

## ~AVENGER OF BLOOD (332)

- In **Hebrew** this expression is *go- 'el' had-dam'*. The **Hebrew** word *go 'el,'* which has been applied to a blood avenger, is a participle of *ga- 'al'*, meaning recover, reclaim, buy back, repurchase, redeem.
- You in your loving-kindness have led the people whom you have **recovered**. You in your strength will certainly conduct them to your holy abiding place. (**Exodus 15:13**)
- Do come near to my soul, **reclaim** it, on account of my enemies redeem me. (**Psalms 69:18**)
- In case your brother grows poor and has to sell some of his possession, a repurchaser closely related to him must also come and **buy back** what his brother sold. (**Leviticus 25:25**)
- And now this is what Yehowah has said; Your Creator, O Jacob, and your Former, O Israel; Do not be afraid, for I have **repurchased** you. I have called you by your name. You are mine. (**Isaiah 43:1**)
- For Yehowah will actually **redeem** Jacob and reclaim him out of the hand of the one stronger than he is. (**Jeremiah 31:11**)
- In Hebrew Law the term applied to the nearest male relative, who was under obligation to avenge the blood of one who had been killed.
- The **avenger** of blood is the one who will put the murderer to death. When he chances upon him he himself will put him to death. (**Numbers 35:19**)
- The **Hebrew** term *go- 'el'* also designated a kinsman with the right to repurchase or redeem.
- After he has sold himself, the right of **repurchase** will continue in his case. One of his brothers may buy him back. (**Leviticus 25:48**)
- Or his uncle or the son of his uncle may buy him back, or any **blood relative of his flesh**, one of his family, may buy him back.

Or if his own hand has become wealthy, he must also **buy himself** back. (**Leviticus 25:49**)

- At that Naomi said to her daughter-in-law; Blessed be he of Yehowah, who has not left his loving-kindness toward the living and the dead. And Naomi went on to say to her; The man is related to us. He is one of our repurchasers. (**Ruth 2:20**) Footnote

**See Also REPURCHASE**

**See Also REPURCHASER**

- The **avenging of blood** is based on the mandate regarding the sanctity of blood and human life stated to Noah wherein Yehowah said,
- And, besides that, your blood of your souls shall I ask back. From the hand of every living creature shall I ask it back, and from the hand of man, from the hand of each one who is his brother, **shall I ask back the soul of man.** (**Genesis 9:5**)
- Anyone shedding man's blood, **by man will his own blood be shed**, for in God's image he made man. (**Genesis 9:6**)
- A deliberate murderer was to be put to death by the **avenger of blood**, and no ransom was to be accepted for such a murderer. (**Numbers 35:19-21,31**)
- Yehowah will see to it that the **innocent blood** of all his faithful servants is **avenged** in due time.
- Be glad, you nations, with his people, for he will **avenge the blood of his servants**, and he will pay back vengeance to his adversaries and will indeed make **atonement** for the ground of his people. (**Deuteronomy 32:43**)
- And when he opened the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those **slaughtered because of the word of God and because of the witness work** that they used to have. (**Revelation 6:9**)
- And they cried with a loud voice, saying; Until when, Sovereign Lord holy and true, are you refraining from judging and **avenging our blood** upon those who dwell on the earth? (**Revelation 6:10**)
- And a white robe was given to each of them, and they were told

to rest a little while longer, until the number was filled also of their fellow slaves and their brothers who were **about to be killed as they also had been**. (Revelation 6:11)

