

Joshua 20:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they appointed Kedesh in Galilee in mount Naphtali, and Shechem in mount Ephraim, and Kirjath-arba, which is Hebron, in the mountain of Judah.

Analysis

And they appointed Kedesh in Galilee in mount Naphtali, and Shechem in mount Ephraim, and Kirjath-arba, which is Hebron, in the mountain of Judah—The three western cities of refuge: Kedesh (north), Shechem (central), Hebron (south). This ensures geographic accessibility—no Israelite lived far from refuge. Kedesh means 'holy,' Shechem 'shoulder/strength,' Hebron 'fellowship.'

The names prophetically point to Christ: holy (set apart for sinners), strength (able to save), fellowship (communion with God). That refuge cities covered all regions shows God's universal provision. Christ is accessible to all—'whosoever will may come' (Revelation 22:17).

Historical Context

These three cities had significant covenant history. Shechem witnessed covenant renewals (Joshua 24). Hebron was Abraham's home and David's first capital. Kedesh anchored northern Israel. Their selection as refuge cities honored their sacred heritage while serving practical justice.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does geographic distribution of refuge cities reflect God's accessible grace to all?
2. What spiritual significance do the names Kedesh (holy), Shechem (strength), and Hebron (fellowship) have?

Interlinear Text

וְקָדְשׁוֹ	אֶת	קֶדֶשׁ	בְּגִלְלִיל	בְּהָר	נַפְתָּלִי	יְאֵת
And they appointed	H853	Kedesh	in Galilee	in mount	Naphtali	H853
H6942		H6943	H1551	H2022	H5321	
וְשֶׁכֶם	בְּהָר	אֶפְרַיִם	וְאֵת	קִרְיַת	אַרְבָּע	הָיָא
and Shechem	in mount	Ephraim	H853	H0	and Kirjatharba	H1931
H7927	H2022	H669			H7153	
וְחֶבְרוֹן	בְּהָר	יְהוּדָה:				
which is Hebron	in mount	of Judah				
H2275	H2022	H3063				

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 21:11 (Parallel theme): And they gave them the city of Arba the father of Anak, which city is Hebron, in the hill country of Judah, with the suburbs thereof round about it.

1 Chronicles 6:76 (Parallel theme): And out of the tribe of Naphtali; Kedesh in Galilee with her suburbs, and Hammon with her suburbs, and Kirjathaim with her suburbs.

Luke 1:39 (Parallel theme): And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Juda;

Joshua 21:32 (Parallel theme): And out of the tribe of Naphtali, Kedesh in Galilee with her suburbs, to be a city of refuge for the slayer; and Hammoth-dor with her suburbs, and Kartan with her suburbs; three cities.

Joshua 14:15 (Parallel theme): And the name of Hebron before was Kirjath-arba; which Arba was a great man among the Anakims. And the land had rest from war.

Joshua 21:13 (Parallel theme): Thus they gave to the children of Aaron the priest Hebron with her suburbs, to be a city of refuge for the slayer; and Libnah with her suburbs,

Joshua 21:21 (Parallel theme): For they gave them Shechem with her suburbs in mount Ephraim, to be a city of refuge for the slayer; and Gezer with her suburbs,