

"WE WHO HAVE FLED FOR REFUGE..." by Roger Walkwitz

(look in the Messianic Directory listings at Morrilton, FL)

HAVE you "fled for refuge"? If so, to where did you flee? Did you flee inside the veil, as Hebrews 6:17-20 says? This seems to be another case where we must not only "Think Jewish!" but also "**Think Tabernacle!**" if we want to get to the full meaning of these verses:

"...that by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us, which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters into that within the veil, where the forerunner is for us entered, even Yeshua, made an high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek." Hebrews 6:18-20.

The veil of course refers to the inner veil of the Temple that the Father tore from top to bottom the instant Yeshua dismissed His Spirit while on the cross. That indicated to all Believers that the way into the Holy of Holies, the symbolized Presence of יהוה,¹ was now open to all who come by faith through the gate, recognize the sacrifice on the brazen altar, the laver, and the furnishings in the Holy Place and on into the Presence of יהוה as encouraged in Hebrews 10:19-20.

All of this is quite clear from the plain reading of the Bible text. But what about the phrase, "we who have fled for refuge..."? Is there more to this than just fleeing into the Temple and on into the Holy of Holies? Yes, there is, and it involves some research into the structure of the Wilderness Tabernacle, which is the only pattern that יהוה has given regarding acceptable approach to Himself and whatever structure there is in heaven. Moses was warned several times, "Make this Tabernacle exactly like the pattern I showed you while on Mt. Sinai." The Tabernacle explains salvation and what is in heaven.

To flee for refuge should bring to mind the Six Cities of Refuge that יהוה designated for the person who accidentally killed someone to flee to for safety during the setup of Israel in the Land of Israel under Joshua. Joshua 20:7-

8 lists these as follows: "And they assigned **Kedesh** in Galilee in Mount Naphtali, and **Shechem** in Mount Ephraim, and **Kiriath-arba**, which is **Hebron**, in the mountain of Judah. And on the other side of the Jordan

by Jericho eastward, they assigned **Bezer** in the wilderness upon the plain out of the tribe of Reuben, and **Ramoth** in Gilead out of the tribe of Gad, and **Golan** in Bashan out of the tribe of Manasseh." There are three east of the Jordan River, and three west of the Jordan River, showing Israel settling both sides by provision of יהוה.

So what do the Cities of Refuge have to do with the Wilderness Tabernacle? Actually the Tabernacle was a 7th place to flee for refuge, by grabbing hold of the horns of the altar, not by going into the Holy of Holies at that time! But there is much more than that. Turning to Exodus 26 and 36, the details are given for the 48 massive boards for the Tabernacle, 20 to be placed on the south side and 20 on the north side, and 6 "for the **sides** (plural) of the Tabernacle westward." The other two boards are for locking the SW and NW corners together. The east side is open, half covered by a screen. (Don't be fooled by the scrubby acacia trees shown in Bible dictionaries. In the Philippines we have acacia trees so big you cannot put your arms around them, big enough for these boards.)

By making a simple diagram, it seems that there is one side on the south, one on the north and one on the west. How does the Bible get **sides** when the 6 boards look like only one side to us? Here is where verbal inspiration accuracy of the Bible comes into play, exposing the weakness of paraphrasing and "translations" modified by human opinions.

Going back to Hebrews 6, we are told to flee for refuge inside the veil, entering the Holy of Holies. Inside we will notice a few boards on our left and a few boards on our right and 6 boards straight ahead in front of us! Those six boards represent the six Cities of Refuge, with three boards representing the three cities of Refuge east of the Jordan River and the other three boards representing the three cities of Refuge west of the Jordan River. It was essential for the Scripture to designate these 6 boards as **sides**, plural, to lock in the proof that these six boards represent the six Cities of Refuge.

Some might say, "Interesting analysis, but, so what?" Well, here is "so what!" First of all, it is always a blessing to discover proof of the

intricate accuracy of the whole Word of יהוה, especially interlocking the Hebrew Scriptures with the Greek. Too often the Scripture is devotionalized into a nice, warm fuzzy feeling with generalizations and applications out of context. We need more than "milk." These passages make us think, and therefore, are some of the "meat" of the Word.

Second, there is a tremendous application to us regarding our salvation. Hebrews 6 is related to our salvation, which is characterized by the sinner fleeing for refuge into the Presence of יהוה, as a "City of Refuge." Is the sinner guilty of murder, of murdering Yeshua, יהוה the Son? If so, the Avenger of blood will take him out and slay him. The sinner that has rejected Yeshua is guilty of murder, because he knew the Truth and deliberately rejected it and Him, and therefore his blood is on his own head. "He that believes not is condemned already..."²

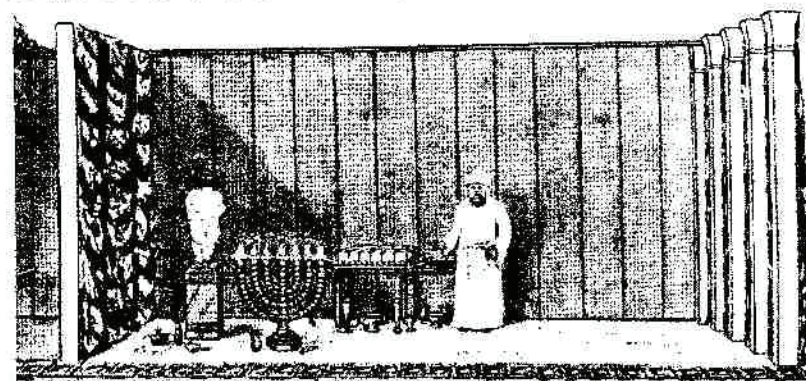
The sinner that has understood the Truth and has accepted Yeshua is not guilty of murder even though his sins were the cause of the death of Yeshua on the cross, because he did them ignorantly, not realizing the end result in the death of Yeshua. Therefore, this sinner is guilty of manslaughter, not murder, and therefore he is allowed to stay in this "city of refuge" in the presence of יהוה for as long as the High Priest lives. Yeshua is now the only High Priest and He lives forever; therefore this sinner is anchored in the Holy of Holies where he has rightly taken refuge and stays there forever. "He that believes is not condemned..."

(John 3:18). Please be careful of the songs sung today, like, "Take me into the Holy of Holies..." The Believer is brought there immediately upon the New Birth, and stays there. For a Believer to ask to be brought in only shows a disbelief in what the Word clearly says. Don't get your theology from songs.

Third, we should notice who is in control of the six cities of refuge today. Shechem is now Nablus (in Samaria (the "West Bank"), Ramoth is Amman (in Jordan), Hebron is SW of Jerusalem, Golan of Bashan is located east of Yarm Kinneret (the Sea of Galilee), and I am not sure of the other cities. (You may have more complete maps than I have and can trace the other cities.) But this is another reminder to Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem, that the government of Israel would realize that their only hope is to flee for refuge into the Holy of Holies where יהוה waits for them, and actually pray together at the Western Wall in accordance with 2 Chronicles 6-7. Israel is NOT guilty of the murder of Yeshua, since they did it in ignorance, as Yeshua said, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they are doing." Israel can flee for refuge inside the veil and be accepted! Israel will eventually, when they "look on Him whom they pierced (Zech. 12:10)," but pray that some will wake up NOW and flee for refuge inside the veil and join us in the Good Olive Tree (Romans 11:24)!

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² John 3:18.



The Mishkan (Tabernacle)

¹ The Hebrew letters called the Tetragrammaton, the 4-letter covenant name for God (YHWH)