

JOSHUA 20: CITIES OF REFUGE

HEAVEN

- Parallels with Abraham's Bosom
- Torah announces the Divine God-Patterns
- Abraham's Bosom is NEITHER Heaven nor Hell
- Spiritual principle always established before the physical reality is created

ABRAHAM'S BOSOM



GOOD
CLEAN
HOLY
GOD'S PEOPLE

EVIL
UNCLEAN
UNHOLY
ALL OTHERS

GOD'S WINNOWING PROCESS

- Exclusion vs. Inclusion
- Narrow gate for members
- Wide barrier against intruders

Divide

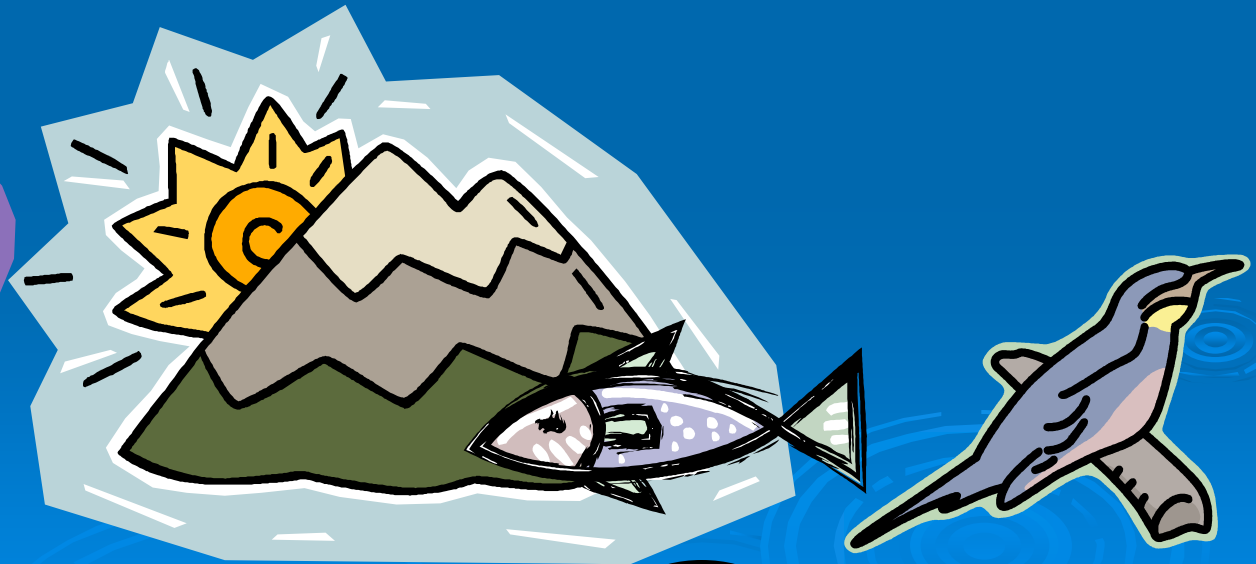
Elect

Separate

REALITY OF DUALITY

HEAVEN AND THE
SPIRITUAL WORLD

← SPIRITUAL REALITY →



← PHYSICAL REALITY →

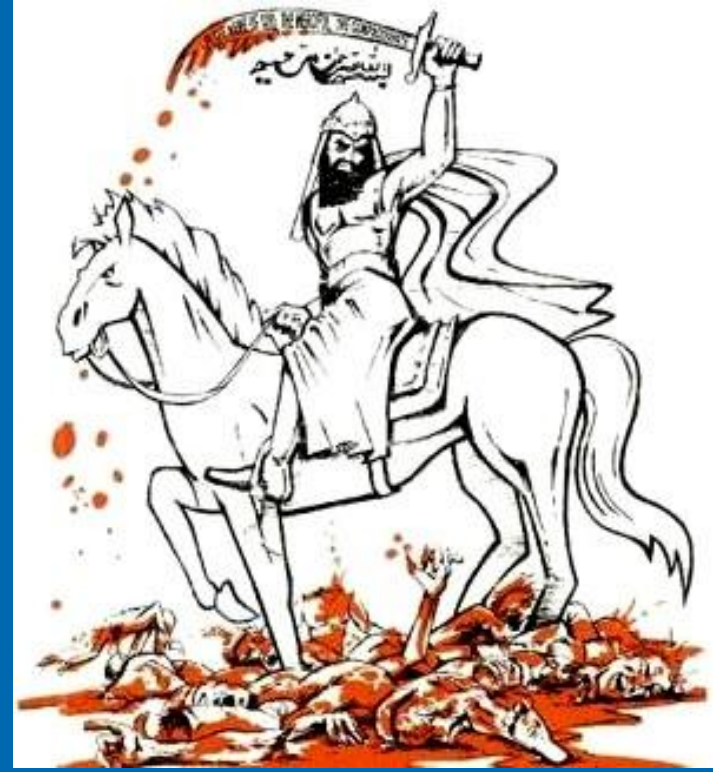
CITIES OF REFUGE NOW OPERATIONAL

- Rules for Cities of Refuge in Num. 35:9 – 29
- “Adonai said to Y’hoshua...”
- Said = *dibber*
- *Dibber* = drive forward, speak with power
- God orders Joshua to establish the Sanctuary Cities NOW!



