

Joshua 18:11–28 and 19–21

FIRST DAY: Introduction

God gave Israel all He had promised them! However, Israel did not claim, settle in, or defeat all the enemies in the land God gave them. To the extent that Israel trusted and obeyed God, they found that *not a word failed of any good thing which the LORD had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass* (Joshua 21:45). It is the same in our lives; in every area where we truly trust God and walk in obedience, we will find Him absolutely faithful.

In our study this week, we will see that God is not only faithful to His Word and promises, but He also provided the necessary means to keep Israel in His promises. Having received what they desired from God—their allotments—the tribes of Israel were now in danger of becoming independent of God. Therefore, God provided safeguards including the tabernacle in Shiloh, the cities of refuge, and the presence of Levitical teachers in every allotment. God has also given us fortifications for our faith. Fellowship, Bible studies, and church are not optional for believers, but are spiritual essentials to strengthen and safeguard our faith that we might continue to inherit all the promises God has for us.

Ask God to strengthen and safeguard your faith.

- (1) How does this deepen your appreciation for the cities God had mandated?
3. The *avenger of blood* (Joshua 20:3) represented the victim's family and was responsible for avenging the murder of their family member. Use the following Scriptures to highlight the importance these *cities* would serve:
- a. Exodus 21:12–14

 - b. Numbers 35:11–15

 - c. Deuteronomy 19:3–5
4. In situations involving manslaughter, use Joshua 20:4–6 to briefly describe the role of:
- a. The *slayer*

 - b. The *elders* of the city

 - c. The *avenger of blood*

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5. From Joshua 20:7–8, circle the *appointed* cities of refuge on the map:
- a. Kedesh
 - b. Shechem
 - c. Kirjath Arba (Hebron)
 - d. Bezer
 - e. Ramoth-Gilead
 - f. Golan



(1) What do you notice about the placement of these cities?

- (2) The cities of refuge were to be accessible by good roads (Deuteronomy 19:3). Why do you think this was important?
6. Joshua 20:9 summarizes the purpose of these *cities*. They provide us with a picture of the character of God. Use the following verses to remark on this:
- a. Deuteronomy 33:27
 - b. Psalm 91:1–6
 - c. Proverbs 14:26
 - d. Proverbs 18:10
- (1) Which of these verses most ministers to you today?
7. What does it mean to you that God is your refuge? See Psalm 46:1.

FOURTH DAY: Read Joshua 21:1–42

1. In Joshua 21:1–2, *the Levites came* to Joshua and the leaders to remind them of the Lord’s command to give them *cities to dwell in* among the children of Israel. Read Deuteronomy 10:8–9 to understand and comment on why the Levites were not apportioned their own land.

2. According to Joshua 21:3, *the children of Israel gave to the Levites from their inheritance*. Use Joshua 21:4–7 to identify which tribes *gave cities* to each of the following Levitical families:
 - a. The *children of Kohath* (verses 4–5)

 - b. The *children of Gershon* (verse 6)

 - c. The *children of Merari* (verse 7)

(1) Use 2 Chronicles 17:8–9 to discover why God placed the Levites throughout the land of Israel.

3. Joshua 21:8–40 lists the cities in Israel that were given to the Levites. Why do you think they were entrusted with all the cities of refuge?

4. Use Joshua 21:41–42 to list what was given to the Levites.

5. Share why you think it was important for every tribe to give a portion of their allotment to the Levites.
 - a. Link this with 1 Thessalonians 5:12–13 and 1 Timothy 5:17. What do you see?

FIFTH DAY: Read Joshua 21:43–45

1. Joshua 21 concludes with the testimony of what God had done for Israel in the Promised Land. Use Joshua 21:43–44 to note and comment on:
 - a. What the Lord *gave* them (verses 43a, 44a)

 - b. What the Lord *had sworn* (verses 43b, 44b)

 - c. What Israel was able to do (verse 43c)

 - d. What the Lord *delivered* (verse 44c)

