

THE CITIES OF REFUGE

A Story of the Conquest of Canaan by the Hebrew People.
By the "Highway and Byway" Preacher
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Scripture Authority: — Joshua, Chapter 20.

SERMONETTE.

The cities of refuge appointed under the direction of God in the land of Canaan were a type of the Christ and in some particulars exemplify the work which Christ performs for the sinner.

The cities of refuge gave shelter to the fugitive from the avenger of blood. Christ gives shelter to the sinner whose adversary the Devil pursues him to the very threshold of the Divine refuge.

The one fleeing to the city of refuge was safe until his case could be declared and he prove his right to abide there, for if his hands were stained with the willful blood of another he was delivered into the hands of the avenger of blood and his life taken.

The one fleeing to Christ is safe until his case is declared. What right has he there? for none who come to that eternal city of refuge opened by God for all the world is without sin.

The adversary, the Devil, comes up to the very door and makes his accusations. And what an accurate accountant he is. How he can recall the smallest detail of man's life and paint it in the blackest colors. How he can uncover the hidden sins and show one helpless and undone in the presence of the high priest of the place, Christ Jesus, the anointed One of God.

But shall the unfeeling justice of God cast the sinner forth and commit him to his just deserts? Shall sin claim her own and cast down to hell?

Thank God, No! For herein is the city of refuge of the Israelites far exceeded in grace and mercy by the city of refuge which God hath appointed. No soul that seeks refuge therein is ever forced to leave, for the Christ within has but to show the nailed hands and the spear wound in his side as token of his offering for sin, and Satan, the great avenger, is forced to flee.

The cities of refuge were equidistant and easy of access from all parts of the land. So is Christ. He is nigh everyone of a contrite heart. His "come" is always sounding forth, and his invitation is reinforced by the comforting assurance that "he that cometh unto Me I will in no wise cast out."

The gates of the cities of refuge were always open and the priests in the watch towers ready to reach forth and help the weary and exhausted runner. And how infinitely more true this is of the Christ. His arms are always outstretched to save. The faintest cry from the lips of the sinner reaches his ear and instantly commands his help.

THE STORY.

IT WAS in the days before they had a king in Israel and when every man was a law unto himself. Then it was that each family and each tribe protected its own and each exacted of the other an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. In those days the law of the blood atonement prevailed in the land, so that if one should slay by chance or intent another, the one nearest of kin of the slain person must act as his avenger, and take the life of the one who had caused his death. Needless to say that this custom in the case of accidental murder wrought its hardship and injustice, and in order that justice and mercy might be extended to the one who, through accident, had caused the injury or death of another, the Lord directed that cities of refuge should be appointed whither the slayer might flee and, if guiltless of the intended murder of his brother, should find a safe shelter.

When Joshua had made known to the people the mind of the Lord concerning this thing, the question arose as to which cities should be chosen, and it was finally agreed that six should be appointed, three on the east side of Jordan and three on the west side. Caleb took deep interest in the matter, and in the council of the elders which had met to consider the question he said:

"Brethren, thou knowest how, over 40 years ago, when the Lord brought us to the borders of this land, the people refused to enter, declaring that they were not able to overcome the giants in the land. And thou knowest how, since our coming hither after the long, weary years in the wilderness, that the sons of Anak, whom our people feared, have been destroyed and their city is now among the possessions of the children of Israel. Thou knowest, too, how it was given to me to see the heritage and how it was only after a fierce conflict that the city was taken, so that the stronghold of our enemies might become an habitation for our people. Now, there-

fore, because of its location and its history, I desire that Hebron be chosen as one of the cities of refuge."

"What?" they asked, in surprise. "You want to give up Hebron, which is so strong of location, and cost you so much to conquer?"

"That I do, brethren," was the ready reply, and I will tell you why. In the silence of the midnight hour on yesternight there came a vision to me as I lay on my couch. In my dream I was lifted and carried, it seemed, to a very high mountain overlooking the valleys on both sides of the Jordan. And it seemed as I looked about me as though I could see the length and the breadth of the land. Israel lay below me, resting peacefully in the land into which God had brought them. There were the vineyards, and the fig and olive groves, there were the stretches of pasture land, there were the houses and the villages and cities dotting the landscape. And I thought as I stood and looked upon the scene, 'Here are vineyards which we have not planted, here are houses and cities which we have not built. Surely God hath given us a goodly heritage. Each man may dwell under his own vine and fig tree, and how delightful it is that all Israel may dwell together from henceforth in the land of peace and unity!'

