

Cities of Refuge (1400 BC)

Joshua 20

1 Then the LORD spoke to Joshua, saying,
 2 “Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, ‘Designate the cities of refuge, of which I spoke to you through Moses,
 3 that the manslayer who kills any person unintentionally, without premeditation, may flee there, and they shall become your refuge from the avenger of blood.
 4 He shall flee to one of these cities, and shall stand at the entrance of the gate of the city and state his case in the hearing of the elders of that city; and they shall take him into the city to them and give him a place, so that he may dwell among them.
 5 Now if the avenger of blood pursues him, then they shall not deliver the manslayer into his hand, because he struck his neighbor without premeditation and did not hate him beforehand.
 6 He shall dwell in that city until he stands before the congregation for judgment, until the death of the one who is high priest in those days. Then the manslayer shall return to his own city and to his own house, to the city from which he fled.’”
 7 So they set apart Kedesh in Galilee in the hill country of Naphtali and Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim, and Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron) in the hill country of Judah.
 8 Beyond the Jordan east of Jericho, they designated Bezer in the wilderness on the plain from the tribe of Reuben, and Ramoth in Gilead from the tribe of Gad, and Golan in Bashan from the tribe of Manasseh.
 9 These were the appointed cities for all the sons of Israel and for the stranger who sojourns among them, that whoever kills any person unintentionally may flee there, and not die by the hand of the avenger of blood until he stands before the congregation.

Levi’s Inheritance of Cities (1400 BC)

Joshua 21:1–42

1 Chronicles 6:54–81

1 Then the heads of households of the Levites approached Eleazar the priest, and Joshua the son of Nun, and the heads of households of the tribes of the sons of Israel.
 2 They spoke to them at Shiloh in the land of Canaan, saying, “The LORD commanded through Moses to give us cities to live in, with their pasture lands for our cattle.”
 3 So the sons of Israel gave the Levites from their inheritance these cities with their pasture lands, according to the command of the LORD.

General Overview

4 Then the lot came out for the families of the Kohathites.
 And the sons of Aaron the priest, who were of the Levites, received thirteen cities by lot from the tribe of Judah and from the tribe of the Simeonites and from the tribe of Benjamin.
 5 The rest of the sons of Kohath received ten cities by lot from the families of the tribe of Ephraim and from the tribe of Dan and from the half-tribe of Manasseh.

54 Now these are their settlements according to their camps within their borders.

To the sons of Aaron of the families of the Kohathites (for theirs was the *first* lot),

61 Then to the rest of the sons of Kohath *were given* by lot, from the family of the tribe, from the half-tribe, the half of Manasseh, ten cities.

6 The sons of Gershon received thirteen cities by lot from the families of the tribe of Issachar and from the tribe of Asher and from the tribe of Naphtali and from the half-tribe of Manasseh in Bashan.

7 The sons of Merari according to their families received twelve cities from the tribe of Reuben and from the tribe of Gad and from the tribe of Zebulun.

8 Now the sons of Israel gave by lot to the Levites these cities with their pasture lands, as the LORD had commanded through Moses.

Priestly Kohathites' Inheritance

9 They gave these cities which are *here* mentioned by name from the tribe of the sons of Judah and from the tribe of the sons of Simeon;

10 and they were for the sons of Aaron, one of the families of the Kohathites, of the sons of Levi, for the lot was theirs first.

11 Thus they gave them Kiriath-arba, *Arba being* the father of Anak (that is, Hebron), in the hill country of Judah, with its surrounding pasture lands.

12 But the fields of the city and its villages they gave to Caleb the son of Jephunneh as his possession.

13 So to the sons of Aaron the priest they gave Hebron, the city of refuge for the manslayer, with its pasture lands,

and Libnah with its pasture lands,
14 and Jattir with its pasture lands
and Eshtemoa with its pasture lands,

15 and Holon with its pasture lands
and Debir with its pasture lands,

16 and Ain with its pasture lands
and Juttah with its pasture lands

and Beth-shemesh with its pasture lands;
nine cities from these two tribes.

17 From the tribe of Benjamin,
Gibeon with its pasture lands,
Geba with its pasture lands,

18 Anathoth with its pasture lands
and Almon with its pasture lands; four cities.

62 To the sons of Gershom, according to their families, *were given* from the tribe of Issachar and from the tribe of Asher, the tribe of Naphtali, and the tribe of Manasseh, thirteen cities in Bashan.

63 To the sons of Merari *were given* by lot, according to their families, from the tribe of Reuben, the tribe of Gad and the tribe of Zebulun, twelve cities.

64 So the sons of Israel gave to the Levites the cities with their pasture lands.

65 They gave by lot from the tribe of the sons of Judah, the tribe of the sons of Simeon and the tribe of the sons of Benjamin, these cities which are mentioned by name.

55 to them they gave

Hebron
in the land of Judah
and its pasture lands around it;
56 but the fields of the city and its villages,
they gave to Caleb the son of Jephunneh.

57 To the sons of Aaron
they gave the *following* cities of refuge: Hebron,

Libnah also with its pasture lands,
Jattir,

Eshtemoa with its pasture lands,

58 Hilen with its pasture lands,

Debir with its pasture lands,

59 Ashan with its pasture lands

and Beth-shemesh with its pasture lands;

60 and from the tribe of Benjamin:

Geba with its pasture lands,

Allemeth with its pasture lands,

and Anathoth with its pasture lands.

