A PLACE OF REFUGE
Hebrews 6:13-20

Introduction:
1. I was in a meeting in North Alabama when a tornado warning was given.
2. Most members stayed home, but town folks came to seek refuge in the church basement.
3. I preached to ten people in the dark while the storm raged around us.
4. A place of refuge is a place of safety in a time of trouble.
5. God has always provided a place of refuge for those who trust in Him.

Discussion:
I. THE ARK WAS THE PLACE OF REFUGE FROM THE FLOOD (Gen. 6).
A. God determined to destroy man because of his wickedness.
   1. “Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord” (Gen. 6:8).
   2. “Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God” (Genesis 6:9).
B. God told Noah to build an ark to save himself and his family (Genesis 6:14-16).
   1. God gave Noah an exact pattern for the ark.
   2. “Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did” (Genesis 6:22).
C. When the flood came, only those in the ark were saved.
   1. Noah and his family and representatives of all animals and birds entered the ark (Genesis 7: 13-16).

II. THE HOUSES WHERE THE BLOOD WAS APPLIED WERE THE PLACES OF REFUGE IN EGYPT (Exodus 12).
A. God sent nine plagues on Egypt to persuade Pharaoh to let His
people go (Exodus 7 - 10).

1. Pharaoh continually hardened his heart.
2. God said He would send one last plague and he would let the people go (Exodus 11:1; 4-7).
3. When He came into the land all the firstborn of man and beast would die.

B. God gave His people a plan of salvation (Exodus 12:1-13).

1. On the 10th day of the first month, they were to pen up a male lamb which was without spot or blemish.
2. On the evening of the 14th day, they were to kill the lamb.
3. His blood was to be placed on the lintel and doorposts of their houses (Exodus 12:7).

C. The firstborn in houses where the blood was applied would be saved.

“Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt” (Exodus 12:13).

III. SIX CITIES WERE CHOSEN IN ISRAEL AS A PLACE OF REFUGE FOR ONE WHO ACCIDENTALLY KILLED ANOTHER.

A. The death penalty is required for murder (Genesis 9:6; Exodus 20:13; Acts 25:11).

B. If one killed someone accidentally, he could flee to a city of refuge (Numbers 35:9-28).

1. He would be protected until he had a fair hearing.
2. He had to remain in the city of refuge until the death of the current high priest.

C. Only those who fled to the city of refuge and remained there were safe from the avenger of blood.

IV. RAHAB’S HOUSE WAS THE PLACE OF REFUGE IN JERICHO (Joshua 2 and 6).

A. Israel was to destroy completely the city and kill all the people.
1. Joshua sent out two men to spy out the city.
2. Rahab hid the spies from the king of Jericho.

B. Rahab had heard of what God had done and became a believer.

1. She asked that her family be spared.
2. The spies told her to tie a scarlet cord in her window.
3. She and all her family must remain in the house.

C. Her house was the place of refuge in Jericho (Joshua 6:24.25).

V. THE SHIP WAS THE PLACE OF REFUGE FOR THOSE ON BOARD WITH PAUL ON THE VOYAGE TO ROME (Acts 27).

A. Paul was sent to Rome to be tried before Caesar.

1. He warned the captain to delay the voyage.

   “Men, I perceive that this voyage will end with disaster and much loss, not only of the cargo and ship, but also our lives” (v. 11).

2. The captain and the owner did not heed Paul’s warning.

B. They ran into a fierce storm that lasted 14 days.

1. They threw the ship’s tackling and cargo overboard.
2. They reinforced the ship by using cables to undergird it.

   (3)

C. An angel told Paul he would stand before Caesar and all in the ship would be saved Acts 27:21-26).

1. Some sailors tried to escape from the ship in a skiff.
2. Paul said: “Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved” (Acts 27:30, 31).
3. The ship was the place of refuge from the storm.

VI. JESUS CHRIST IS THE PLACE OF REFUGE FOR SALVATION.

A. Every spiritual blessings is in Christ (Ephesians 1:3).

1. Salvation is only in His name (Acts 4:11,12).
2. Eternal life is only in Him (1 John 5:11, 12).
3. We must be baptized into Christ (Galatians 3:26, 27).

B. To be in Christ is to be in His body, which is the church (Ephesians 1:22, 23).

1. There is one body (Ephesians 4:4).
2. We are baptized into this one body:

“For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and have all been made to drink into one Spirit” (1 Cor. 12:13).

3. When we obey Christ for salvation, we are added to the one body which is the church (Acts 2:38, 41, 47).
4. Christ is the Savior of the body (Ephesians 5:23).
5. The church is the place of refuge today (1 Cor. 15:24).

Conclusion:

1. Christ is the only place of refuge in this world of sin and suffering.
2. He overcame sin by shedding His blood on the cross.
3. He overcame death by His resurrection from the grave.
4. Only in Him is there forgiveness, hope, and eternal life.
5. Flee to Christ today as your Refuge in time and in eternity.