"As I finished speaking a voice seemed to speak at my side, although I saw no man. I had thought I was alone, and behold here was one at my side, and speaking. And I knew it to be the voice of God. And God said to me:

"Who knoweth what is in man, save God? Underneath this spirit of tranquility and unity on which thine eyes now look there are passions and emotions which when aroused are destructive."

"'Nay, Lord,' I said, 'has not Israel learned her lesson yet? Has not the old spirit yielded to the influence of the new land and the new hopes and purposes in life?'

"'Yea, for the time being,' came back the words, 'but underneath there lie smouldering the fires of sin. The hand of brother shall yet be raised against brother in Israel.'

"Sadness filled my heart and I was silent, and while I pondered on these words the voice came again and said: 'Lift up your eyes and look, for in Israel there shall be shelter for the fugitive and him that fleeth from his brother!'

"And lo! and behold, as I looked I saw Hebron below me in all her fair beauty."

"'Yea, Lord,' I said, 'the stronghold of our enemies hath become a shelter and habitation for thy people.'

"'And it shall be yet more,' came back the voice, 'for it shall become a refuge for him that fleeth from the adversary. Its gates shall close neither day nor night. My priesthood shall rule there and their hands of mercy and love will always be extended to help. None shall be turned away until their case hath been heard and judgment declared.'

"'God in the midst of Israel to give succor and to show mercy,' I whispered softly, as the new vision of Hebron opened up before me. 'How wonderful that God should give himself to watch between men and preserve them from destruction at the hands of each other!'

"'With this thought thrilling me I lifted my eyes from the scene below me and looked up into the heavens, and as I did so it seemed as though the city rose with my vision and seemed to float upward and upward until lost to view within the depths of the vast beyond.'

"'For a long time I was lost in deep contemplation and wonder as to what this could mean. I looked to see if Hebron were really gone from her place into the heavens, and saw that she had not but was still resting upon her rugged mountains as before. There was the city of refuge God had appointed for earth.'

"'Was there something infinitely better hidden from view within the portals of God's dwelling place?' I asked myself, and stirred by the thought I suddenly awoke."

"'And now my brethren, I have come to you to-day with this story, and you may well understand why it seemeth of God that Hebron shall become one of these Cities of Refuge. And the vision and the message which I thought I heard from the lips of God, whether real or but a dream, will surely enlarge our thoughts of God and his great love and mercy towards his people. And who can fathom the infinitely greater riches of his grace which he hath still reserved for us.'

And as Caleb ceased speaking a murmur went round the company, and they said:

"Surely the Lord hath spoken."

Escaped in Cabbage Barrel.

A barrel containing cabbages was the means by which Gershuni, chief organizer of the "fighting organization" of the Russian revolutionary socialist party, escaped from a Siberian prison. The cabbages were for the use of the prisoners, who received the barrel themselves from a warden. One day they emptied it hastily, pierced a small air hole in the bottom and then seated Geshuni inside, placing a frying pan over his head in case it should occur to the warden to plunge his sword in. At the top were fixed layers of cabbages. In this condition the barrel was removed from the prison and placed in the prison inspector's stable, where the prisoner spent ten hours of semisuffocation. The day before several planks had been loosened in the walls of the stable, through which Gershuni, having emerged from the barrel, was enabled to make his escape with the aid of a convict who accompanied him. He got to Japan, and eventually to America, after many adventures.

THE AMERICAN HOME

Wm. A. Radford
EDITOR

Mr. William A. Radford will answer questions and give advice FREE OF COST on all subjects pertaining to the subject of building for the readers of this paper. On account of his wide experience as Editor, Author and Manufacturer, he is, without doubt, the highest authority on all these subjects. Address all inquiries to William A. Radford, No. 24 Fifth Ave., Chicago, Ill., and only enclose two-cent stamp for reply.

