

## Cities of Refuge (1400 BC)

Joshua 20

- 1 The LORD instructed Joshua:
- 2 “Have the Israelites select the cities of refuge that I told you about through Moses.
- 3 Anyone who accidentally kills someone can escape there; these cities will be a place of asylum from the avenger of blood.
- 4 The one who committed manslaughter should escape to one of these cities, stand at the entrance of the city gate, and present his case to the leaders of that city. They should then bring him into the city, give him a place to stay, and let him live there.
- 5 When the avenger of blood comes after him, they must not hand over to him the one who committed manslaughter, for he accidentally killed his fellow man without premeditation.
- 6 He must remain in that city until his case is decided by the assembly and the high priest dies. Then the one who committed manslaughter may return home to the city from which he escaped.”
- 7 So they selected Kedesh in Galilee in the hill country of Naphtali, 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 selected Bezer in the desert on the plain belonging to the tribe of Reuben, Ramoth in Gilead belonging to the tribe of Gad, and Golan in Bashan belonging to the tribe of Manasseh.
- 9 These were the cities of refuge appointed for all the Israelites and for resident foreigners living among them. Anyone who accidentally killed someone could escape there and not be executed by the avenger of blood, at least until his case was reviewed by the assembly.

## Levi’s Inheritance of Cities (1400 BC)

Joshua 21:1–42

1 Chronicles 6:54–81

- 1 The tribal leaders of the Levites went before Eleazar the priest and Joshua son of Nun and the Israelite tribal leaders
- 2 in Shiloh in the land of Canaan and said, “The LORD told Moses to assign us cities in which to live along with the grazing areas for our cattle.”
- 3 So the Israelites assigned these cities and their grazing areas to the Levites from their own holdings, as the LORD had instructed.

### General Overview

- 4 The first lot belonged to the Kohathite clans.

The Levites who were descendants of Aaron the priest were allotted thirteen cities from the tribes of Judah, Simeon, and Benjamin.

- 5 The rest of Kohath’s descendants were allotted ten cities from the clans of the tribe of Ephraim, and from the tribe of Dan and the half-tribe of Manasseh.

- 6 Gershon’s descendants were allotted thirteen cities from the clans of the tribe of Issachar, and from the tribes of Asher and Naphtali and the half-tribe of Manasseh in Bashan.

- 7 Merari’s descendants by their clans were allotted twelve cities from the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and Zebulun.

- 8 So the Israelites assigned to the Levites by lot these cities and their grazing areas, as the LORD had instructed Moses.

### Priestly Kohathites’ Inheritance

- 9 They assigned from the tribes of Judah and Simeon

the cities listed below.

- 10 They were assigned to the Kohathite clans of the Levites who were descendants of Aaron, for the first lot belonged to them.

- 11 They assigned them Kiriath Arba (Arba was the father of Anak), that is, Hebron, in the hill country of Judah, along with its surrounding grazing areas.

- 12 (Now the city’s fields and surrounding towns they had

- 54 These were the areas where Aaron’s descendants lived:

The following belonged to the Kohathite clan, for they received the first allotment:

- 61 The rest of Kohath’s descendants were allotted ten cities in

the territory of the half-tribe of Manasseh.

- 62 The clans of Gershon’s descendants received thirteen cities within the territory of the tribes of Issachar, Asher, Naphtali, and Manasseh (in Bashan).

- 63 The clans of Merari’s descendants were allotted twelve cities within the territory of the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and Zebulun.

- 64 So the Israelites gave to the Levites these cities and their pasturelands.

- 65 They allotted these previously named cities from the territory of the tribes of Judah, Simeon, and Benjamin.

- 55 They were allotted Hebron in the territory of Judah, as well as its surrounding pasturelands.

- 56 (But the city’s land and nearby towns were

assigned to Caleb son of Jephunneh as his property.)  
 13 So to the descendants of Aaron the priest they assigned Hebron (a city of refuge for one who committed manslaughter), Libnah,  
 14 Jattir,  
 Eshtemoa,  
 15 Holon,  
 Debir,  
 16 Ain,  
 Juttah, and  
 Beth Shemesh, along with the grazing areas of each— a total of nine cities taken from these two tribes.  
 17 From the tribe of Benjamin they assigned  
 Gibeon,  
 Geba,  
 18 Anathoth, and Almon, along with the grazing areas of each— a total of four cities.  
 19 The priests descended from Aaron received thirteen cities and their grazing areas.

#### **Nonpriestly Kohathites' Inheritance**

20 The rest of the Kohathite clans of the Levites were allotted cities from the tribe of Ephraim.  
 21 They assigned them  
 Shechem (a city of refuge for one who committed manslaughter) in the hill country of Ephraim,  
 Gezer,  
 22 Kibzaim, and  
 Beth Horon, along with the grazing areas of each— a total of four cities.  
 23 From the tribe of Dan they assigned  
 Eltekeh,  
 Gibbethon,  
 24 Aijalon, and  
 Gath Rimmon, along with the grazing areas of each— a total of four cities.  
 25 From the half-tribe of Manasseh they assigned  
 Taanach and  
 Gath Rimmon, along with the grazing areas of each— a total of two cities.  
 26 The rest of the Kohathite clans received ten cities and their grazing areas.

