

The. xix. Chapter.

2 The franchized townes. 14 Not to remoue thy neighbours bondes, 16 The punishment of hym that beareth false witnesse.

1 When the Lord thy God hath rooted out the nations whose lande the Lord thy God geueth thee, and thou succeedest in their inheritance, and dwellest in their cities, and in their houses:

2 Thou shalt separate three cities for thee in the middes of the lande which the Lord thy God geueth thee to possess it:

3 Thou shalt prepare the way, and deuise the coastes of thy lande which the Lord thy God geueth thee to inherit, into three partes, that whosoever committeth murder, may flee thither.

4 For this cause must the slayer flee thither, that he may liue: who so killeth his neighbour ignorantly, and hated hym not in tyme passed:

5 And when a man goeth vnto the wood with his neighbour to helpe wood, and as his hande fetcheth a stroke with the axe to cut downe the tree, the head slippeth from the helue, and smyteth his neighbour that he dyeth: the same shall flee vnto one of the same cities, and liue:

6 Lest the auenger of the blood folowe after the slayer while his heart is hot, & ouertake hym because the way is long, and slay hym, and yet there is no cause worthy of death in hym, in as much as he hated hym not in tyme passed.

7 Wherefore I commaunde thee, saying: Thou shalt appoynt out three cities for thee.

8 And if the Lord thy God enlarge thy coastes (as he hath sworne vnto thy fathers) and geue thee all the lande which he sayde he woulde geue vnto thy fathers:

9 Thou shalt kepe all these commandementes to do them, which I commaunde thee this day, that thou loue the Lord thy God, and walke in his

wayes euer: and adde three cities more for thee beside these three,

10 That innocent blood be not shed in thy lande, which the Lord thy God geueth thee to inherit, and so blood come vpon thee.

11 But and if any man hate his neighbour, and lay a wayte for hym, and ryse agaynst hym, and smyte hym that he die, & then fleeth vnto any of these cities:

12 The elders of his cite shall sende and fetch hym thence, and deliuer hym into the handes of the auenger of blood, that he may dye.

13 Thine eye shall not spare hym, but thou shalt put away [the crye of] innocent blood from Israel, that it may go well with thee.

14 Thou shalt not remoue thy neighbours marke, which they of olde tyme haue set in thine inheritance, that thou shalt inherit in the lande which the Lord thy God geueth thee to enjoy it.

15 One witnesse shall not rise agaynst a man for any maner trespassse, or for any maner sinne, or for any maner fault that he offendeth in: but at the mouth of two witnessses or of three witnessses shall the matter be stablished.

16 If a false witnesse rise vpon agaynst a man, to accuse hym of trespassse:

17 Then both the men which streyue together, shall stande before the Lord, before the priestes and the iudges which shall be in those dayes:

18 And the iudges shall make diligent inquisition: and if the witnesse be founde false, and that he hath geuen false witnesse agaynst his brother:

19 Then shall ye do vnto hym, as he had thought to do vnto his brother, & thou shalt put euill away from the middes of thee.

20 And other shall heare, and feare, and shall henceforth commit no more any such wickednesse among you.

21 And thine eye shall haue no compassion, but lyfe for lyfe, eye for eye, toothe for toothe, hande for hande, foote for foote.

Deut. xix. d.

(c) Appoynt out three cities of iudges.

(d) Thou shalt prepare the way: that is, thou shalt deuise the coastes of the lande.

Exo. xxi. a. (e) That which killeth one by chance, and not offensively.

(f) Or, can sette iudges to death.

(g) When thou shalt enlarge thy lande.

(f) That the death of the partie slaine, be not imputed vnto the slayer.

(g) The officers of the iudges.

(h) Wilt thou murder can not be pardoned: but out Gods high displeasure.

(i) Seuerge the innocent blood.

(k) Where stone or lande bounde: The very Damour bid iudge this to be a great offence. Num. 35. d.

Deut. xvii. a

Susa. i. g.

(l) God is present where his true ministers are.

Exo. xxi. c.