

differences are often simply a matter of terminology.

There is naturally a difference between the brief presentations in Moses' addresses in Deuteronomy and the more legislative style of the Law book of the Priests. There are also some cases where a law was given in a form which was very appropriate for the people living in the wilderness, but where a change is needed to fit the conditions of Canaan, which they are so soon to enter.

Most of the Israelites had disobeyed God and had died in the wilderness. A new generation was about to enter Canaan. This new generation had not heard the law given. Now that they are going into Canaan, it is important to have more detail.

This law in Exodus is that God will appoint a place where a man may flee who has killed a man accidentally. He is going to appoint a place for him. We find in Numbers and in Deuteronomy that the cities of refuge are appointed for that purpose. Then it continues, "But if a man comes presumptuously upon his neighbor to slay him with guile, thou shalt take him from mine altar that he may die." The critics claim that the matter of asylum for people who have killed someone else accidentally was previously taken care of by the altars scattered throughout the land. Later on in the history, as Mr. Aufforth [student] has pointed out, there are some incidents where people fled and took hold of the horns of the altar, but not one of those is a case of a man who had killed someone else accidentally, and therefore who would have been entitled to go to the city of refuge. Consequently, they give no evidence that the matter of asylum for someone who kills accidentally was supposed to be taken care of by the altar. But a man who was in danger for his life and was looking for a place to hide, where he could be safe, might naturally think, "if I go and take hold of God's altar, nobody would do such a wicked, impious thing as to injure me when I am there," so he runs and grabs hold of the altar. Here God says that even if a person is hanging onto His altar, if he is a murderer, you can take him away from there and kill him. In the few incidents where similar events are mentioned, they do not involve someone who has killed someone accidentally. And the people who fled to it for safety and are dragged from it were not considered safe