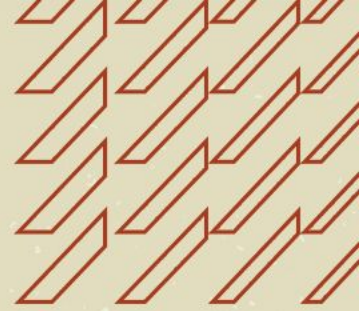


Christ Our Refuge and Strength

Joshua 20–21

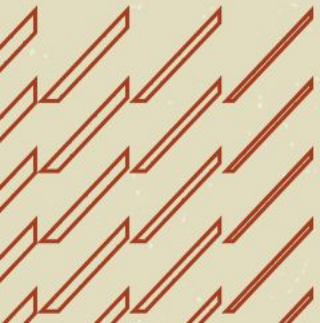


Who is protecting you?

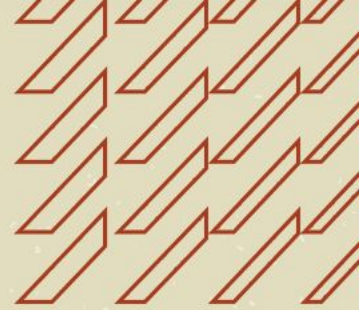


Who is protecting you from the penalty of your sins?

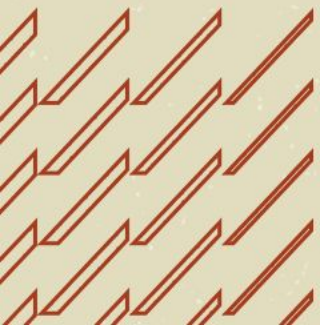
Who is protecting you from the punishment you deserve?



