

March 29 Answers

- 1) After the land was divided, God told Joshua to designate by name the cities of **refuge** which He had spoken of to Moses (Exod 21:13; Num 35:6–34; Deut 19:1–13). These **six** cities gave asylum to those who had **accidentally** killed someone, and their location in the north, center and south on both sides of the Jordan made them easily **accessible** to those who needed their protection. This legal provision for cases of manslaughter gives us insight into the character of God: (1) He cares about people's **motives**, and He made sure that a man without hatred in his heart would not be put to death as a murderer (Josh 20:5); (2) His justice is available to **all** no matter their background or class (Josh 20:9); and (3) He regards human life as **precious**, and it should only be taken according to His stipulations (Deut 19:10). Last but not least of the tribes, the **Levites** were given cities and pasture land just as God commanded through Moses (Num 35:2–8). God did this intentionally so the Levites, whose responsibilities included the **teaching** and **administration** of the law, would not be far from anyone in Israel. In this way they provided a positive spiritual **influence** on the entire nation. This shows how important it is for us to be **salt** and **light** in our homes, our churches, our communities, and our nation. Like the Levites, we need to be encouraging and challenging those around us to be holy and dedicated to God.