

Timeline of Truth: God Assigns Special Cities for Israel (Numbers 35)

I. Israel at Mount Sinai (1-10:10)

II. Israel in the Wilderness (10:11-36:13)

a. Israel's First Generation in the Wilderness (10:11-19:22)

b. Israel's Second Generation in the Wilderness (20:1-36:13)

1. Moses Strikes the Rock (20:1-13)
2. Edom Refuses Israel and Aaron Dies (20:14-29)
3. Israel's Battles and the Fiery Serpents (21:1-35)
4. Balaam and Balak (22:1-24:25)

5. Israel's Idolatry (25:1-18)
6. The Second Census (26:1-65)
7. God's Last Commands to Moses (27:12-23)
8. Offerings, Passover, Trumpets, Atonement Revisited (28:1-29:40)
9. Vows between a Husband and Wife (30:1-16)
10. Israel Defeats the Midianites (31:1-54)
11. Gad and Rueben Desire Land (32:1-42)
12. Summary of the Journey's of Israel (33:1-56)
13. Commands Concerning Dividing the Land (34:1-29)

<p>Numbers 35:1-3 And the LORD spoke to Moses in the plains of Moab by the Jordan <i>across from</i> Jericho, saying: ² "Command the children of Israel that they give the Levites cities to dwell in from the inheritance of their possession, and you shall <i>also</i> give the Levites common-land around the cities. ³ "They shall have the cities to dwell in; and their common-land shall be for their cattle, for their herds, and for all their animals.</p>	<p>1. God Appoints _____ for the Levites</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The cities which are given to the Levites come from the _____ of the other tribes. b. The cities included _____ land around the city. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The city is for the Levites to dwell in. • The common land is for their livestock.
<p>⁴ "The common-land of the cities which you shall give the Levites <i>shall extend</i> from the wall of the city outward a thousand cubits all around. ⁵ "And you shall measure outside the city on the east side two thousand cubits, on the south side two thousand cubits, on the west side two thousand cubits, and on the north side two thousand cubits. The city <i>shall be</i> in the middle. This shall belong to them as common-land for the cities.</p>	<p>2. The _____ of the Common Lands</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The common lands of the city extend 1000 cubits (1500 feet) in each direction. b. The distance along each wall of the city will be 2000 cubits larger than the side of the city. c. The lands form a square in shape.
<p>⁶ "Now among the cities which you will give to the Levites <i>you shall appoint</i> six cities of refuge, to which a manslayer may flee. And to these you shall add forty-two cities. ⁷ "So all the cities you will give to the Levites <i>shall be</i> forty-eight; these <i>you shall give</i> with their common-land.</p>	<p>3. God Appoints Cities of _____</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. There shall be _____ cities of refuge b. There are an additional _____ cities for the Levites c. Overall, the Levites will have _____ cities.
<p>⁸ "And the cities which you will give <i>shall be</i> from the possession of the children of Israel; from the larger <i>tribe</i> you shall give many, from the smaller you shall give few. Each shall give some of its cities to the Levites, in proportion to the inheritance that each receives."</p>	<p>4. How The Cities are _____</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The cities will come from the other tribes. b. The larger tribes will give more cities. c. The smaller tribes will give less cities.
<p>⁹ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ¹⁰ "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you cross the Jordan into the land of Canaan, ¹¹ 'then you shall appoint cities to be cities of refuge for you, that the manslayer who kills any person accidentally may flee there. ¹² 'They shall be cities of refuge for you from the avenger, that the manslayer may not die until he stands before the congregation in judgment. ¹³ 'And of the cities which you give, you shall have six cities of refuge. ¹⁴ 'You shall appoint three cities on this side of the Jordan, and three cities you shall appoint in the land of Canaan, <i>which</i> will be cities of refuge.</p>	<p>5. _____ and _____ the Cities of Refuge are Selected</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. They will be selected when Israel crosses the Jordan. b. They will be appointed for the manslayer to flee there. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These cities are to protect the manslayer (one who kills someone else in error) until he is judged. c. There will be 6 cities of refuge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 on the east side of the Jordan • 3 on the west side of the Jordan
<p>¹⁵ 'These six cities shall be for refuge for the children of Israel, for the stranger, and for the sojourner among them, that anyone who kills a person accidentally may flee there. ¹⁶ ' But if he strikes him</p>	<p>6. The _____ of the Cities of Refuge</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Both for the Israelite and the non-Israelite b. For someone who kills a person accidentally

