

**“Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”
April 28, 2016**

- ✓ **Joshua 19:10-20:9.** More land allotments to the various tribes.
- ✓ **2 Corinthians 12:11-21.** Paul’s uncompromising love for the sinful Corinthians.
- ✓ **Psalms 57:1-58:11.** Joy at divine justice upon the wicked—God gets the last word.

COMMENTS:

Joshua 19:10-20:9. After noting the various territories given to the various tribes, we see the assignment of cities of refuge in chapter 20. These cities were designed as safe havens for those who accidentally killed someone. While premeditated murder was punished by death, accidental kills were not. The legislation concerning the cities of refuge shows, on the one hand, God’s mercy, in that those who killed accidentally could find a place of refuge. And yet, on the other hand, it also affirms the sanctity of human life, in that even an accidental death caused blood guilt that could be avenged if the killer did not go to a city of refuge. In 20:7-8 the six cities of refuge are listed. No place in the land was more than a day’s journey from one of these cities. The need for cities of refuge arose from the fact that it was the duty of the nearest relative of a man who had been killed to search out and kill the killer. But when it was clearly not a murder (intentional killing) but manslaughter (accidental killing), then the killer could seek asylum in one of the six cities of refuge, three on the west side and three on the east side of the Jordan River. In sum, the *Cities of Refuge* may be better understood as “Cities where a person could run for safety,” or “Joshua appoints cities where a person who had accidentally killed another person could run for safety.”



2 Corinthians 12:11-21. In verses 11-13 Paul concludes his “foolish discussion” and provides a list of signs of an apostle (12). In verses 14-21, we see Paul’s love for the church. He sought them, not what they had. He was self-supporting and took no remuneration from the Corinthians. He refused to be a “burden” to them in spite of what the false teachers were alleging of him as well as Titus (18). He illustrates his attitude in not taking money from them by comparing it to parents who are financially responsible for their children, not the other way around (14). He closes out this section noting his love as well as the need to rectify sin and evil in the church (21). In spite of Paul enormous love for the Corinthians, he was not about to compromise with regard to their involvement with sin and evil. In fact, it was because of his love for the Corinthians that he would not tolerate open and flagrant sin.

Psalm 57-58. Psalm 57 contains prayer for safety. Psalm 58 consists of the just judgment of the wicked. Note in 58:10-11 that there is joy of the righteous when justice is executed on the wicked. We live in evil times where every institution is under great attack. We do live in a Romans 1:32 world of calling evil good and good evil. It is becoming increasingly difficult as it is painful to try to get the wicked to listen to reason. We must remember that no matter how man distorts and corrupts reality, God will get the last word and one day set things right. So, while the world can think it is winning as they laugh and mock Christians, God will get the final word. We may not be able to get the last word in our disputes with them. Let us take comfort that God will get the last word. They can mock His institutions and His people, but only for a short time. One day that will be over and God speak loud and clear. As far as believers desiring justice on the wicked, it is normal and healthy as we see in the saints in Heaven in Revelation 6:10-11 longing for justice, which God will most certainly bring and put an end to all of this evil nonsense.

Romans 11:36 For of Him and through Him and to Him *are* all things, to whom *be* glory forever. Amen.

Pastor Don