Cities of Refuge
• Ye shall give three cities on this side Jordan, and three cities shall ye give in the land of Canaan, which shall be cities of refuge. These six cities shall be a refuge, both for the children of Israel, and for the stranger, and for the sojourner among them: that every one that killeth any person unawares may flee thither.
Exodus 20:13

• Thou shalt not kill.
Num. 35:16-21 (Premeditated murder)

• And if he smite him with throwing a stone, wherewith he may die, and he die, he is a murderer: the murderer shall surely be put to death. Or if he smite him with an hand weapon of wood, wherewith he may die, and he die, he is a murderer: the murderer shall surely be put to death.
The revenger of blood himself shall slay the murderer: when he meeteth him, he shall slay him. But if he thrust him of hatred, or hurl at him by laying of wait, that he die;
• Or in enmity smite him with his hand, that he die: he that smote him shall surely be put to death; for he is a murderer: the revenger of blood shall slay the murderer, when he meeteth him.
Num. 35:30

• Whoso killeth any person, the murderer shall be put to death by the mouth of witnesses: but one witness shall not testify against any person to cause him to die.
What about unintentional slayings?

• God in his infinite wisdom planned for such occurrences
• Such matters still had to be settled and guilt or innocence determined
Cities of Refuge

See Joshua 20:1-6

Kodesh
Golan
Ramoth Gilead
Shechem
Jerusalem
Hebron
Bezer

Adapted from:
Nelson's 3-D Bible Mapbook

Approx. 1 day's journey
• The slayer fled to the city
• He received a fair trial
• If guilty of manslaughter he remained in the city until the death of the high priest
• After that he could return home
• Leaving the city before the death of the high priest he could be slain by the “avenger of blood”
• In the N.T. the cities became a type or symbolic illustration of the salvation that is found in Christ
Cities of Refuge ---- Our Refuge in Christ

• 1. Road was smooth and plain to cities

• 1. Way to God is plain to all
Jn. 7:17

• If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.
Cities of Refuge ---- Our Refuge in Christ

• 2. Signs marked the way

• 2. God has given us directions which lead into Christ
Jn. 14:6

• Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.
Cities of Refuge ---- Our Refuge in Christ

• 3. Cities were reached from all parts of the country

• 3. The gospel is for all men
Mt. 28: 18 -20

• And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:
• Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen
For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;
Rev. 22:17

• And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.
Cities of Refuge ---- Our Refuge in Christ

- 4. The cities were well supplied with water and the provisions needed
- 4. In Christ we have all that we need—all spiritual blessings
Eph. 1:3

• Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:
Cities of Refuge ---- Our Refuge in Christ

• 5. The gates stood open day and night

• 5. The door of Christ is never closed
Jn. 6:37

• All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.
Conclusion

• “...Heaven has done everything it possibly can for the redemption of man, and if he is not saved it will be his own fault.” Melvin wise

• “All things are ready”
Rev. 22:17

• And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.
References

• Some points taken from, The Cities of Refuge, in The All Sufficiency Of The Gospel, by Melvin Wise