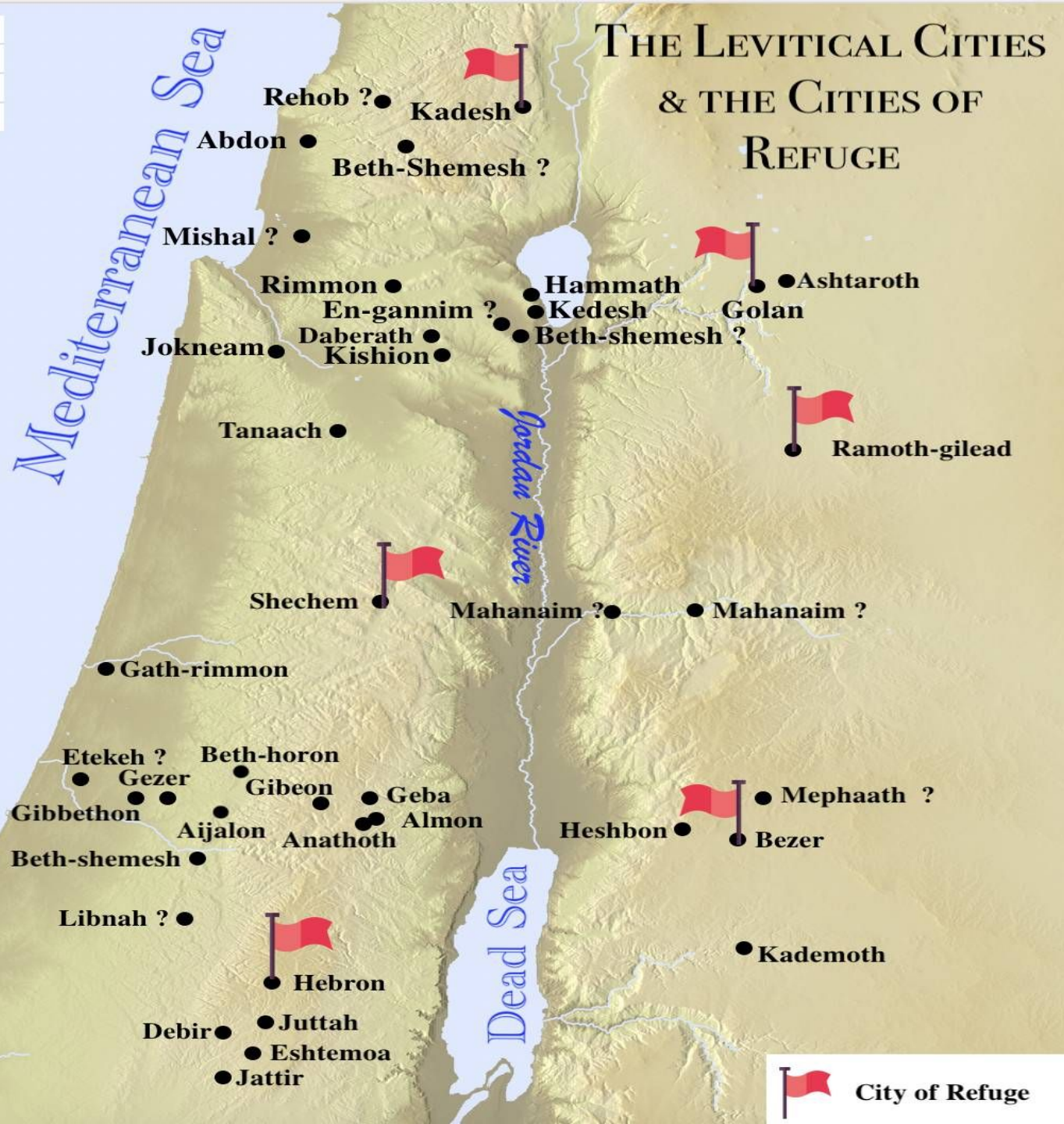
Joshua 21



1. The Levite family heads approached the priest Eleazar, Joshua son of Nun, and the family heads of the Israelite tribes. 2 At Shiloh, in the land of Canaan, they told them, "The Lord commanded through Moses that we be given cities to live in, with their pasturelands for our livestock." 3 So the Israelites, by the Lord's command, gave the Levites these cities with their pasturelands from their inheritance.



THE LEVITICAL CITIES & THE CITIES OF REFUGE



Joshua 20

1 Then the Lord spoke to Joshua, 2 “Tell the Israelites: Select your cities of refuge, as I instructed you through Moses, 3 so that a person who kills someone unintentionally or accidentally may flee there. These will be your refuge from the avenger of blood.

Joshua 20

4 When someone flees to one of these cities, stands at the entrance of the city gate, and states his case before the elders of that city, they are to bring him into the city and give him a place to live among them.

5 And if the avenger of blood pursues him, they must not hand the one who committed manslaughter over to him, for he killed his neighbor accidentally and did not hate him beforehand.

Joshua 20

6 He is to stay in that city until he stands trial before the assembly and until the death of the high priest serving at that time.

Then the one who committed manslaughter may return home to his own city from which he fled.”

Joshua 20

7 So they designated Kedesh in the hill country of Naphtali in Galilee, Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim, and Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron) in the hill country of Judah.

8 Across the Jordan east of Jericho, they selected Bezer on the wilderness plateau from Reuben's tribe, Ramoth in Gilead from Gad's tribe, and Golan in Bashan from Manasseh's tribe.

Joshua 20

9 These are the cities appointed for all the Israelites and the aliens residing among them, so that anyone who kills a person unintentionally may flee there and not die at the hand of the avenger of blood until he stands before the assembly.

God is our Refuge

God is our refuge and strength, a helper who is always found in times of trouble. Psalm 46:1

“The one who lives under the protection of the Most High dwells in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say concerning the Lord, who my refuge whom I trust.” Psalm 91:1–2.

Christ is Our Protection

So that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us.

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain.

Jesus has entered there on our behalf as a forerunner, because he has become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. (Hebrews 6:18–20)


Christ is Our Protection

For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory
(Colossians 3:3–4)

Christ is Our Protection

For the wages of sin is death,
but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ
our Lord. (Romans 6:23)



We find refuge in the redeeming blood of Jesus Christ, who covers our sins and justifies God's wrath. His death brings us freedom, his resurrection brings us hope. Our High Priest died and now lives forever.

