

TRINITY 23

THE COLLECT

O God, our refuge and our strength, who art the author of all godliness; Be ready, we beseech thee, to hear the devout prayers of thy Church, and grant that those things which we ask faithfully we may obtain effectually; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



1. See from scripture that God is our _____ and strength: Read Psalm 59:16
2. Of what is God the author?
A. of all _____ (Philippians 2:13)
3. What do we beseech Him to hear?
A. the devout _____ of His _____ (Nehemiah 1:11)
4. What do we beseech God to grant?
A. That those things which we have asked _____, we may _____ effectually. (James 5:16)
5. How ought we to ask God?
A. _____ (James 1:5-6)
6. Through whom do we attain all that we ask?
A. through _____

INTRODUCTION.

What is God called? Our refuge and our strength. In Psalm 56 we read another example of how God providing refuge and strength. This Psalm was very likely composed at the time when Hezekiah and his people were in danger from Sennacherib and the Assyrian army. What a refuge and strength God was to them at that time. Now we are reading today about certain cities, called cities of refuge. Let us think what we learn from them.

Read Numbers 35

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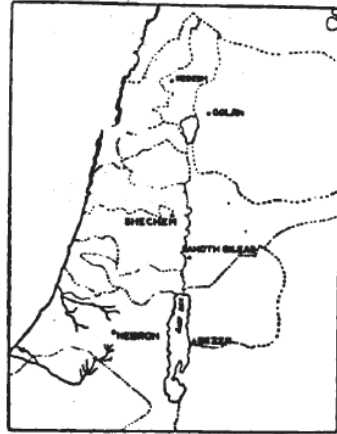
Read Numbers 35

I. REFUGE SOUGHT.

1. **When one man killed another** he was in danger of being himself killed by the nearest relative. He wanted a place of shelter. So do we. We have all sinned, and are in danger, because we have an enemy who is always seeking our destruction—and besides, “the wages of sin is death.” So we must flee for refuge to the place which God has provided.

II. REFUGE SUPPLIED.

1. **The Lord is nigh (near).** In our reading, we see that God told Moses to have six cities of refuge, and told where they should be located. Why six? Why the specific locations? God had them placed so as to be within easy reach of all (see map). So it is with God's Refuge. God has made the way of escape. Jesus is the refuge. And He has become a man, and come near to us; come where we are so that all can reach Him.



III. REFUGE SHOWN.

1. **Good roads were made** to each city, signposts put up to show the way. Christ is the Way as well as the Refuge. The signpost to our Refuge is the Holy Bible. The way is a plain way (Isaiah 35:8) so that all may find it.

IV. REFUGE SURE, SAFE, SECURE.

As long as the High Priest lived the man who reached the Refuge was safe. But our High Priest ever liveth, so we are always safe if we abide in Christ, *i.e.* keep on trusting Him.

V. REFUGE SLIGHTED.

If we abide in Christ, for sometimes people got careless and wandered out of the Refuge. Then they were in danger. So our only safety is to abide in Christ. “Abide in Me,” He says, and that we must do.

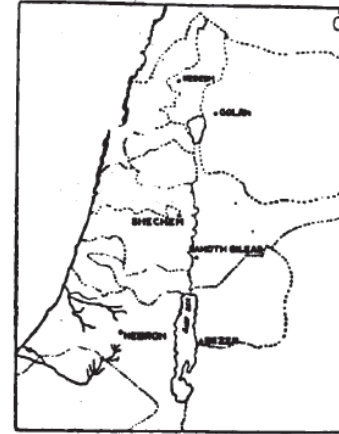


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