



Sunday, February 2, 2020
Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to Joshua 20

The Bible says, “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” (Ps. 46:1). Then the refrain of that psalm reiterates the presence of God with us and the security that is found in Him: “The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.” (Ps. 46:7, 11). What a great promise!

The problem for many of us in the West is that we haven’t found ourselves in much physical danger that illustrates our spiritual condition for us. We typically don’t find ourselves in need of fortresses. No one is shooting at us or coming to kill us with a sword or spear. And yet for much of human history (and still many places today), warfare is a staple of human existence and refuge is prized.

And yet, we are in grave spiritual danger apart from Christ. He is our refuge (Heb. 6:18), precisely because He is our great High Priest. Though we are guilty of sin and blood is required of us, He has sacrificed Himself to make atonement for us, so that we might find refuge on Judgment Day, knowing that the One who is to judge us is also the One who atoned for our sin and imputed His righteousness to us!

Context

The most significant context for Joshua 20 is Numbers 35 and Deuteronomy 19:1-13. In those passages, the LORD outlines the plan for these cities of refuge, which Joshua and the people obey as they actually designate them once the land has been settled. Those passages give a glimpse of God’s character in establishing these cities, but also, in tandem with Joshua 20, reveal how at least this generation took God’s word seriously and sought to obey Him according to His word.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Joshua 20:1-9

“Run for Your Lives!”

1. OT Cities of Refuge

- Provisional safety

- Death of the high priest

2. NT Redemption in Jesus

- Same language used

- Death of the High Priest

Flee to Christ for safety!

Discuss

- 1) Read Genesis 9:1-7. What does this passage teach us about the value of human life?

- 2) Compare Deuteronomy 19:1-13 with Joshua 20:1-9. What do the actions of Joshua and the people tell us about how they viewed God's word?

- 3) What does Joshua 20 teach us about God's character?

- 4) Do you tend to think of God more in terms of His justice/wrath or His love/mercy? Why do you think that is?

- 5) Read Hebrews 4:14-16 and 6:18-20. How has Jesus been a refuge for you?