

this possibility it was necessary to provide something else, and that consequently Deuteronomy provided cities of refuge, scattered through the land. It was impossible that every man who might be in great danger of his life, to run all the way to Jerusalem, unless he happened to be in that neighborhood. The critics say that cities of refuge were established to take the place of the asylum which had been provided by the various altars.

Another argument is based on the regulations allowing the Levites to come to Jerusalem, and saying how they are to be treated. Some critics say that the Levites had been conducting these altars all through the land and now they are being deprived of their livelihood and so they are being given a chance to go to Jerusalem to serve there. As the teaching of the Scripture stands, the service of the main sanctuary is in the hands of the Levites, but there are other Levites who live in cities which are set apart for them throughout the land. It would seem quite reasonable, as they approached Canaan, that Moses might say what would happen if some of the Levites would like to come to the main headquarters, and enter into the service of the sanctuary there as all of them had been doing to some extent during the wilderness journey.

The cities of refuge are mentioned in a number of places, in the book of Deuteronomy and also in Numbers. Of course, the critics assume that the statements in Numbers belong to the P document. The cities of refuge are already in E and are simply continued in P. One wonders why they would continue in P if they were already established, though of course, that might suggest the need. In the Book of the Covenant there is no arrangement for cities of refuge. Is it reasonable that the Book of the Covenant has no provision for cities of refuge, but Deuteronomy and P have them? Does this prove then that there must be a development?

There are cities of refuge in D and P and none in JE. How does that prove that the cities of refuge are introduced because the altars are taken away? Is there some other reason why the cities of refuge are introduced? Is it strange when God made an original covenant with the people at Sinai He did not specify in that law that they were