) means sin—missing the mark of God's standard. It encompasses rebellion, transgression, and falling short of divine holiness.

CROSS REFERENCES

Deuteronomy 19:1 **References God:** Deuteronomy 6:10; 12:29; 17:14

Deuteronomy 19:2 **References God:** Exodus 21:13; Hebrews 6:18

Deuteronomy 19:4 **Parallel theme:** Deuteronomy 4:42

Deuteronomy 19:6 **Parallel theme:** Numbers 35:12

Deuteronomy 19:8 **Parallel theme:** Exodus 23:31. **References God:** Exodus 34:24.

Covenant: Deuteronomy 12:20

Deuteronomy 19:9 **Parallel theme:** Deuteronomy 12:32

Deuteronomy 19:10 **Blood:** Proverbs 6:17; Isaiah 59:7

Deuteronomy 19:11 **Parallel theme:** Deuteronomy 27:24

Deuteronomy 19:13 **Blood:** Deuteronomy 21:9; Genesis 9:6; 2 Samuel 21:1; 1 Kings 2:31.

Parallel theme: Deuteronomy 7:2; 7:16; 13:8; 25:12; Leviticus 24:21; Ezekiel 16:5

Deuteronomy 19:14

Parallel theme: Deuteronomy 27:17; Job 24:2; Proverbs 22:28; 23:10; Hosea 5:10

Deuteronomy 19:15 **Witness:** Deuteronomy 17:6; Numbers 35:30; 1 Kings 21:10; 21:13; Matthew 18:16; John 8:17; 2 Corinthians 13:1; 1 Timothy 5:19; Hebrews 10:28

Deuteronomy 19:16 **Resurrection:** Psalms 27:12; 35:11

Deuteronomy 19:17 **Judgment:** Deuteronomy 17:9. **References Lord:** Deuteronomy 21:5; Malachi 2:7

Deuteronomy 19:18 **Parallel theme:** Deuteronomy 13:14; 17:4

Deuteronomy 19:19 **Parallel theme:** Proverbs 19:5; 19:9; Daniel 6:24. **Evil:** Deuteronomy 17:7; 22:24

Deuteronomy 19:20

Parallel theme: Deuteronomy 17:13. **Evil:** Deuteronomy 13:11; 21:21

Deuteronomy 19:21 **Parallel theme:** Deuteronomy 19:13

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