

Numbers 35:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Ye shall give three cities on this side Jordan, and three cities shall ye give in the land of Canaan, which shall be cities of refuge.

Analysis

Three cities on this side Jordan, and three cities shall ye give in the land of Canaan—the strategic distribution ensured no Israelite was more than 30 miles from safety. This geographical equity reveals God's impartiality: the two-and-a-half tribes east of Jordan received equal provision with the nine-and-a-half tribes in Canaan proper.

Jewish tradition held that roads to these cities were clearly marked and well-maintained, with signposts reading 'Refuge! Refuge!' at every intersection. Similarly, the gospel is proclaimed widely (Mark 16:15), leaving none without access to Christ, our true miklat.

Historical Context

The Transjordan cities (Bezer in Reuben, Ramoth in Gad, Golan in Manasseh) were designated before the conquest was complete (Deuteronomy 4:41-43), showing God's immediate concern for justice and mercy even before Israel fully possessed the land.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What does the equal distribution of cities on both sides of Jordan reveal about God's justice transcending geographical and tribal divisions?
2. How do the well-marked roads to refuge cities illustrate the clarity and accessibility of the gospel message?

Interlinear Text

אֵת	שְׁלֹשׁ	עָרֵי	תִּתֵּן	מֵעַבְרָה	לְיַרְדֵּן	וְאֵת	שְׁלֹשׁ
H853	and three	cities	Ye shall give	on this side	Jordan	H853	and three
	H7969	H5892	H5414	H5676	H3383		H7969
עָרֵי	תִּתֵּן	בְּאֶרֶץ	כְּנָעַן	עָרֵי	מִקְלָט	תְּהִיָּה:	
cities	Ye shall give	in the land	of Canaan	cities	of refuge	H1961	
H5892	H5414	H776	H3667	H5892	H4733		

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