### Joshua

## Chapter 20

1Then the Lord spoke to JoShua and said:  
  
 2‘Speak to the children of IsraEl and tell them to assign the refuge cities that I spoke to you about through Moses. 3They are to be havens for those who accidentally kill another person…  
  
 ‘Cities to run to, so the one who killed the other won’t be put to death by the person acting as next-of-kin (over the blood).  
  
 4‘He must flee to one of these cities and go to the city gate to speak to the city elders about his case. Thereafter, he’s to be handed over [to those who are living there] and given a place where he can stay among them.  
  
 5‘And when the person acting as the next of kin over the blood (the one who is pursuing him) arrives, they’re not to hand him over for unintentionally striking his neighbor (someone whom he didn’t dislike on the previous days).  
  
 6‘The person must continue to dwell in that city until he stands trial before the congregation, and thereafter, he must stay there until the death of the High Priest (whomever it may be in that day).  
  
 ‘So then, the blood-avenger must just return to his city and home (the place they fled from).’  
  
7Therefore, [JoShua] set aside:  
  
 • KaDesh, in the hills of NaphTali in Galilee,  
 • SheChem, in the hills of Ephraim, and  
 • The city of ArBoc (HebRon), in the hills of Judah.  
  
8And across the JorDan, he set aside:  
  
 • Bosor, in the desert plain of the tribe of ReuBen,  
 • AremOth in GileAd, of the tribe of Gad, and  
 • Golan in the country of BaShan, of the tribe of ManasSeh.  
  
9These were the cities selected for the sons of IsraEl (and for the aliens who lived among them), where those who unintentionally killed another could run, so they wouldn’t be put to death by the blood avenger before they stood trial in front of the gathering.