BLOOD AVENGER

- Tribal justice generally accomplished by the family
- Due to 9/11 and rise of Islam we are confronted with ancient tribal justice
- Churches as sanctuaries for accused criminals have roots in ancient Middle East



BLOOD POLLUTES THE LAND



- The ONLY purpose for a City of Refuge is to protect a manslayer
- Up to this point the Bible has NOT outlawed blood revenge
- Spilling human blood on the Promised Land makes it defiled
- The ONLY atonement for a perpetrator of murder is his own blood, and his blood atones **FOR THE LAND!!**

BLOOD IS FOR ATONEMENT ONLY!

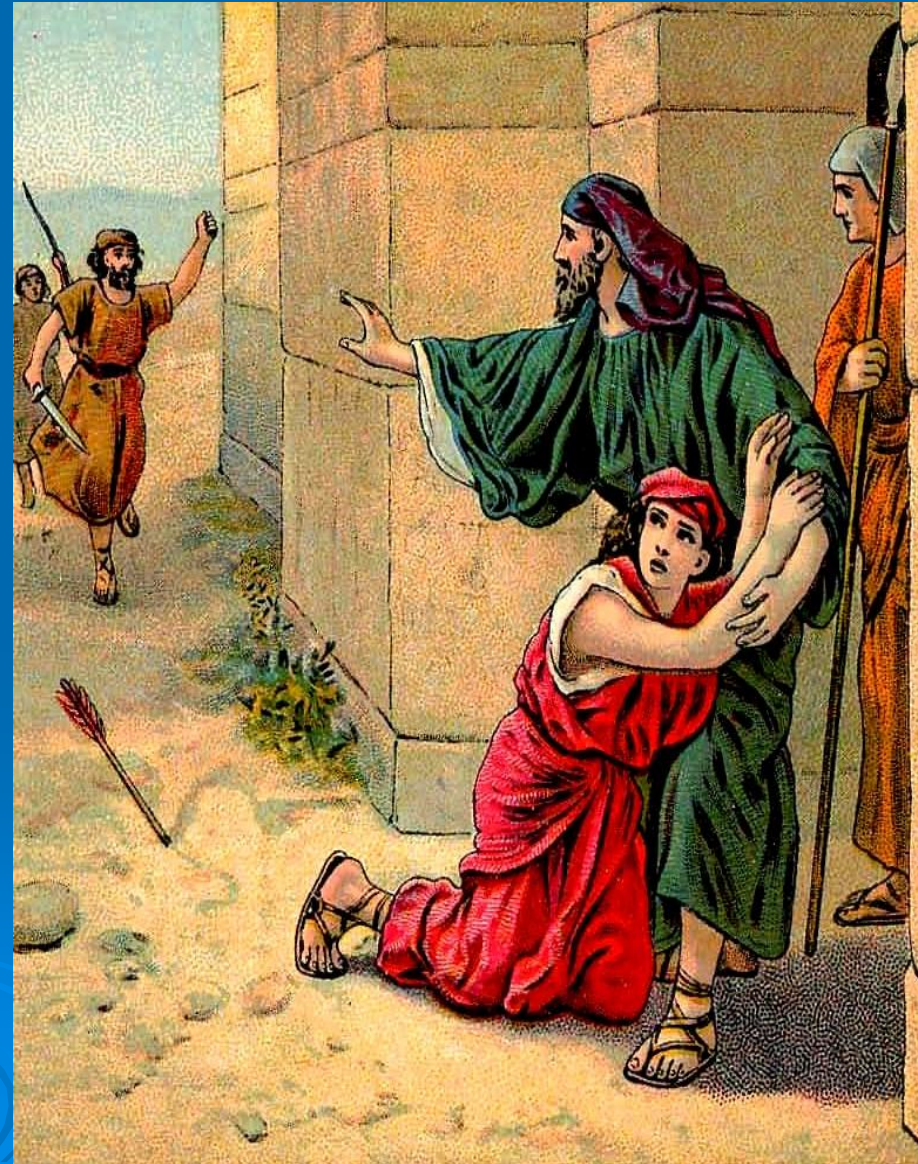


- Even accidental killing is sin
- Killing of the accidental killer atones for the land
- BUT.....God provided mercy for a killer if his act was not murder
- There is a kind of righteousness that comes by obedience to the Law
- There is another kind of righteousness that comes by faith in Messiah Yeshua
- The 1st kind has limits, the 2nd kind has no limits



