

## Safe Havens and Extradition

Here's what the Word has to say about Safe Havens and Extradition:

### Deuteronomy 19:1-14 (NIV)

#### Cities of Refuge

<sup>1</sup> When the LORD your God has destroyed the nations whose land he is giving you, and when you have driven them out and settled in their towns and houses, <sup>2</sup> then set aside for yourselves three cities in the land the LORD your God is giving you to possess. <sup>3</sup> Determine the distances involved and divide into three parts the land the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance, so that a person who kills someone may flee for refuge to one of these cities.

<sup>4</sup> This is the rule concerning anyone who kills a person and flees there for safety—anyone who kills a neighbor unintentionally, without malice aforethought. <sup>5</sup> For instance, a man may go into the forest with his neighbor to cut wood, and as he swings his ax to fell a tree, the head may fly off and hit his neighbor and kill him. That man may flee to one of these cities and save his life. <sup>6</sup> Otherwise, the avenger of blood might pursue him in a rage, overtake him if the distance is too great, and kill him even though he is not deserving of death, since he did it to his neighbor without malice aforethought. <sup>7</sup> This is why I command you to set aside for yourselves three cities.

<sup>8</sup> If the LORD your God enlarges your territory, as he promised on oath to your ancestors, and gives you the whole land he promised them, <sup>9</sup> because you carefully follow all these laws I command you today—to love the LORD your God and to walk always in obedience to him—then you are to set aside three more cities. <sup>10</sup> Do this so that innocent blood will not be shed in your land, which the LORD your God is giving you as your inheritance, and so that you will not be guilty of bloodshed.

<sup>11</sup> But if out of hate someone lies in wait, assaults and kills a neighbor, and then flees to one of these cities, <sup>12</sup> the killer shall be sent for by the town elders, be brought back from the city, and be handed over to the avenger of blood to die. <sup>13</sup> Show no pity. You must purge from Israel the guilt of shedding innocent blood, so that it may go well with you.

<sup>14</sup> Do not move your neighbor's boundary stone set up by your predecessors in the inheritance you receive in the land the LORD your God is giving you to possess.

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Pretty cool stuff, right!

And here's a bonus (something the Lord said to the NON-cry-baby Israelites just before they entered the "Promised Land"; And this is also applicable to us today, just before we enter our "Promised Land", which I believe we are getting closer & closer to doing):

### Joshua 1:9 (MSG)

After the death of Moses the servant of God, God spoke to Joshua, Moses' assistant: "Moses my servant is dead. Get going. Cross this Jordan River, you and all the people. Cross to the

country I'm giving to the People of Israel. I'm giving you every square inch of the land you set your foot on—just as I promised Moses. From the wilderness and this Lebanon east to the Great River, the Euphrates River—all the Hittite country—and then west to the Great Sea. It's all yours. All your life, no one will be able to hold out against you. In the same way I was with Moses, I'll be with you. I won't give up on you; I won't leave you. Strength! Courage! You are going to lead this people to inherit the land that I promised to give their ancestors. Give it everything you have, heart and soul. Make sure you carry out The Revelation that Moses commanded you, every bit of it. Don't get off track, either left or right, so as to make sure you get to where you're going. And don't for a minute let this Book of The Revelation be out of mind. Ponder and meditate on it day and night, making sure you practice everything written in it. Then you'll get where you're going; then you'll succeed. Haven't I commanded you? Strength! Courage! Don't be timid; don't get discouraged. God, your God, is with you every step you take.”

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I hope you have an amazing day!!

- Jack