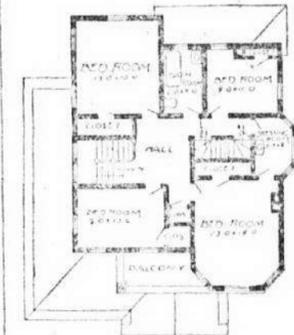
In order to have both front and back stair it is necessary to build a little larger because no one likes to encroach on the rooms or closets and stairways take up room which must be provided in some way. Some housekeepers lay great stress on the advantages of both front and back stairways, while others care but little whether they have one stairway or two. If a person has \$2,500 or \$3,000 to invest in a home I think it advisable to build large enough so the house may contain every modern convenience.

In this plan attention is given to everything in the house that a family of four or six persons would need. There are four good bedrooms, each having a clothes closet and there also is a linen closet in the hall.

There are three wash basins provided with hot and cold running water, one of these is between the reception hall and the dining-room, which makes a very convenient wash room for a hurried toilet just before dinner and to teach the children cleanly table habits.

Opening off the largest bedroom is another little washroom. In a house as large as this there may be several men in the family and one bathroom is not sufficient. Some of the older boys want to shave in the morning, and every one is in a hurry. The tendency is for more bathing and

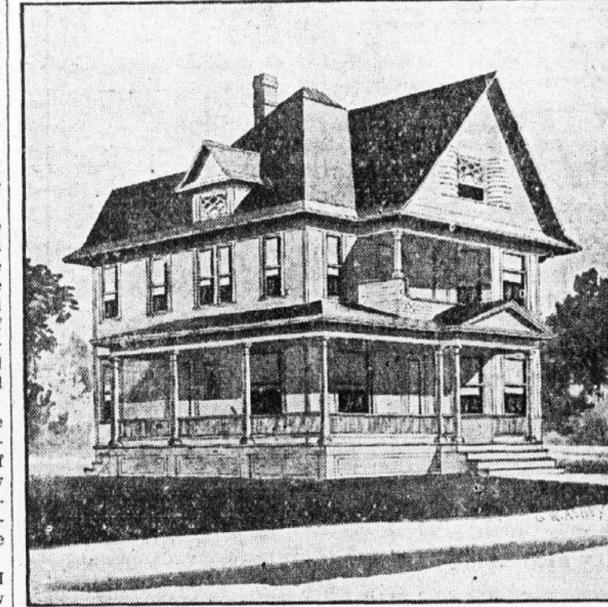
never learned how to manage one. Old maids are afraid of men because they can't manage them. They have never had the experience. In both cases it would pay the women to spend a little time in investigations along proper lines. There are great possibilities to be worked out. It would be difficult to find a more convenient kitchen than this plan provides. The kitchen is the center of activity in a house. In this case



SECOND FLOOR PLAN.

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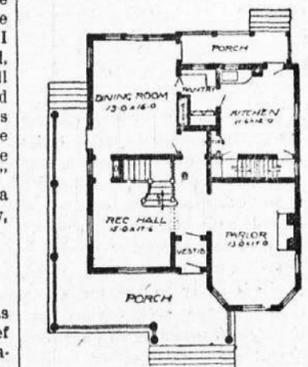


washing conveniences in all up-to-date houses.

One of the greatest luxuries in modern houses is the private bathroom. In some houses there are as many as three or four bedrooms, having private bathrooms. In some places the servant problem is being solved by including in the plans a good comfortable bedroom for the hired girl with a private bathroom opening off from it.

The size of this house, on the ground, is 32 feet by 38 feet without including the porches. It is probably impossible to build a satisfactory house with eight rooms and a front and back stair, besides other similar luxuries, in a house much smaller.

There is a splendid parlor in this house, 13x17 feet, with windows



FIRST FLOOR PLAN.

enough to make it bright and cheerful in the daytime and a grate to dispense comfort at night. There are great possibilities for sociability in a room like this. I like to see a grate in a house and I like to see it used. Grates are not intended to be closed up.

In this case the chimney is built with a double flue, one flue for the grate and the other for the furnace. Both flues extend to the cellar bottom where each is provided with a separate iron door for cleaning out purposes. When these doors are set the owner should have an eye to the manner in which the work is done, the one in the grate flue especially. There must be no cracks to admit a draft into this flue, that is what scatters the ashes from a grate fire

the arrangement is about as near perfect as it could be. The sink is in a well lighted corner next to the pantry door. There is a great deal of running between the sink and the pantry at dish-washing time. Every step saved means less miles of travel for the housekeeper.

