

Numbers 35:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

These six cities shall be a refuge, both for the children of Israel, and for the stranger, and for the sojourner among them: that every one that killeth any person unawares may flee thither.

Analysis

These cities served 'for the children of Israel, and for the stranger, and for the sojourner among them'—protection extended beyond ethnic Israelites. God's justice applies equally regardless of nationality or status. This foreshadows gospel inclusion of all peoples. Refuge in Christ isn't limited by ethnicity, social class, or background; all who flee to Him find safety.

Historical Context

Including foreigners in this provision was remarkable in ancient world where legal protections often applied only to citizens. God's law established equal justice long before modern human rights concepts. This inclusivity demonstrated that God's moral standards and mercies transcend tribal boundaries.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does the gospel's inclusion of all peoples reflect God's character shown throughout Scripture?
2. What modern 'strangers' or outsiders need to know about refuge available in Christ?

Interlinear Text

לְבָנָי	וְשָׁרָא ל	וְלֶגֶר	וְלִתְוֹשֵׁב
both for the children	of Israel	and for the stranger	and for the sojourner
H1121	H3478	H1616	H8453
מִשְׁעָנָה יְהָוָה בְּתוּךְ מַעֲרֵת	בְּאֶלְעָזֶר	בְּאֶלְעָזֶר	בְּאֶלְעָזֶר
among	These six	cities	shall be a refuge
H8432	H8337	H5892	H4733
כָּל שֶׁ מַה	מִפְּנֵי	בְּשִׁגְגָה:	בְּשִׁגְגָה:
H8033	H3605	them that every one that killeth	any person
		H5221	H7684

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 15:16 (Parallel theme): One law and one manner shall be for you, and for the stranger that sojourneth with you.