- Yehowah's just Laws made a clear distinction between willful and accidental killing. For the latter, cities of refuge were lovingly provided for the **protection of accidental manslaughter from avengers of blood**.
- These are the cities that you will give to the Levites. Six cities of refuge, which you will give for the **manslayer to flee there**, and besides them you will give forty-two other cities. (Numbers 35:6)
- All the cities that you will give to the Levites will be forty-eight cities, they together with their pasture grounds. (Numbers 35:7)
- The cities that you will give will be from the possession of the sons of Israel. From the many you will take many, and from the few you will take few. Each one, in proportion to his inheritance that he will take as a possession, will give some of his cities to the Levites. (Numbers 35:8)
- And Yehowah continued to speak to Moses, saying; (Numbers 35:9)
- Speak to the sons of Israel, and you must say to them; You are crossing the Jordan to the land of Canaan. (Numbers 35:10)
- And you must choose cities convenient for yourselves. As cities of refuge they will serve for you, and the **manslayer must flee there who fatally strikes a soul unintentionally**. (Numbers 35:11)
- And the cities must serve you as a refuge from **the blood avenger**, that the manslayer may not die until he stands before the assembly for judgment. (Numbers 35:12)
- And the cities that you will give, the **six cities of refuge**, will be at your service. (Numbers 35:13)
- Three cities you will give on this side of the Jordan, and three cities you will give in the land of Canaan. As cities of refuge they will serve. (Numbers 35:14)
- For the sons of Israel and for the alien resident and for the

settler in the midst of them these six cities will serve as a refuge, for anyone **to flee there that fatally strikes a soul unintentionally.** (Numbers 35:15)

- Now if it was with an **instrument of iron** that he has struck him so that he dies, **he is a murderer.** Without fail the murderer should be put to death. (Numbers 35:16)
- And if it was with **a small stone** by which he could die that he has struck him so that he dies, **he is a murderer.** Without fail the murderer should be put to death. (Numbers 35:17)
- And if it was with a **small instrument of wood** by which he could die that he has struck him so that he dies, **he is a murderer.** Without fail the murderer should be put to death. (Numbers 35:18)
- The **avenger of blood** is the one who will **put the murderer to death.** When he chances upon him he himself will put him to death. (Numbers 35:19)
- And if in hatred he was pushing him or he has thrown at him while lying in wait that he might die. (Numbers 35:20)
- Or in enmity he has struck him with his hand that he might die, without fail the striker should be put to death. He is a murderer. The **avenger of blood** will put the murderer to death when he chances upon him. (Numbers 35:21)
- But if it was unexpectedly without enmity that he has pushed him or has thrown any article toward him without lying in wait. (Numbers 35:22)
- Or any stone by which he could die without seeing him or he should cause it to fall upon him, so that he died, while he was not at enmity with him and was not seeking his injury. (Numbers 35:23)
- The assembly must then judge between the striker and the **avenger of blood** according to these judgments. (Numbers 35:24)
- And the assembly must deliver the manslayer out of the hand of the **avenger of blood**, and the assembly must return him to his city of refuge to which he had fled, and he must dwell in it until

the death of the High Priest who was anointed with the holy oil. (Numbers 35:25)

- But if the manslayer without fail goes out of the boundary of his city of refuge to which he may flee. (Numbers 35:26)
- And the **avenger of blood** does find him outside the boundary of his city of refuge, and the avenger of blood does slay the manslayer, he has no bloodguilt. (Numbers 35:27)
- For he ought to dwell in his city of refuge until the High Priests death, and after the High Priests death the manslayer may return to the land of his possession. (Numbers 35:28)
- And these must serve as a statute of judgment for you throughout your generations in all your dwelling places. (Numbers 35:29)
- You will set apart three cities for yourself in the midst of your land that Yehowah your God is giving you to take possession of it. (Deuteronomy 19:2)
- You will prepare for yourself the way, and you must divide up the territory of your land that Yehowah your God proceeded to give you as a possession into three parts, and it must be for any manslayer to flee there. (Deuteronomy 19:3)
- Now this is the case of the manslayer who may flee there and has to live. When he strikes his fellowman without knowing it and he was no hater of him formerly. (Deuteronomy 19:4)
- Or when he goes with his fellowman into the woods to gather wood, and his hand has been raised to strike with the ax to cut the tree, and the iron has slipped off from the wooden handle, and it has hit his fellowman and he has died, he himself should flee to one of these cities and must live. (Deuteronomy 19:5)
- Otherwise, the **avenger of blood** may, because his heart is hot, chase after the manslayer and actually overtake him, since the way is great, and he may indeed strike his soul fatally, whereas there is no sentence of death for him, because he was no hater of him formerly. (Deuteronomy 19:6)
- That is why I am commanding you, saying; Three cities you will

set apart for yourself. (**Deuteronomy 19:7**)