BLOOD AVENGER PROHIBITED FROM THE CITY OF REFUGE

- Manslaughter is sin no matter how it happened
- The land was defiled by human blood, so something had to be done
- Perpetrator flees to City of Refuge, he could obtain forgiveness by proper sacrificial ritual, but he HAD to remain there
- When High Priest died, he could leave and be fully free
- When a man died in his righteousness, he was ushered into a spiritual safe-house: Abraham's Bosom



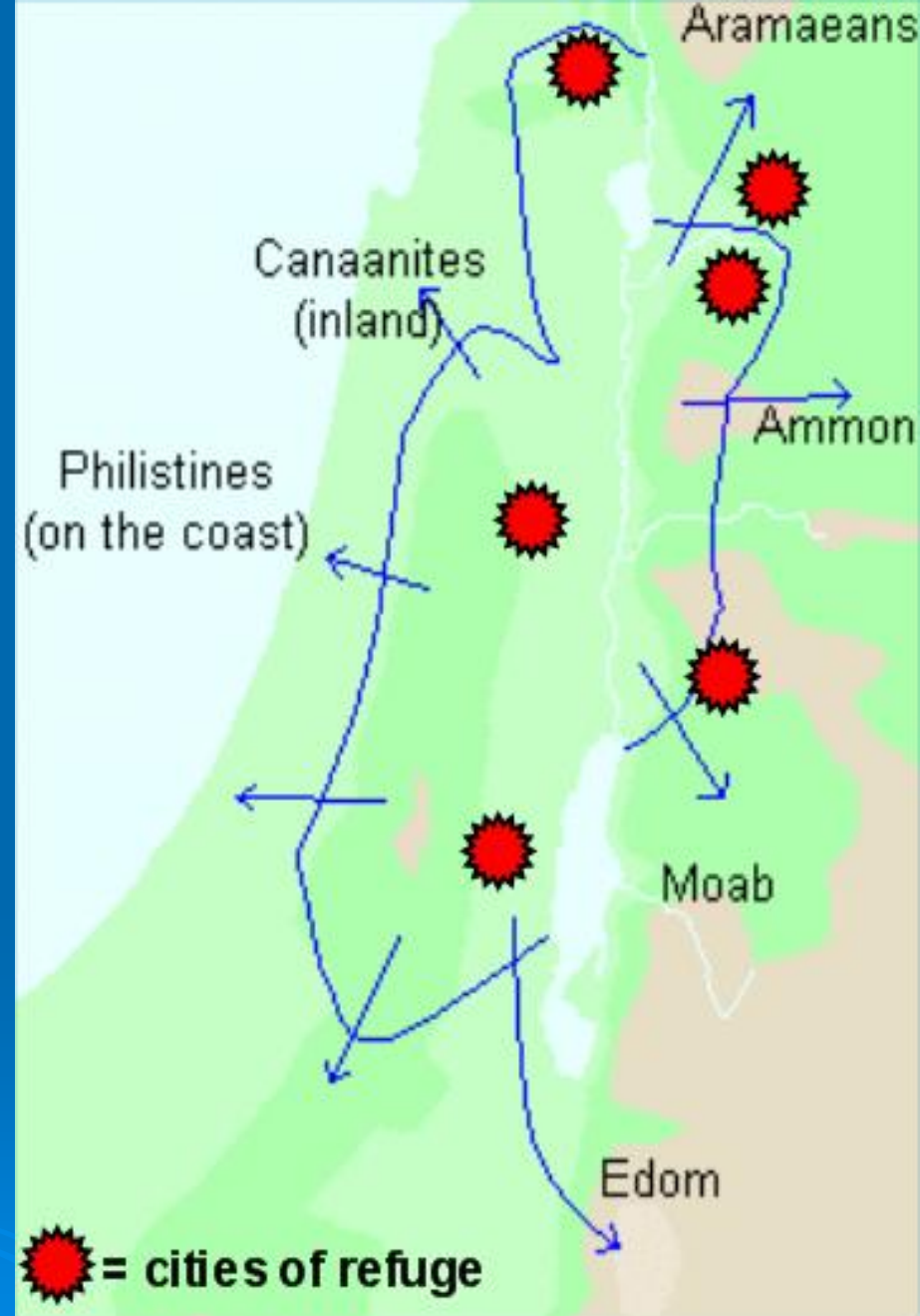
ABRAHAM'S BOSOM WAS EMPTIED BY JESUS CHRIST



- Even though we die as forgiven sinners, we do NOT first go to Abraham's Bosom
- Our High Priest has died, won our release, and we are free to go to Heaven and never again be bothered by Satan