The pantry is part of the kitchen, and it is part of the dining-room it belongs to both. It has a window to light it, as all pantries should have, and it has two doors to shut out the odors of cooking from the rest of the house. The pantry has shelves for dishes on one side and cupboards for other things on the other side that are well lighted, being opposite the window. The china cupboard while it comes out of the pantry really belongs to the dining-room. There is a kitchen pot cupboard which is a great convenience every day in the year. It provides a place for stew-pans, griddles, preserving kettles, laundry tools, empty fruit jars and a great many other things that no housekeeper wants in the pantry or exposed in the kitchen proper.

There is another kitchen convenience in the shelves at the top of the cellar stairs. There are many things which may be kept on these shelves that otherwise would have to go in the cellar because they don't belong to the kitchen. Good housekeepers usually are sticklers for having things in the right place. Of course there are women who have no sense of order, but such women should never get married. Their place is in the schoolroom teaching young children how to grow up orderly. It is very much easier to tell somebody else how to have a place for everything and everything in its place, than it is to organize such a system in one's own home.

From this kitchen it is easy to go upstairs and it is easy to go down to the cellar. In the course of a day there are a good many trips made both ways. The great value of this kitchen is its accessibility in both directions. You can go downstairs for a pan of potatoes, or you can go upstairs to sweep and make the beds without being obliged to take very many unnecessary steps. A modern house is just as much of an invention as a new machine in a manufacturing establishment. It saves

time and labor

time and labor

time and labor

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Farmers' Co-Operative Union Of America

Get the habit of keeping out of debt. Are you going to give the hens a chance this year to prove their worth?

Plant a good garden and plenty of poultry and keep out debt this year.

How are fixed for some growing pigs? It is a mighty poor sort of a farmer that has no growing pigs coming on.

It is pretty hard to find a difference between laziness and straightout meanness. Don't experiment along these lines.

You must watch as well as pray, but don't take up all the time doing either, however helpful they both are in season; put in the bulk of the time at work.

Do you know the teacher of your boys and girls? You ought to know your teacher, for you might be of a great deal of use toward the welfare of the young folks.

With the present plans going right along toward perfection, the future gambler is a disappearing factor in the world of business. The day will soon be here when he will need no legislating against.

There is no such thing as getting the greatest benefit from the Union meetings unless you attend them in company with something to offer as food for thought. Don't be a knot on a stick. Get busy thinking and doing things in the world.

There is a lot of work that can be done in a garden that might properly be called clear profit, because it is odd moments that cannot be used otherwise. Then there is an item of real pleasure in working in a garden that has a real value outside of the profit on the stuff raised.

When you go to fighting the kicker, you are in your own light. It is these kickers who inaugurate all the progress and reform that the world ever gets. Encourage the kicker to kick, but try to get him to kick at real dangers and hindrances rather than at the things that are already in pretty good shape.

Don't live like a hog this year. Get busy now and arrange so that you may have vines growing all over unsightly fences and out buildings; have blossoms scenting the air as you rise in the morning. The finest flowers now are so cheap that the poorest may have them in abundance. Don't be a hog.

There is plenty of time now to plant out all sorts of trees. Look out the odd corners and put them to paying for the money invested in them. Odd corners cost as much in the way of interest and taxes as any other space of equal size. You are mighty particular about all the spots in the middle of the field being utilized, and yet the odd corners are as a rule the richer and more productive. Have some sense about these things.

If you have not been in the habit of keeping the cost of making the various crops on the place, is it not a good time now to commence? There is not a business on earth where so little is really known of the cost of production as farming, and there is not another business man that could so easily figure costs as the farmer and none that costs cuts a more vital figure with. It is an easy matter to charge up the seed, time of preparation, planting, culture and gathering, and a proper rental for the land. These taken from the net proceeds would make an interesting study, and would be useful in planning those crops that pay.

There is no sort of arguing that the cotton farmers have much reason to get together. There is the question of better seed, better cultural methods, better guarding against failure from drought and flood, better and cleaner gathering, better and freer marketing, unanimity in furnishing the supply as it is demanded. If the farmer were fixed like he ought to be it would make but little difference whether he marketed in October or the following June; only a matter of a little interest and a small amount of shrinkage, which is taken out of the bale anyway, no difference who holds it until the mill is ready for it.