#### **Gershonites' Inheritance**

27 They assigned to the Gershonite clans of the Levites the following cities:  
 from the half-tribe of Manasseh:  
 Golan in Bashan (a city of refuge for one who committed manslaughter) and Beeshtarah, along with the grazing areas of each—a total of two cities;  
 28 from the tribe of Issachar:  
 Kishon,  
 Daberath,  
 29 Jarmuth, and  
 En Gannim, along with the grazing areas of each— a total of four cities;

allotted to Caleb son of Jephunneh.)  
 57 The descendants of Aaron were also allotted as cities of refuge Hebron, Libnah and its pasturelands, Jattir, Eshtemoa and its pasturelands,  
 58 Hilez and its pasturelands, Debir and its pasturelands,  
 59 Ashan and its pasturelands, and  
 Beth Shemesh and its pasturelands.

60 Within the territory of the tribe of Benjamin they were allotted

Geba and its pasturelands, Alemeth and its pasturelands, and Anathoth and its pasturelands.

Their clans were allotted thirteen cities in all.

66 The clans of Kohath's descendants also received territory within the tribe of Ephraim.

67 They were allotted as cities of refuge

Shechem and its pasturelands (in the hill country of Ephraim), Gezer and its pasturelands,

68 Jokmeam and its pasturelands, Beth Horon and its pasturelands,

69 Aijalon and its pasturelands, and Gath Rimmon and its pasturelands.

70 Within the territory of the half-tribe of Manasseh, the rest of Kohath's descendants received Aner and its pasturelands and Bileam and its pasturelands.

71 The following belonged to Gershom's descendants:

Within the territory of the half-tribe of Manasseh:  
 Golan in Bashan and its pasturelands and Ashtaroth and its pasturelands.

72 Within the territory of the tribe of Issachar:

Kedesh and its pasturelands, Daberath and its pasturelands,

73 Ramoth and its pasturelands, and Anem and its pasturelands.

<p>30 from the tribe of Asher: Mishal, Abdon, 31 Helkath, and Rehob, along with the grazing areas of each— a total of four cities; 32 from the tribe of Naphtali: Kedesh in Galilee (a city of refuge for one who committed manslaughter), Hammoth Dor, and Kartan, along with the grazing areas of each— a total of three cities. 33 The Gershonite clans received thirteen cities and their grazing areas.</p> <p><b>Merarites' Inheritance</b> 34 They assigned to the Merarite clans (the remaining Levites) the following cities: from the tribe of Zebulun: Jokneam, Kartah, 35 Dimnah, and Nahalal, along with the grazing areas of each— a total of four cities; 36 from the tribe of Reuben:  Bezer, Jahaz, 37 Kedemoth, and Mephaath, along with the grazing areas of each— a total of four cities; 38 from the tribe of Gad: Ramoth in Gilead (a city of refuge for one who committed manslaughter), Mahanaim, 39 Heshbon, and Jazer, along with the grazing areas of each— a total of four cities. 40 The Merarite clans (the remaining Levites) were allotted twelve cities.</p> <p><b>Summary</b> 41 The Levites received within the land owned by the Israelites forty-eight cities in all and their grazing areas. 42 Each of these cities had grazing areas around it; they were alike in this regard.</p>	<p>74 Within the territory of the tribe of Asher: Mashal and its pasturelands, Abdon and its pasturelands, 75 Hukok and its pasturelands, and Rehob and its pasturelands.</p> <p>76 Within the territory of the tribe of Naphtali: Kedesh in Galilee and its pasturelands,  Hammon and its pasturelands, and Kiriathaim and its pasturelands.</p> <p>77 The following belonged to the rest of Merari's descendants:  Within the territory of the tribe of Zebulun:  Rimmono and its pasturelands, and Tabor and its pasturelands.</p> <p>78 Within the territory of the tribe of Reuben across the Jordan River east of Jericho: Bezer in the desert and its pasturelands, Jahzah and its pasturelands, 79 Kedemoth and its pasturelands, and Mephaath and its pasturelands.</p> <p>80 Within the territory of the tribe of Gad: Ramoth in Gilead and its pasturelands,  Mahanaim and its pasturelands, 81 Heshbon and its pasturelands, and Jazer and its pasturelands.</p>
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### Summary of the Conquest (1400 BC)

Joshua 21:43–45

43 So the LORD gave Israel all the land he had solemnly promised to their ancestors, and they conquered it and lived in it.  
44 The LORD made them secure, in fulfillment of all he had solemnly promised their ancestors. None of their enemies could resist them.  
45 Not one of the LORD's faithful promises to the family of Israel was left unfulfilled; every one was realized.

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