

# Numbers 35:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And of these cities which ye shall give six cities shall ye have for refuge.

## Analysis

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**Six cities shall ye have for refuge** (עָרֵי מִקְלָט, arei miklat)—literally 'cities of absorption' or 'receiving.' These sanctuary cities foreshadow Christ as our refuge from divine justice. The number six (three on each side of Jordan) ensured accessibility from anywhere in Israel—no innocent manslayer should perish for lack of refuge.

The Hebrew root qalat means 'to receive' or 'take in,' picturing God's merciful provision. Like these cities, Christ is accessible to all who flee to Him (Hebrews 6:18: 'we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge')—no geographical, ethnic, or moral barrier prevents the guilty from finding safety in Him.

## Historical Context

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Established after Israel's conquest of Canaan (Joshua 20), these cities implemented divine justice balancing punishment with mercy. Three were appointed in Transjordan (Bezer, Ramoth, Golan) and three in Canaan proper (Kedesh, Shechem, Hebron)—all Levitical cities ensuring priestly oversight.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does Christ fulfill the typology of the cities of refuge—offering asylum from the 'avenger of blood' (God's justice)?
2. What does the accessibility of six strategically-placed cities teach about God's desire that none should perish?

## Interlinear Text

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בָּנָיְתָהּ	רְאֵשׁ	וְתַתְּנִיתָהּ	שְׁשָׁ	בָּנָיְתָהּ
<b>And of these cities</b>	H834	<b>which ye shall give</b>	<b>six</b>	<b>And of these cities</b>
H5892		H5414	H8337	H5892
מִלְּכָלָת	יְתִירִיָּהּ	לְכָסָן:		
<b>shall ye have for refuge</b>	H1961	H0		
H4733				

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