There is no such a thing as perfect peace in the ranks so long as men may be creatures of progress and growth. Pain is the penalty of growing. Let it come, but above all else don't let our passions take the place of common sense, and ambition usurp the high place of honesty. Honest men differ frequently, but it is mighty seldom that honest men cannot go on doing business, overlooking matters of method and taste.

Have you made you a split log drag yet? It is a good time now that you are not very busy to make you one, and get busy with it during the spring rains. You are as much entitled to a good and good looking road, by your place as anybody, and you can have it at no cost of money and almost no cost of time.

Be a producer sure enough and that means raise your own living, with some left over to sell to people who produce nothing.

The day has long since gone when "book farming" is laughed at by real farmers. Those who did the laughing have had the laugh turned on them by the combines, trusts and all sorts of humbugs that the papers and books would have warned them against, to say nothings of the exchange ideas through books that successful farmers would have enjoyed.

The Journal holds that the proper and democratic way to fix a minimum price for cotton would be for each local body of the farmers' organization to discuss the matter and agree on a figure, not later than September 1. Let all these figures be sent up to headquarters, there to be added together and divided by the number of locals reporting. The average figure thus obtained would be the minimum price, and as the people who actually make the cotton would thus actually name the price, we believe they would be more inclined to hold out for that price, much more so than when a few officials arbitrarily name the price. Let the people say what they want.—Farmers Journal.

TRY IT ONCE!

Say brother. Don't you think the Farmers' Union is a good thing? Don't you like the principles upon which it is founded? If you do wouldn't it be the right thing for you to tell your neighbors about it and urge him to join? Make it a point next week to see some neighbor who is not a member and explain to him the objects, principles and benefits of three organization. Tell him what it has done for the farmers already, that it has saved them more than a million dollars last year on the price of cotton alone—that it has enabled many to buy their supplies at a considerable reduction by bulking their orders and placing them through the business agent of the union. Of course it would not harm him a bit if you sent him this number of the Mercury-Password after you have read every word in it, and then possibly you would get so interested in trying to benefit your friend that you would send for a bundle of them to help you in your efforts to build up the union. Just try this once, friends, and see how the results will surprise you.—Southern Mercury.

DEBT THE DESTROYER.

In introducing a circular letter to Texas Farmers' Union members, President Calvine says:

The greatest obstacle in our way in controlling prices is the mortgage and debt system, which has been a menace to the South's prosperity ever since the Civil War, and which will continue to grow worse from year to year unless discouraged by organized farmers. Those who are the beneficiaries under this pernicious system are not disposed to discourage its continuance, for as long as the farmer is in debt for the teams, tools and supplies, he is at the mercy of the mortgagee, and must pay whatever price the mortgagee exacts. It is well known throughout the world that this condition obtains largely in the Southern States, and this being true, the buyers of our raw products in conjunction with the manipulators, who never saw a pound of cotton, seek to depress values during the free movement brought on by heavy selling to meet these obligations.

If we will notice the daily market reports we will see that almost invariably, when port receipts are heavy, there is a decline in prices. The spinners, not unmindful of the condition of the Southern farmer, can well afford to stay out of the market for a while, and thus aid in forcing a heavy decline in prices. It must be apparent to every thoughtful farmer that such a system is wholly unfair to him, and altogether in the interest of organized speculators.

The main things after all is the size of the crop per acre, the price you get for it and the prices you have to pay for what you get. Men will be constantly butting in with all sorts of propositions leading up to their profit or aggrandizement, but the main issues should under no condition be lost sight of in this struggle for independence of the only class of men who are really entitled to the greatest freedom.

MERCURY MUSINGS.

Every union paper condemns speculation in the necessities of life. Few union papers dare to speak out boldly against speculation in land. Yet land is a prime necessity. All wealth is derived from labor applied to land.

There is no good excuse why every editor should not speak a good word occasionally—or oftener—for the Farmers' Union.

The farmer who has nothing to hold but cotton, is not in a position to hold that. It's a risky business to stake everything on any single crop. Diversify!

CO-OPERATOR CLIPPINGS.

Raise plenty of potatoes this year! Don't forget the cabbage patch.

Have your smokehouse at home—not in a Chicago packery.

Agitate, educate, co-operate. These three things are the powerful levers by which the Farmers' Union is winning its fight.

Some seedling peach trees do remarkably well, but seedling trees of all kinds are uncertain. The only trees that come true to name must be budded or grafted.