- And if Yehowah your God widens out your territory according to what he swore to your forefathers, and he has given you all the land that he promised to give to your forefathers. (**Deuteronomy 19:8**)
- Because you will keep all this commandment that I am commanding you today by doing it, to love Yehowah your God and to walk in his ways always, you must then add three other cities for yourself to these three. (**Deuteronomy 19:9**)
- That no innocent blood may be spilled in the midst of your land that Yehowah your God is giving you as an inheritance, and no bloodguilt has to be upon you. (**Deuteronomy 19:10**)
- But in case there should happen to be a man hating his fellowman, and he has lain in wait for him and has risen up against him and struck his soul fatally and he has died, and the man has fled to one of these cities. (**Deuteronomy 19:11**)
- The older men of his city must then send and take him from there, and they must deliver him into the hand of the **avenger** of blood, and he must die. (**Deuteronomy 19:12**)
- Your eye should not feel sorry for him, and you must clear away the guilt of innocent blood out of Israel, that you may have good. (**Deuteronomy 19:13**)
- Speak to the sons of Israel, saying; Give for yourselves the cities of refuge of which I spoke to you by means of Moses. (**Joshua 20:2**)
- For the manslayer who fatally strikes a soul unintentionally without knowing it to flee there, and they must serve you as a refuge from the **avenger of blood**. (**Joshua 20:3**)
- And he must flee to one of these cities and stand at the entrance of the gate of the city and speak his words in the hearing of the older men of that city, and they must receive him into the city to themselves and give him a place and he must dwell with them. (**Joshua 20:4**)
- And in case the **avenger of blood** chases after him, then they

- should not surrender the manslayer into his hand, for it was without knowing it that he struck his fellowman fatally, and he was not hating him formerly. (**Joshua 20:5**)
- And he must dwell in that city until his standing before the assembly for judgment, until the death of the High Priest who happens to be in those days. It is then that the manslayer may return, and he must enter into his city and into his house, into the city from which he had fled. (**Joshua 20:6**)
  - Accordingly they gave a sacred status to Kedesh in Galilee in the mountainous region of Naphtali, and Shechem in the mountainous region of Ephraim, and Kiriath-arba, that is to say; Hebron, in the mountainous region of Judah. (**Joshua 20:7**)
  - And in the region of the Jordan, at Jericho, toward the east they gave Bezer in the wilderness on the tableland out of the tribe of Reuben, and Ramoth in Gilead out of the tribe of Gad, and Golan in Bashan out of the tribe of Manasseh. (**Joshua 20:8**)
  - These became the cities appointed for all the sons of Israel and for the alien resident who resides as an alien in their midst, for anyone to flee there who fatally strikes a soul unintentionally, that he may not die by the hand of the **avenger of blood** until his standing before the assembly. (**Joshua 20:9**)
  - Also, legal courts were established to hear cases involving questions of **bloodguilt**.
  - In case a matter for judicial decision should be too extraordinary for you, one in which **blood has been shed**, in which a legal claim has been raised, or a violent deed has been committed, matters of dispute, inside your gates, you must also rise and go up to the place that Yehowah your God will choose. (**Deuteronomy 17:8**)
  - And you must go to the priests, the Levites, and to the judge who will be acting in those days, and you must make inquiry, and they must hand down to you the word of the judicial decision. (**Deuteronomy 17:9**)
  - As for every legal case that will come to you of your brothers who are dwelling in their cities, involving the shedding of blood, involving Law and commandment and regulations and judicial decisions, you must warn them that they may not do wrong

against Yehowah and indignation may not have to take place against you and against your brothers. This is how you should do that you may not incur guilt. (**2 Chronicles 19:10**)