19 All the cities of the sons of Aaron, the priests, were thirteen cities with their pasture lands.

Nonpriestly Kohathites' Inheritance

20 Then the cities from the tribe of Ephraim were allotted to the families of the sons of Kohath, the Levites, *even to* the rest of the sons of Kohath.

21 They gave them

Shechem, the city of refuge for the manslayer, with its pasture lands, in the hill country of Ephraim, and Gezer with its pasture lands,

22 and Kibzaim with its pasture lands

and Beth-horon with its pasture lands; four cities.

23 From the tribe of Dan, Elteke with its pasture lands, Gibbethon with its pasture lands,

24 Aijalon with its pasture lands,

Gath-rimmon with its pasture lands; four cities.

25 From the half-tribe of Manasseh, *they allotted* Taanach with its pasture lands

and Gath-rimmon with its pasture lands; two cities.

26 All the cities with their pasture lands for the families of the rest of the sons of Kohath were ten.

Gershonites' Inheritance

27 To the sons of Gershon, one of the families of the Levites, from the half-tribe of Manasseh, *they gave* Golan in Bashan, the city of refuge for the manslayer, with its pasture lands, and Be-eshterah with its pasture lands; two cities.

28 From the tribe of Issachar, *they gave* Kishion with its pasture lands,

Daberath with its pasture lands,

29 Jarmuth with its pasture lands,

En-gannim with its pasture lands; four cities.

30 From the tribe of Asher, *they gave*

Mishal with its pasture lands,

Abdon with its pasture lands,

31 Helkath with its pasture lands

and Rehob with its pasture lands; four cities.

32 From the tribe of Naphtali, *they gave*

Kedesh in Galilee, the city of refuge for the manslayer, with its pasture lands

and Hammoth-dor with its pasture lands

and Kartan with its pasture lands; three cities.

33 All the cities of the Gershonites according to their families were thirteen cities with their pasture lands.

Merarites' Inheritance

34 To the families of the sons of Merari, the rest of

All their cities throughout their families were thirteen cities.

66 Now some of the families of the sons of Kohath had cities of their territory from the tribe of Ephraim.

67 They gave to them the *following* cities of refuge: Shechem

in the hill country of Ephraim with its pasture lands, Gezer also with its pasture lands,

68 Jokmeam with its pasture lands,

Beth-horon with its pasture lands,

69 Aijalon with its pasture lands

and Gath-rimmon with its pasture lands;

70 and from the half-tribe of Manasseh:

Aner with its pasture lands

and Bileam with its pasture lands,

for the rest of the family

of the sons of Kohath.

71 To the sons of Gershom *were given*,

from the family of the half-tribe of Manasseh:

Golan in Bashan

with its pasture lands

and Ashtaroth with its pasture lands;

72 and from the tribe of Issachar:

Kedesh with its pasture lands,

Daberath with its pasture lands

73 and Ramoth with its pasture lands,

Anem with its pasture lands;

74 and from the tribe of Asher:

Mashal with its pasture lands,

Abdon with its pasture lands,

75 Hukok with its pasture lands

and Rehob with its pasture lands;

76 and from the tribe of Naphtali:

Kedesh in Galilee

with its pasture lands,

Hammon with its pasture lands

and Kiriathaim with its pasture lands.

77 To the rest of *the Levites*, the sons of Merari,

the Levites, *they gave* from the tribe of Zebulun, Jokneam with its pasture lands and Kartah with its pasture lands. 35 Dimnah with its pasture lands, Nahalal with its pasture lands; four cities.

36 From the tribe of Reuben, *they gave* Bezer with its pasture lands and Jahaz with its pasture lands, 37 Kedemoth with its pasture lands and Mephaath with its pasture lands; four cities.

38 From the tribe of Gad, *they gave* Ramoth in Gilead, the city of refuge for the manslayer, with its pasture lands and Mahanaim with its pasture lands, 39 Heshbon with its pasture lands, Jazer with its pasture lands; four cities in all. 40 All *these were* the cities of the sons of Merari according to their families, the rest of the families of the Levites; and their lot was twelve cities.

Summary

41 All the cities of the Levites in the midst of the possession of the sons of Israel were forty-eight cities with their pasture lands.

42 These cities each had its surrounding pasture lands; thus *it was* with all these cities.

were given, from the tribe of Zebulun:

Rimmono with its pasture lands, Tabor with its pasture lands; 78 and beyond the Jordan at Jericho, on the east side of the Jordan, *were given them*, from the tribe of Reuben:

Bezer in the wilderness with its pasture lands, Jahzah with its pasture lands, 79 Kedemoth with its pasture lands and Mephaath with its pasture lands; 80 and from the tribe of Gad:

Ramoth in Gilead with its pasture lands, Mahanaim with its pasture lands, 81 Heshbon with its pasture lands and Jazer with its pasture lands.

Summary of the Conquest (1400 BC)

Joshua 21:43–45

43 So the LORD gave Israel all the land which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they possessed it and lived in it.

44 And the LORD gave them rest on every side, according to all that He had sworn to their fathers, and no one of all their enemies stood before them; the LORD gave all their enemies into their hand.

45 Not one of the good promises which the LORD had made to the house of Israel failed; all came to pass.

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