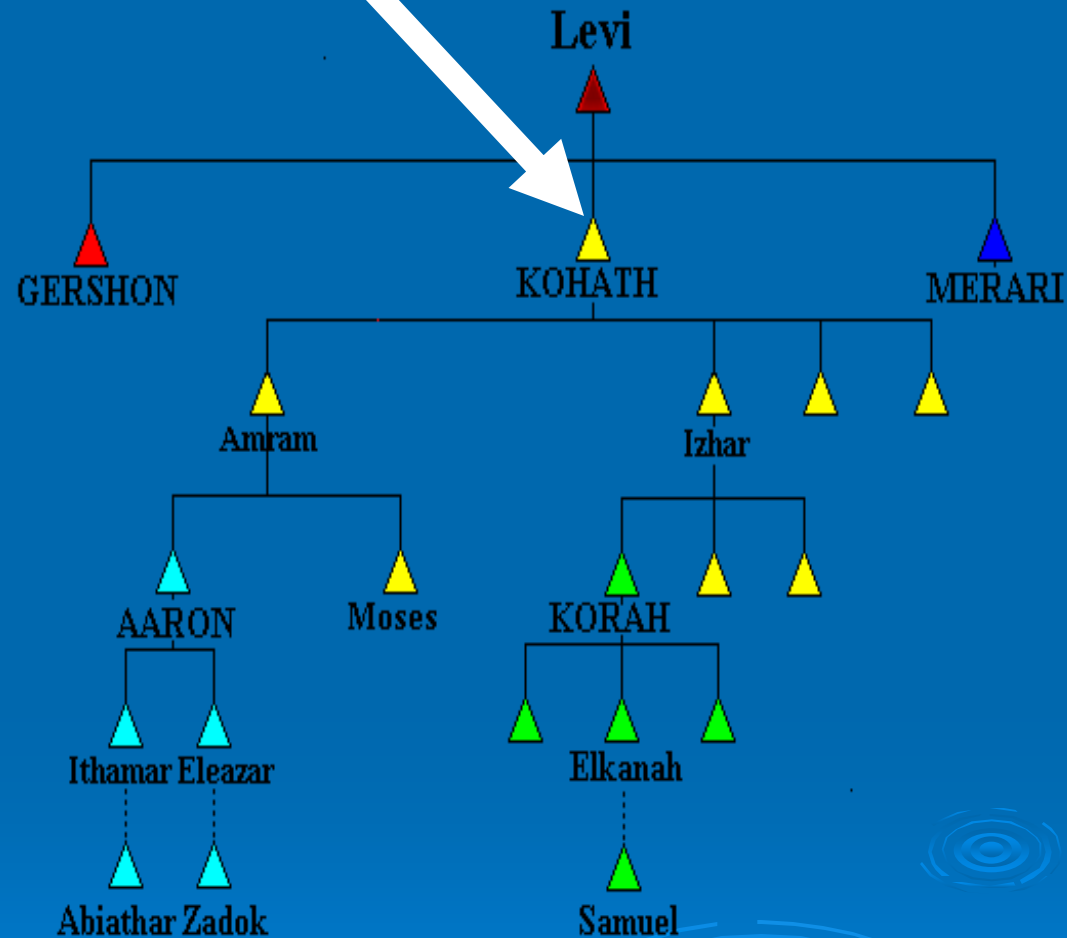
CITIES OF REFUGE

- 3 in the Promised Land
- 3 east of the Jordan River
- Kadesh in the Galilee
- Shechem
- Hebron
- Betzer
- Ramot (probably Machanayim)
- Golan (in the north)
- Same as Golan Heights that Israel is being asked to give to Syria



Moses' clan

- A total of 48 cities given to the Levites
- Land had to be subdued before given to Levites because Levites were NOT to be part of the military
- Levites to receive their cities from the other tribes
- Clan of Kohath was 1st because they were connected with Moses



**LEVITICAL CITIES ALLOTTED WITHIN TRIBAL AREAS,
AND CITIES OF REFUGE**



- Some places are mostly guesses
- At the end of chapter 21, Joshua had defeated the 2 major Canaanite coalition armies
- Battles were now 1 tribe against smaller lords and kings in their territory
- Israel was busy make peace treaties with the remaining enemies
- God said He would only **EVENTUALLY** exterminate all the Canaanites
- How that happened was determined according to Israel's obedience to YHWH