

**PLEASE NOTE** - The references below are taken from the 86-21 Index. Many verses have additional references that have not been included due to time & space. We are encouraged to do additional personal research.

\*\*\* it-1 pp. 471-472 Cities of Refuge \*\*\*

#### CITIES OF REFUGE

Jehovah's law on the sanctity of blood was very explicit. The shedding of human blood polluted the land in which the sons of Israel lived, in the midst of which Jehovah was residing, and it could be atoned for only by the blood of the one shedding it. (Ge 9:5, 6; Nu 35:33, 34) So, in the case of a murderer, the blood of his victim was avenged and the law of 'life for life' was satisfied when the murderer was put to death "without fail" by the avenger of blood. (Ex 21:23; Nu 35:21) But what about the unintentional manslayer, the one, for example, who killed his brother when the axhead accidentally flew off while he was chopping wood? (De 19:4, 5) For such unfortunate ones Jehovah lovingly provided cities of refuge, six in number, where the accidental shedder of blood could find protection and asylum from the avenger of blood.—Nu 35:6-32; Jos 20:2-9.

**Locations.** Before his death, Moses appointed three of these cities E of the Jordan. The first, Bezer, in the S on the tableland of the territory that belonged to the tribe of Reuben, was E of the northern end of the Dead Sea; the second, Ramoth, in Gilead, belonged to the tribe of Gad and was in about the middle of the eastern section of the land occupied by Israel; the third, Golan, in Bashan, was to the N in the territory of Manasseh. (De 4:43; Jos 21:27, 36, 38) After the Israelites crossed over to the W side of the Jordan, Joshua designated three more cities of refuge: Hebron, to the S in Judah's territory; Shechem, in the central mountainous region of Ephraim; and to the N, Kedesh, in the territory of Naphtali, which was later known as the region of Galilee. (Jos 21:13, 21, 32) All these cities were Levite cities and one, Hebron, was a priestly city. Additionally, because of being set aside as cities of refuge, they received a sacred status.—Jos 20:7.

- (Numbers 35:21) 21 or out of hatred he struck him with his hand, and he died, the one who struck him will be put to death without fail. He is a murderer. The avenger of blood will put the murderer to death when he encounters him.

(Numbers 34:13-15) 13 So Moses instructed the Israelites, saying: "This is the land that you will apportion as your possession by lot, just as Jehovah has commanded to give to the nine and a half tribes. 14 For the tribe of the Reubenites by their paternal house, the tribe of the Gadites by their paternal house, and the half tribe of Manasseh have already taken their inheritance. 15 The two and a half tribes have already taken their inheritance east of the region of the Jordan by Jericho, toward the sunrise."

\*\*\* ws11 9/15 p. 3 Jehovah Is My Share \*\*\*

Jehovah Is My Share

THEME SCRIPTURE

"I am your share and your inheritance in the midst of the sons of Israel."—NUMBERS 18:20.

AFTER the Israelites had conquered much of the Promised Land, Joshua, High Priest Eleazar, and the leaders of the tribes divided the land into portions, or parts. These portions were the tribes' share of the land. (Numbers 34:13-29) Jehovah gave all the tribes a share of the land, but the Levites did not get a share. (Joshua 14:1-5) Why did the Levites not receive a territory, or share, of the Promised Land? Were they forgotten?

\*\*\* rr chap. 20 p. 211 par. 1 "Allot the Land as an Inheritance" \*\*\*

EZEKIEL has just seen a vision that must have made his thoughts travel back nearly 900 years to the days of Moses and Joshua. At that time, Jehovah outlined to Moses the boundaries of the Promised Land and later told Joshua how that land should be allotted among the tribes of Israel. (Num. 34:1-15; Josh. 13:7; 22:4, 9) But now, in the year 593 B.C.E., Jehovah instructs Ezekiel and his fellow exiles to allot the Promised Land

among the tribes of Israel again!—Ezek. 45:1; 47:14; 48:29.

(Numbers 34:3) “Your southern border will extend from the wilderness of Zin alongside E'dom, and your south boundary on the east will be from the extremity of the Salt Sea.

(Numbers 34:12) The border will extend to the Jordan, and its end will be the Salt Sea. This will be your land and the boundaries surrounding it.”

\*\*\* g 7/06 p. 18 Why Is the Sea Salty? \*\*\*

### Saltier Than the Ocean

Some inland bodies of water are saltier than the ocean. A prime example is the Dead Sea, the saltiest body of water on earth. Water flows into the Dead Sea, called the Salt Sea in Bible times, carrying dissolved salts and other minerals.

(Numbers 34:3, 12) Because the shore of the Dead Sea is the lowest dry spot on earth, water can leave only one way—through evaporation, which can reduce the sea level as much as one inch [25 mm] a day in summer.

Consequently, the salt content of the upper layer of water is about 30 percent—nearly ten times that of the Mediterranean Sea. Because water density increases with salinity, swimmers float very high in the water. In fact, they can lie on their back and read a newspaper without the aid of a flotation device.

(Numbers 36:10) 10 The daughters of Ze·lo'phe·had did just as Jehovah had commanded Moses.

\*\*\* w08 2/15 pp. 4-5 Keep Jehovah Before You Constantly \*\*\*

Obey God Completely

9 Keeping Jehovah in mind constantly will help us to obey him, and we will reap blessings as a consequence. (Deut. 28:13; 1 Sam. 15:22) This calls for an obedient spirit. Consider the attitude of five fleshly sisters, the daughters of Zelophehad, who lived in Moses' day. Among the Israelites, sons customarily received the inheritance from their fathers. The man Zelophehad died without sons, and Jehovah directed that these five women were to receive the entire inheritance—on one condition. They had to marry sons of Manasseh so that the inherited property would remain with the same tribe.—Num. 27:1-8; 36:6-8.

10 Zelophehad's daughters had faith that things would work out well if they obeyed God. “Just as Jehovah had commanded Moses, that is the way the daughters of Zelophehad did,” says the Bible. “Accordingly Mahlah, Tirzah and Hoglah and Milcah and Noah, the daughters of Zelophehad, became the wives of the sons of their father's brothers. To some of the families of the sons of Manasseh the son of Joseph they became wives, that their inheritance might continue together with the tribe of the family of their father.” (Num. 36:10-12) Those obedient women did what Jehovah commanded. (Josh. 17:3, 4) With similar faith, spiritually mature unmarried Christians obey God by marrying “only in the Lord.”—1 Cor. 7:39.