

HIGHLIGHTS OF NUMBERS

Sermon Series Notes



“A Place of Refuge” (Numbers 35)

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Intro: Numbers 35 is one of the reasons I love studying and meditating on the Word of God. The wealth of teaching in this one chapter is tremendous, but you will not glean it with just a casual reading. It is only gained by comparing Scripture with Scripture, as well as chewing thoroughly the nuggets of truth that lay beneath the surface of the text.

Capital Punishment

- Gen.9:6 Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man.
- Romans 13:3-4 For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. For he is God’s servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear **the sword** for nothing. He is God’s servant, and agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.
- Eccl.8:11 When the sentence for a crime is not quickly carried out, the hearts of the people are filled with schemes to do wrong.

Refuge: A place of shelter or protection

God has provided places of refuge for us

- The church is a place of refuge (I Cor.5:1-5)
- Fellowship with other believers is a refuge (“Satan has desired to sift you as wheat”).
 - Eccl.4:12 Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

God Himself is our ultimate refuge

- Psalm 9:9 The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.
- Psalm 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.
- Psalm 57:1 Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me, for in you my soul takes refuge. I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed.

- Psalm 59:16 But I will sing of your strength, in the morning I will sing of your love; for you are my fortress, my refuge in times of trouble.
- Psalm 61:2-4 From the ends of the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the foe. I long to dwell in your tent forever and take refuge in the shelter of your wings.

We place ourselves in peril when we:

1. Go outside the boundaries of God's provision
 - See I Kings 2:36-46a
 - Sin unto Death (I John 5:16-17)
2. Ignore or neglect God's provision

Our greatest need of refuge is for salvation

It was our sin that put Jesus on the cross

- See Acts 3:14-17
- Luke 23:34 Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing..."

Satan holds the power of death over us (Heb.2:14)

Jesus is our great High Priest who died to set us free

- Hebrews 2:14-15 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death – that is, the devil – and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.
- I Cor.15:55-56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Gal.3:22-25
- Rom.3:21-26; The example of Abraham (Rom.4:1-5); The example of David (Rom.4:6-8; II Sam.12:9, 13).
- Psalm 18:2 The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

The gates of cities of refuge were never to be closed. Deut.19:3 says that roads were to be built to each city of refuge. According to the rabbis, in order to aid the fugitive it was the business of the Sanhedrin to keep the roads leading to the cities of refuge in the best possible repair. No hills were left, every river was bridged, and the road itself was to be at least thirty-two cubits wide (cubit = 18 inches, so 48 feet). At every turn were guideposts bearing the word Refuge.

Luke 3:4-...Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways made smooth.



See Joshua 20:7-8; Note that these cities of refuge were for anyone, not just the Israelites; Whosoever will...

Kadesh means "holy place"

- Colossians 1:22 But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you **holy** in his sight, without blemish and **free from accusation**.

Shechem means "back" or "shoulder"

- Isa.53:4-5 Surely he **took up** our infirmities and **carried** our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was **upon him**, and by his wounds we are healed.

Hebron means "association" or "fellowship"

- Isa. 59:2...your iniquities have separated you from your God...
- I John 1:3...And our **fellowship** is with the father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

Bezer means "fortress"

- Psalm 18:2 The Lord is my rock, my **fortress** and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge...

Ramoth means "heights"

- Eph.1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the **heavenly realms** with every spiritual blessing in Christ.
- Eph.2:6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the **heavenly realms** in Christ Jesus.

Golan means "their rejoicing"

Psalm 9:13-14 O Lord, see how my enemies persecute me! Have mercy and lift me up from the gates of death, that I may declare your praises in the gates of Daughters of Zion and there **rejoice in your salvation**.

Psalm 13:3-5 Look on me and answer, O Lord my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death; my enemy will say, "I have overcome him," and my foes will rejoice when I fall. But I trust in your unfailing love; **my heart rejoices in your salvation**.

Psalm 32:1-2, 11 Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord does not count against him...**Rejoice** in the Lord and be glad, you righteous...

Psalm 64:10 Let the righteous **rejoice** in the Lord and take refuge in him...