

Numbers 35:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Analysis

God commanded establishment of cities of refuge—places where accidental killers could flee from revenge. This system demonstrated sophisticated justice distinguishing intentional murder from manslaughter. God's law protects both justice (punishing intentional crime) and mercy (sparing accidents). These cities prefigure Christ as refuge for sinners fleeing judgment.

Historical Context

Six cities were designated (three on each side of Jordan, verse 14), strategically located for accessibility. Roads to these cities were maintained and marked, making them easy to reach. This reflects God's provision of accessible salvation—Christ is not hidden but readily available to all who flee to Him.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Christ serve as 'city of refuge' for believers fleeing judgment?
2. What does God's balance of justice and mercy teach about His character?

Interlinear Text

רַבָּבָה יְהִי הָאָלֹהִים מֵשֶׁה לֹאמֶר:

spake And the LORD unto Moses saying

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