<p>with an iron implement, so that he dies, he <i>is</i> a murderer; the murderer shall surely be put to death. ¹⁷ 'And if he strikes him with a stone in the hand, by which one could die, and he does die, he <i>is</i> a murderer; the murderer shall surely be put to death. ¹⁸ 'Or <i>if</i> he strikes him with a wooden hand weapon, by which one could die, and he does die, he <i>is</i> a murderer; the murderer shall surely be put to death. ¹⁹ 'The avenger of blood himself shall put the murderer to death; when he meets him, he shall put him to death. ²⁰ 'If he pushes him out of hatred or, while lying in wait, hurls something at him so that he dies, ²¹ 'or in enmity he strikes him with his hand so that he dies, the one who struck <i>him</i> shall surely be put to death. He <i>is</i> a murderer. The avenger of blood shall put the murderer to death when he meets him.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To flee there <p>c. Who may not flee there:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One who uses a “weapon” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ An iron implement ○ A stone ○ A wooden weapon • One who pushes someone out of hatred • One who ambushes someone • One who strikes someone in enmity <p>These conditions make the person a murderer</p> <p>d. The person who is the avenger of blood will put the murderer to death.</p>
<p>²² 'However, if he pushes him suddenly without enmity, or throws anything at him without lying in wait, ²³ 'or uses a stone, by which a man could die, throwing <i>it</i> at him without seeing <i>him</i>, so that he dies, while he was not his enemy or seeking his harm, ²⁴ 'then the congregation shall judge between the manslayer and the avenger of blood according to these judgments. ²⁵ 'So the congregation shall deliver the manslayer from the hand of the avenger of blood, and the congregation shall return him to the city of refuge where he had fled, and he shall remain there until the death of the high priest who was anointed with the holy oil.</p>	<p>e. Additional conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One who pushes someone suddenly without enmity • One who throws a stone at someone he does not see. <p>f. The congregation will judge between the manslayer and the avenger of blood.</p> <p>g. If the manslayer is found to not be a murderer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They will deliver him from the avenger of blood • They will return him to the city of refuge • He will stay there until the current high priest dies.
<p>²⁶ 'But if the manslayer at any time goes outside the limits of the city of refuge where he fled, ²⁷ 'and the avenger of blood finds him outside the limits of his city of refuge, and the avenger of blood kills the manslayer, he shall not be guilty of blood, ²⁸ 'because he should have remained in his city of refuge until the death of the high priest. But after the death of the high priest the manslayer may return to the land of his possession. ²⁹ 'And these <i>things</i> shall be a statute of judgment to you throughout your generations in all your dwellings.</p>	<p>7. What if the Manslayer _____ the City of Refuge?</p> <p>a. Before the High Priest dies, if the avenger of blood finds him:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the avenger of blood finds him and kills him, he will not be guilty of murder • Why? Because the manslayer had a responsibility to stay in the city. <p>b. After the High Priest dies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He may return to his possession.
<p>³⁰ 'Whoever kills a person, the murderer shall be put to death on the testimony of witnesses; but one witness is not <i>sufficient</i> testimony against a person for the death <i>penalty</i>. ³¹ 'Moreover you shall take no ransom for the life of a murderer who <i>is</i> guilty of death, but he shall surely be put to death. ³² 'And you shall take no ransom for him who has fled to his city of refuge, that he may return to dwell in the land before the death of the priest. ³³ 'So you shall not pollute the land where you <i>are</i>; for blood defiles the land, and no atonement can be made for the land, for the blood that is shed on it, except by the blood of him who shed it. ³⁴ 'Therefore do not defile the land which you inhabit, in the midst of which I dwell; for I the LORD dwell among the children of Israel.' "</p>	<p>8. _____ for Putting a Murderer to Death</p> <p>a. There must be witnesses to convict a murderer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There must be more than one witness. <p>b. They will take no ransom for the life of a murderer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He must be put to death <p>c. They will take no ransom for the manslayer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He will be allowed to stay in the city of refuge until the priest dies, then he may return to his possession. <p>d. The land must be atoned for any blood shed on it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The only blood which may atone for it is the blood of the murderer. • This process is given to keep the land from being defiled.

God has shown that the life of a human being is very precious.

- **When someone is killed, the proper process must be used to clear any guilt.**
- **When some one purposefully takes someone else’s life, God required them to atone with their own life.**