

Numbers 35:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the congregation shall deliver the slayer out of the hand of the revenger of blood, and the congregation shall restore him to the city of his refuge, whither he was fled: and he shall abide in it unto the death of the high priest, which was anointed with the holy oil.

Analysis

The manslayer must remain in the refuge city 'until the death of the high priest'—only then could he return home safely. The high priest's death somehow satisfied justice, ending the blood guilt. This typology points powerfully to Christ: His death as our High Priest releases us permanently from guilt, providing complete freedom. Our refuge doesn't restrict but liberates.

Historical Context

The high priest's death marking release date suggests his mediatorial role extended beyond annual atonement. His death affected legal status of homicides throughout Israel. This prefigured how Christ's death changes every believer's legal status before God—from guilty to justified.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's death as High Priest secure your permanent release from sin's guilt?
2. What does it mean that believers are 'in Christ' as permanent refuge rather than temporary asylum?

Interlinear Text

וְיִלְאַל	בְּעֵד	הַ	אֶת	בְּרֵאֵץ	עַ	מִיָּד	לְ	גַּאֲלָה
shall deliver	And the congregation		H853	the slayer	out of the hand	of the revenger		
H5337	H5712			H7523	H3027			H1350
בְּדִם	וְיִבּוּ	אֵתָנוּ	בְּעֵד	הַ	אֶל	עַיר		
of blood	shall restore	H853	And the congregation	H5712	H413	him to the city		
H1818	H7725					H5892		
מִקְלָט	אֲשֶׁר	בְּ	בְּ	שְׁמָה	וְ	שָׁבֵךְ	בְּ	עַד
of his refuge	H834	whither he was fled	H5127	H8033	and he shall abide	H3427	H0	H5704
H4733								
מוֹת	אֲשֶׁר	בְּ	בְּ	מִשְׁחָה	וְ	מִשְׁחָה	וְ	
in it unto the death	priest	of the high	H1419	H834	which was anointed	H4886	H853	
H4194	H3548							
בְּשָׁמֶן	בְּקָדְשָׁה							
oil	with the holy							
H8081	H6944							

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 29:7 (Parallel theme): Then shalt thou take the anointing oil, and pour it upon his head, and anoint him.

Joshua 20:6 (Parallel theme): And he shall dwell in that city, until he stand before the congregation for judgment, and until the death of the high priest that shall be

in those days: then shall the slayer return, and come unto his own city, and unto his own house, unto the city from whence he fled.

Leviticus 21:10 (Parallel theme): And he that is the high priest among his brethren, upon whose head the anointing oil was poured, and that is consecrated to put on the garments, shall not uncover his head, nor rend his clothes;

Leviticus 4:3 (Parallel theme): If the priest that is anointed do sin according to the sin of the people; then let him bring for his sin, which he hath sinned, a young bullock without blemish unto the LORD for a sin offering.

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